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

Objections of: ERIC M. GLATSTEIN	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 15-EB-ALD-028
Papers of: CONNIE GATES-BROWN	)	
	)	
Candidate for the office of	)	
Alderman of the 49th 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 ERIC M. GLATSTEIN ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of CONNIE GATES-BROWN, candidate for the office of Alderman of the 49th Ward of the City of Chicago ("Candidate") to be elected at the Municipal General Election to be held on February 24, 2015, having convened on December 8, 2014, 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 8, 2014, and was continued from time to time.

5. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer William J. Kresse for further hearings and proceedings.

6. The Objector and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board's Call served upon them to appear before the Hearing Officer on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. The following persons, among others, were present at such hearing: the Objector, ERIC M. GLATSTEIN, by his attorney, Michael Dorf; and the Candidate, CONNIE GATES-BROWN, pro se.

7. The Objections allege, among other things, that the Candidate's Nomination Papers are defective because the Candidate failed to file a receipt evidencing the filing of a Statement of Economic Interests as required by law.

8. 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 filed a Statement of Economic Interests with her nomination papers filed with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. The Hearing Officer further found that the Candidate did not file a Statement of Economic Interests with the County Clerk nor did she file with her nomination papers a receipt showing that her Statement of Economic Interests was timely filed with the Cook County Clerk.

9. Article XIII, Section 2 of the Illinois Constitution provides that the General Assembly by law may impose a requirement upon candidates for, or holders of, offices in units of local government and school districts to file a verified statement of their economic interests. Failure to file a statement within the time prescribed shall result in ineligibility for, or forfeiture of, office.

10. Section 10-5 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/10-5) provides that nomination papers are not valid if the candidate fails to file a statement of economic interests as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act in relation to his candidacy with the appropriate officer by the end of the period for the filing of nomination papers unless he has filed a statement of economic interests in relation to the same governmental unit with that officer during the same calendar year as the year in which such nomination papers were filed. If the nomination papers of the candidate and the statement of economic interests of the candidate are not required to be filed with the same officer, the candidate must file with the officer with whom the nomination papers are filed a receipt from the officer with whom the statement of economic interests is filed showing the date on which such statement was filed. Such receipt shall be so filed not later than the last day on which nomination papers may be filed.

11. The Illinois Governmental Ethics Act requires that persons who are candidates for nomination or election to office in a unit of local government to file their statements of economic interests with the county clerk of the county in which the principal office of the unit of local government is located. (5 ILCS 420/4A-101(g), 4A-106) Therefore, candidates for nomination or election to office in the City of Chicago are required to file their statements of economic interests with the Cook County Clerk.

12. Because statements of economic interests of candidates for nomination or election to the office of Alderman in the City of Chicago are required to be filed with the Cook County Clerk and the nomination papers of those candidates are required to be filed with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, a candidate for the office of Alderman in the City of Chicago is required by Section 10-5 of The Election Code to file with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners a receipt from the Cook County Clerk showing the date on which the candidate's statement of economic interests was filed. Such receipt was required to be filed with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners not later than the last day on which nomination papers were permitted to be filed.

13. The Electoral Board finds that the Candidate failed to file with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners not later than the last day allowed by law to file nomination papers a receipt from the Cook County Clerk showing the date on which the Candidate's statement of economic interests was filed with the Clerk.

14. The Electoral Board finds that the Candidate failed to file a statement of economic interests in relation to her candidacy with the Cook County Clerk on or before November 24, 2014.

15. The Electoral Board finds that the failure to file with the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners a receipt showing that the Candidate filed a statement of economic interests with the Cook County Clerk invalidates the Candidate's Nomination Papers. *Kellogg v. Cook County Illinois Officers Electoral Board*, 347 Ill.App.3d 666, 807 N.E.2d 1161 (First Dist. 2004); *Bolger v. Electoral Board of City of McHenry*, 210 Ill.App.3d 958, 569 N.E.2d 628 (Second Dist. 1991); *Mobley v. Beard*, CBEC, 95-EB-MUN-7 (January 23, 1995); *Geiren v. Norris*, CBEC, 95-EB-ALD-44 (January 17, 1995); *Jackson v. Washington*, CBEC, 95-EB-ALD-

85 (January 23, 1995); *Williams v. Brown*, CBEC, 95-EB-ALD-131 (January 27, 1995); *Robinson v. Nalls*, CBEC, 95-EB-ALD-181, (January 28, 1995). Where an aldermanic candidate files a complete Statement of Economic Interests with his nomination papers in the office of the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners rather than with the Cook County Clerk's Office, the proper repository for such ethics filings, the failure to file a receipt evidencing the filing of a statement of economic interests with the Cook County Clerk's Office invalidates the candidate's nomination papers. *Beverly v. Electoral Board*, 87 CO 20 and 87 CO 23 (Cir. Ct. Cook County, 1987).

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. The Electoral Board finds, therefore, that the Nomination Papers of the Candidate are invalid and sustains the Objector's Petition.

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

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of ERIC M. GLATSTEIN to the Nomination Papers of CONNIE GATES-BROWN, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 49th Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of CONNIE GATES-BROWN, candidate for election to the office of Alderman of the 49th Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General Election to be held on February 24, 2015.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on December 23, 2014.

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.