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

Objections of: ROBERT L. JACKSON	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 24-EB-WC-004
Papers of: AL RASHO	)	
	)	
Candidate for election to the office of	)	
Republican Party Ward Committeeperson in	)	
the 3rd Ward of the City of Chicago, State of	)	
Illinois	)	

FINDINGS AND DECISION

The duly constituted Electoral Board, consisting of the Board of the 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 ROBERT L. JACKSON ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of AL RASHO, Candidate for election to the office of Republican Party Ward Committeeperson, 3rd Ward in the City of Chicago, State of Illinois ("Candidate") at the General Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, having convened on December 18, 2023, at 9:30 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 Objector and the

Candidate, by registered or certified mail and by Sheriff's service, as provided by statute or statutory service was waived and service by email was authorized.

4. A public hearing held on these Objections commenced on December 18, 2023 and was continued from time to time. The Electoral Board assigned this matter to Hearing Officer Richard Zulkey for further hearings and proceedings.

5. 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. An Appearance was filed by or on behalf of the Objector, ROBERT L. JACKSON, by attorney Michael Kasper and the Candidate, AL RASHO, failed to appear.

6. The initial hearing was continued to December 22, 2023, to allow for additional service upon the Candidate of a copy of the Objections and notice of hearing. The Candidate did not appear a second time. The Electoral Board finds that the Candidate waived formal service, consented to service via email, and provided the Electoral Board with an email address.

7. The Electoral Board finds that the Candidate, AL RASHO did not appear at any of the duly called meetings and hearings conducted in this matter after sufficient service to the Candidate with a copy of the Call and the Objector's Petition was given.

8. A candidate cannot evade the effects of a duly filed objection to his or her nomination papers by simply being unavailable for service of papers nor should the objections be rendered moot by virtue of the fact that a candidate cannot be found by the statutory methods of service. If this were permitted, candidates would simply go into "hiding" until the objection process had run its course, thereby frustrating the statutory scheme for testing whether the candidate is eligible to be on the ballot.

9. The Hearing Officer has tendered to the Electoral Board a report and recommended decision. Based upon the evidence presented, the Hearing Officer held the Candidate in default and found the Candidate's Nomination Papers contained 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 REPUBLICAN Party Ward Committeeperson, 3rd Ward of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found invalid.

10. 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 and incorporates them herein.

11. For the reasons stated above, the Electoral Board finds that the Candidate has an insufficient number of valid signatures on his nominating petitions and that the Nomination Papers of AL RASHO are, therefore, invalid.

[Continued on next page.]

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of ROBERT L. JACKSON to the Nomination Papers of AL RASHO, Candidate for election to the office of REPUBLICAN Party Ward Committeeperson of the 3rd Ward City of Chicago, State of Illinois, are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of AL RASHO, candidate for election to the office of REPUBLICAN Party Ward Committeeperson of the 3rd Ward, City of Chicago, State of Illinois, SHALL NOT be printed on the official ballot for the General Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Dated: January 5, 2024

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 by 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.