BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO
AS A DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD

Objections of: RICKEY HENDON, LATOYIA HARRIS, BERNETTE BARNES	)	
To the Nomination Papers of: GEORGE SIMS	)	**No.: 07-EB-MUN-005 (rel. MUN-002)**
Candidate for the office of Clerk of the City of Chicago	)	

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago Commissioners Langdon D. Neal and Richard A. Cowen, organized by law in response to a Call issued by Langdon D. Neal, Chairman of said Electoral Board for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections ("Objections") of RICKEY HENDON, LATOYIA HARRIS, BERNETTE BARNES ("Objector(s)") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of GEORGE SIMS, candidate for the office of Clerk of the City of Chicago ("Candidate") to be elected at the February 27, 2007 Municipal General Election, having convened on January 2, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in the Room 800, 69 West Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, and having heard and determined the Objections to the Nomination Papers in the above-entitled matter finds that:

1. Objections to the Nomination Papers of the Candidate herein were duly and timely filed.

2. The said Electoral Board has been legally constituted according to the laws of the State of Illinois.

3. A Call to the hearing on said Objections was duly issued by the Chairman of the Electoral Board and served upon the members of the Electoral Board, the Objector(s) and the Candidate, by registered or certified mail and by Sheriff's service, as provided by statute.

4. A public hearing held on these Objections commenced on January 2, 2007 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Examiner Christopher Agrella for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector(s) and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board's Call to appear before the Hearing Examiner on the date and at the time to be designated in the Hearing Schedule. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the members of the Electoral Board, the Objector(s), RICKEY HENDON, LATOYIA HARRIS and BERNETTE BARNES, *pro se*; and the Candidate GEORGE SIMS, *pro se*.

7. The Objectors raised objections against the validity of individual signatures identifying them by sheet and line and alleging that the Candidate's petition did not contain a sufficient number of valid signatures to meet the 12,500 minimum signature requirement for the office of City Clerk of the City of Chicago.

8. The Objector also alleged that the Candidate's Statement of Candidacy was defective because it failed to state whether the Candidate was seeking election or nomination to the office in question.

9. The Hearing Examiner ordered that an examination of the registration records be conducted by its clerks and agents under the Board's direction and supervision, in accordance with the laws of Illinois and the rules of the Board.

10. The Hearing Examiner directed all parties to appear and be present, either personally and/or by their authorized representatives during this records examination.

11. The Candidate and the Objectors or their duly authorized representatives were present during the examination of the registration records at all times.

12. Examination of the registration records was suspended on January 6, 2007 after the Board's staff determined that although the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained a total of 15, 686 purportedly valid signatures, so many (4,440) of the objections to signatures had been sustained that the total number of valid signatures was only 11,245, far less the minimum of 12,500 required by law for the office of City Clerk of the City of Chicago.

13. The Hearing Examiner has tendered to the Electoral Board his Report and Recommended Decision, along with an Amended Report and Recommended Decision. The Hearing Examiner recommends that the Objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers be sustained and that the Nomination Papers be found invalid.

14. The Electoral Board, having reviewed the record of proceedings in this matter and having considered both the original and amended reports and recommendations of the Hearing Examiner, as well as all argument and evidence submitted by the parties, hereby adopts the Hearing Examiner's recommended findings and conclusions of law as set forth in his Amended Report and Recommended Decision. Copy of the Hearing Examiner's Amended Report and Recommended Decision is attached hereto and is incorporated herein as part of the decision of the Electoral Board.

15. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition after the records examination is below the minimum number of

valid signatures required by law to be place upon the official ballot as a candidate for the office of Clerk, City of Chicago.

16. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board sustains the Objections to the Candidate's Nomination Papers and finds that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are invalid.

17. The Electoral Board finds that there was another objection filed against the Candidate's Nomination Papers in case 07-EB-MUN-002 and that the objections in that case were sustained and the Candidate's Nomination Papers were found to be invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of RICKEY HENDON, LATOYIA HARRIS and BERNETTE BARNES to the Nomination Papers of GEORGE SIMS, candidate for the office of Clerk, City of Chicago, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of GEORGE SIMS, Candidate for the office of Clerk, City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General Election to be held on February 27, 2007.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, this 19th day of January, 2007.

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman

Richard A. Cowen, Commissioner

NOTICE: Pursuant to Section 10-10.1 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/10-10.1) a party aggrieved of this decision and seeking judicial review of this decision must file a petition for judicial review with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County within 10 days after the decision of the Electoral Board.