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

Objections of: Toni D. Meekey-Smith	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 11-EB-ALD-365
Papers of: Toni D. Meekey-Smith	)	
	)	
Candidate for the office of	)	
Alderman of the 34th 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 Toni D. Meekey-Smith ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Toni D. Meekey-Smith, candidate for the office of Alderman of the 34th 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. A document purporting to be an Objector's Petition was timely filed by the Objector, who was also the Candidate whose purported Nomination Papers were the subject of the Objector's Petition.

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 June A. Brown for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector/Candidate was directed by the Electoral Board's Call served upon her to appear before the Hearing Officer on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. The following person was present at such hearing as both the Objector and the Candidate: Toni D. Meekey-Smith, pro se.

7. The sole issue presented in the Objector's petition is whether the Board was obligated to accept nominating papers that were mailed but not received by the deadline for the filing of nomination papers.

8. A hearing was conducted by the Hearing Officer and 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 Nomination Papers were not timely filed as they were received by mail after the deadline for the filing of nomination papers.

9. 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.

10. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Nomination Papers of Toni D. Meekey-Smith are hereby declared INVALID and the name of Toni D. Meekey-Smith, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 34th 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, 2010.

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.