BCCON-ALD

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

Objections of: Keith Harris	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 11-EB-ALD-291
Papers of: Tameka Gavin	)	
	)	Related Cases: 11-EB-ALD-038,
	)	11-EB-ALD-042, 11-EB-ALD-082,
	)	11-EB-ALD-246
Candidate for the office of	)	
Alderman of the 16th 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 Keith Harris ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Tameka Gavin, candidate for the office of Alderman of the 16th 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 was held on these Objections commencing on December 6, 2010 and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Yolanda Sayre 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 Call. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing; the Objector, Keith Harris, pro se; and the Candidate, Tameka Gavin, pro se.

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

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

9. The Candidate and/or her duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records.

10. The Objector and/or his duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records.

11. The examination of the registration records was completed and the Electoral Board hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the results of the records examination conducted by its clerks and agents. The written report of the result of the registration records

examination is contained in the Board's file in this case and a copy has been provided or made available to the parties.

12. The results of the records examination indicate that:

A. The minimum number of valid signatures required by law for placement on the ballot for the office in question is 123.

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 440.

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 335.

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 105.

13. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination was less than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the ballot as a candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 16th Ward of the City of Chicago.

14. The Hearing Officer conducted a hearing to allow the Candidate an opportunity to present evidence in support of her Rule 8 motion objecting to the Board's clerk's findings during the records examination.

15. The Candidate's Rule 8 Motion referred to the Objector as Keith Brown rather than Keith Harris and also contained the wrong case number. The Candidate revised the Motion after the deadline. The Hearing Officer concluded that the first Rule 8 Motion was filed in relation to the instant case and permitted the Candidate to proceed.

16. The Rule 8 hearing began on December 23, 2010 wherein twenty-one (21) affidavits submitted by the Candidate were examined. Because of prior commitments on the part of the Objector and the Hearing Officer, the matter was continued to December 27, 2010. At the hearing on December 27, 2010, six (6) affidavits were examined.

17. The record is devoid of any objection on the part of either party to the continuation of the hearing to December 27, 2010.

18. At the conclusion of the Rule 8 hearing, the Hearing Officer found that the Candidate had successfully rehabilitated 20 signatures.

19. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. Based upon the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer found that the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained 125 valid signatures, which exceeds the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the ballot as a candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 16th Ward of the City of Chicago, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found valid.

20. The Electoral Board, having considered the evidence and arguments tendered by the parties and the Hearing Officer's report of recommended findings and conclusions of law, hereby adopts the Hearing Officer's recommended findings and conclusions of law.

21. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has a sufficient number of valid signatures on her nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of Tameka Gavin are, therefore, valid.

22. The Electoral Board further finds that objections in cases 11-EB-ALD-038, 042, and 082 were withdrawn; and that objections in 11-EB-ALD-246 were overruled.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Keith Harris to the Nomination Papers of Tameka Gavin, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 16th Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby OVERRULED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of TAMEKA GAVIN, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 16th Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General Election to be held on February 22, 2011.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on January 11, 2011.

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.