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

Objections of: DERRICK HUBBARD and JANESE KIMBROUGH	)	
To the Nomination Papers of: PAUL C. BRYSON, SR.	)	No.: 23-EB-ALD-071
Candidate for the office of Alderperson of the 6th 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 DERRICK HUBBARD and JANESE KIMBROUGH ("Objectors") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of PAUL C. BRYSON, SR., candidate for the office of Alderperson of the 6th 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 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 9, 2022 and was continued from time to time. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer David J. Shestokas 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 or filed appearances during such hearing; the Objectors, DERRICK HUBBARD and JANESE KIMBROUGH, through their attorney SCOTT B. ERDMAN; and the Candidate, PAUL C. BRYSON, SR., and/or his Attorney, ED MULLEN.

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 his duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records.

9. The Objectors and/or their 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 1,031.

C. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 616.

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 6th 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 616 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 6th 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 his nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of PAUL C. BRYSON, SR. are, therefore, valid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of DERRICK HUBBARD and JANESE KIMBROUGH to the Nomination Papers of PAUL C. BRYSON, SR., candidate for the office of Alderperson for the 6th Ward, are hereby OVERRULED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared VALID and the name of PAUL C. BRYSON, SR., candidate for the office of Alderperson for the 6th 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 NOMINATION PAPERS OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE OFFICE OF ALDERPERSON OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023, MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

DERRICK HUBBARD, and JANESE KIMBROUGH, Petitioners-Objectors	)	
v.	)	Case No. 23-EB-ALD-071
PAUL C. BRYSON, SR., Respondent-Candidate	)	

HEARING OFFICER'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDED DECISION

This matter was first heard on December 12, 2022. The Objectors appeared through counsel and the Respondent, in attendance, appeared through counsel. Board Exhibits A-D were entered into evidence and the parties were advised of the opportunity to file preliminary motions. The parties advised there would not be any motions filed.

The parties agreed that a records exam be ordered and the matter be set for status of records exam on 12/19/2022, and that the only issue was the number of valid signatures.

On 12/19/2022, the Records Examination had begun, but Handwriting Expert review was incomplete. The matter was continued to 12/27/2022 for status on Handwriting Expert review.

On 12/27/2022, the final results of the Record Examination was reviewed by the parties. The review revealed that 473 signatures were required and the Candidate's nominating papers contained 616 valid signatures, or 143 greater than the required minimum.

CONCLUSION AND HEARING OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The only basis of Objector's Petition was that Candidate did not have enough valid signatures. The Records Examination revealed that Candidate had 143 MORE signatures than the minimum required. It is therefore the recommendation of this Hearing Officer that the Objector's Petition be overruled and that PAUL C. BRYSON, SR appear on the February 28, 2023 ballot as a candidate for 6th Ward Chicago Alderperson.

David Shestokas

David Shestokas, Hearing Officer

January 11, 2023