DEFAULT-ALD

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

Objections of: Norman Stropshear	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 11-EB-ALD-210
Papers of: Sandra Beard	)	
	)	Related Case: 11-EB-ALD-274
Candidate for the office of	)	
Alderman of the 4th Ward, 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, Richard A. Cowen, and Marisel A. Hernandez, 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 Norman Stropshear ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Sandra Beard, candidate for the office of Alderman of the 4th Ward of the City of Chicago ("Candidate") to be elected at the Municipal General Election to be held on February 22, 2011, having convened on December 6, 2010, at 9:00 a.m., in 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 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 December 6, 2010 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer John R. Ashenden for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board to appear before the Hearing Officer on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. On such date and time, the Hearing Officer called the case by calling aloud the case number, the name of the Objector and the name of the Candidate. The following persons, among others, answered and were present at such hearing: the Objector, Norman Stropshear, by attorney, Michael J. Kasper.

7. The Candidate, Sandra Beard, did not answer to the call nor did she appear at the hearing. The case was called again at least two more times at least 15 minutes apart on December 6, 2010 and at no time did the Candidate or any person purporting to represent the Candidate appear.

8. The Electoral Board finds that the Cook County Sheriff attempted to serve the Candidate with a copy of the Objector's Petition and with a copy of the Call to the December 6, 2010 hearing. The return of the Sheriff's office indicated that the reason that the Candidate was not served was that the Candidate did not live at the address claimed. The Candidate was also sent a copy of the Call to the December 6, 2010 meeting by certified mail. Official records of the

United States Postal Service indicate that the mail was delivered to the claimed by the Candidate on December 3, 2010

9. The initial hearing was continued to December 13, 2010 to allow for additional service upon the Candidate of a copy of the Objections and notice of hearing.

10. When the case was called at the duly appointed time in December 13, the Objector was present but the Candidate again failed to appear.

11. The Electoral Board finds that the Candidate, Sandra Beard, did not appear at any of the duly called meetings and hearings conducted in this matter after having been served with a copy of the Call and the Objector's Petition by the means of service specified in the statute.

12. A candidate cannot evade the effects of a duly filed objection to his or her nomination papers by simply being unavailable for service of papers or by not attending the duly noticed proceedings, nor should the objections be rendered moot by virtue of the fact that a candidate cannot be found by the statutory methods of service. If this were permitted, candidates would simply go into "hiding" until the objection process had run its course, thereby frustrating the statutory scheme for testing whether the candidate is eligible to be on the ballot.

13. The Electoral Board further finds that the Objector's petition, on its face, contains sufficient allegations, if accepted as true, to invalidate the Candidate's Nomination Papers.

14. Therefore, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate, Sandra Beard, is in default, that the Objections are sustained, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are invalid. A similar finding is also made in 11-EB-ALD-274.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Norman Stropshear to the Nomination Papers of Sandra Beard, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 4th Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby

declared INVALID and the name of Sandra Beard, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 4th Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General Election to be held on February 22, 2011.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on December 21, 2010.

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman

Richard A. Cowen, Commissioner

Marisel A. Hernandez, 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 5 days after service of the decision of the Electoral Board.