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

Objections of: Rickey R. Hendon, Bernette Barnes and Anthony Johnson	)	
To the Nomination Papers of: Mersaydes L. Young	)	No.: 11-EB-MUN-047
Candidate for the office of City 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, 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 Rickey R. Hendon, Bernette Barnes and Anthony Johnson ("Objectors") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of Mersaydes L. Young, candidate for the office of City Clerk of the City of Chicago ("Candidate") to be elected at the February 22, 2011 Municipal General Election, having convened on December 6, 2010 at 9:00 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 Objectors 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 Barbara Goodman for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objectors and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board's Call to appear before the Hearing Officer 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 Objectors, Rickey R. Hendon, Bernette Barnes and Anthony Johnson, pro se, ; and the Candidate Mersaydes L. Young, by attorney, Marc M. Hamilton.

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 registration records.

10. The Objectors and/or their 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 Electoral 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 12,500.

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 18996.

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 8555.

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid total as a result of the records examination total 10441.

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 official ballot as a candidate for election to the office of City Clerk, City of Chicago.

14. No motions were filed pursuant to Rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure objecting to the Board's clerks findings during the records examination.

15. 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 only 10,441 valid signatures, which is less than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a

candidate for election to the office of City Clerk, City of Chicago, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found invalid.

16. 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.

17. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has an insufficient number of valid signatures on her nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of Mersaydes L. Young are, therefore, not valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Rickey R. Hendon, Bernette Barnes and Anthony Johnson to the Nomination Papers of Mersaydes L. Young, candidate for the office of City Clerk, City of Chicago, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of Mersaydes L. Young, Candidate for the office of City Clerk, 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 January 7, 2011.

Langdon D. Neal, Chairman

Richard A. Cowen, Commissioner

Marisel 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.