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

Objections of: RENE SOTO and VIRGINIA J. CONTRERAS	)	
To the Nomination Papers of: ALICIA ELENA MARTINEZ	)	No.: 20-EB-WC-010
Candidate for the office of Democratic Party Ward Committeeperson, 14th Ward of the City of Chicago	)	

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago, Commissioners Marisel A. Hernandez, William J. Kresse and Jonathan T. Swain, organized by law in response to a Call issued by Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair of said Electoral Board, for the purpose of hearing and passing upon objections ("Objections") of RENE SOTO and VIRGINIA J. CONTRERAS ("Objectors") to the nomination papers ("Nominating Papers") of ALICIA ELENA MARTINEZ, candidate for the office of Democratic Party Ward Committeeperson, 14th Ward of the City of Chicago ("Candidate") at the General Primary Election to be held on March 17, 2020, having convened on December 16, 2019, 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 were duly and timely filed.

2. The Electoral Board was constituted according to the laws of the State of Illinois.

3. A Call to the hearing on said Objections was duly issued by the Chair 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 or service was waived.

4. A public hearing was held on these Objections commencing on December 16, 2019 and was continued from time to time. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer June Brown for further hearings and proceedings.

5. The Objectors 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 Objectors, RENE SOTO and VIRGINIA J. CONTRERAS through their Attorney, ED MULLEN; and the Candidate, ALICIA ELENA MARTINEZ through her Attorneys, ROSS D SECLER, BURTON S ODELSON and JAYMAN A. AVERY III.

6. 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.

7. The Hearing Officer directed all parties to appear and be present, either personally and/or by their authorized representatives during this records examination. The Candidate and Objectors and/or their duly authorized representatives were present during the examination.

8. 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.

9. 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 452.

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 805.

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 161.

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 644.

10. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination 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 Democratic Party Ward Committeeperson, 14th Ward of the City of Chicago.

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

12. 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 644 valid signatures, which exceeds the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the ballot as a candidate for the office of Democratic Party Ward Committeeperson, 14th Ward of the City of Chicago, and recommends that the Candidate's Nomination Papers be found valid.

13. 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.

14. 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 ALICIA ELENA MARTINEZ are, therefore, valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of RENE SOTO and VIRGINIA J. CONTRERAS to the Nomination Papers of ALICIA ELENA MARTINEZ, candidate for the office of Democratic Party Ward Committeeperson, 14th Ward of the City of Chicago, are hereby OVERRULED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of ALICIA ELENA MARTINEZ, candidate for the office of Democratic Party Ward Committeeperson, 14th Ward of the City of Chicago, SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on March 17, 2020.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on January 14, 2020.

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair

William J. Kresse, Commissioner

Jonathan T. Swain, 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.