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

Objections of: EVELYN RAZO	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 23-EB-ALD-016
Papers of: GLORIA ANN WILLIAMS	)	
	)	
Candidate for the office of Alderperson of the	)	
15th Ward, 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 June A. Brown, 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 EVELYN RAZO ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of GLORIA ANN WILLIAMS, candidate for the office of Alderperson of the 15th Ward ("Candidate") at the Municipal General and Alderperson Elections to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, having convened on December 9, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. 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 legally constituted under 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 Objector 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 9, 2022 and was continued from time to time. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Pedro Fernandez for further hearings and proceedings.

5. 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 or filed appearances during such hearing; the Objector, EVELYN RAZO, through her attorneys SEAN MCGRATH, ROSS D. SECLER, PRISCILLA CENTENO and BURTON S ODELSON; and the Candidate, GLORIA ANN WILLIAMS.

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.

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

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

10. 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.

11. 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 473.

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 1,144.

C. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 647.

12. 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 the office of Alderperson for the 15th Ward.

13. No motions were filed pursuant to Rule 8 of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

14. 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 647 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 Alderperson for the 15th Ward, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found valid.

15. 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.

16. 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 GLORIA ANN WILLIAMS are, therefore, valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of EVELYN RAZO to the Nomination Papers of GLORIA ANN WILLIAMS, candidate for the office of Alderperson for the 15th Ward, are hereby OVERRULED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of GLORIA ANN WILLIAMS, candidate for the office of Alderperson for the 15th Ward, SHALL be printed on the official ballot for the Municipal General and Alderperson Elections to be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023.

Dated: Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, January 13, 2023.

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair

William J. Kresse, Commissioner

June A. Brown, 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.

BEFORE THE DULY CONSTITUTED ELECTORAL BOARD FOR THE HEARING AND PASSING UPON OF OBJECTIONS TO THE NOMINATING PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF MEMEBER OF THE POLICE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023 MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

EVELYN RAZO,	)	
Petitioner-Objector,	)	
v.	)	Case No.: 2023 EB ALD 016
GLORIA WILLIAMS,	)	
Respondent-Candidate	)	

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDED DECISION

This matter was first heard by the City of Chicago Electoral Board on December 9, 2022, and assigned to Hearing Officer Pedro Fernandez.

At the initial hearing on December 12, 2022, this Hearing Officer initially called the case aloud by calling the case number, Objector name, and Candidate name to be heard at the scheduled time of 2:30 PM. The Objector appear through counsel Sean McGrath. The Respondent-Candidate Gloria Williams appeared *pro se*.

A review of the Objector's Petition showed that the objections were limited to: a. Signer Not Validly Registered at Address on Petition; b. Signer Out of Jurisdiction; c. Signer Did Not Sign in Own Proper Person, Not Genuine; and d. Signed Multiple Times: Page #, Line #. As a result, Hearing Officer ordered a Rule 6 Records Examination, and set the hearing for status at a date to be determined pending the results of the examination.

On December 30, 2022, Hearing Officer contacted the parties via email to set a status hearing for this matter at the agreed upon date of January 3, 2023 at 2:00 PM. The Record Examination was completed on the evening of December 30th. On January 3, 2023, Hearing Officer delayed the start of the status hearing while the parties awaited the preliminary report of the Records Examination. Upon receipt of the preliminary report, Hearing Officer began the hearing, and summarized the results which showed that the Candidate had 179 Signatures greater than the required minimum. Hearing Officers notified the parties that the results were subject to change pending the Final Record Examination report. The parties then agreed to meet the following day, January 4, 2023 at 2:00 PM to review the final results if they were then available. Hearing Officer reminded Objector's counsel that they may want to take the preliminary results into account when deciding how to proceed with this case. Hearing Officer then mistakenly set the case for a Rule 8 Evidentiary Hearing on January 4, 2023 instead of for status.

The evening of January 3rd, Hearing Officer, Chicago Board of Elections, and Candidate received an email from Objector's counsel that they intended to stand on their objections, and not appear at the next status hearing. Hearing Officer informed Objector's counsel that only the preliminary results of the Records Examination had been provided, and the final report was pending. Counsel then rescinded their previous intent to stand on their objections and agreed to appear on January 4th.

On January 4, 2023, Hearing Officer contacted John Powell of the Chicago Board of Elections seeking a status update on the final Records Examination report. Mr. Powell informed the Hearing Officer that the report would be available that afternoon. Hearing Officer informed the parties off the record that the final report was ready and would be delivered to the hearing. Hearing Officer began the hearing summarizing the prior day's hearing, and email exchange with

Objector's counsel then recessed the matter until receipt of the final report. Upon resumption of the hearing, Hearing Officer informed the parties that the final report had been served on the parties via email, and gave them the opportunity to review a printout of the same. Hearing Officer then read the final results into the record which stated that the Candidate had 174 Signatures greater than the required minimum of 473.

Hearing Officer then asked Objector's counsel how they wished to proceed. Counsel stated that they would stand on their objections in their petition, and waived their right to file a Rule 8 motion.

In reliance on the final results of the Records Examination, Hearing Officer overruled the Objector's objections to the Candidate's Nominating Papers, and ruled that the Candidate has 174 signatures greater than the required minimum of 473 to appear on the ballot for the office of Alderman of the 15th Ward.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of Evelyn Razo to the Nominating Papers of the Candidate, Gloria Williams, for the Office of Alderman of the 15th Ward be overruled, and that the name of Gloria Williams for said office shall be printed on the ballot for the February 28, 2023 General Election.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: _____
Pedro Fernandez

Date: January 6, 2022