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

Objections of: CHARLES E. WILLIAMS	)	
	)	
	)	
To the Nomination	)	No.: 24-EB-WC-009
Papers of: LARON MARKS	)	
	)	
Candidate for election to the office of	)	
REPUBLICAN Party Ward Committeeperson	)	
in the 6th 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 CHARLES E. WILLIAMS ("Objector") to the nomination papers ("Nomination Papers") of LARON MARKS, candidate for election to the office of REPUBLICAN Party Ward Committeeperson, 6th 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 Pedro Fernandez for further hearings and proceedings.

5. The Objector and the Candidate were directed by the Electoral Board's Call to appear before the Hearing Officer on the date and at the time designated in the Hearing Schedule. Appearances were filed by the Objector, CHARLES E. WILLIAMS, appearing *pro se*; and the Candidate, LARON MARKS, appearing *pro se*.

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 was not present during the examination of the registration records and waived his right to be present. The Objector and/or his duly authorized representative was present during the examination of the registration records or waived their right to do so.

9. 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 Electoral Board's file in this case and a copy has been provided or made available to the parties.

10. 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 28;

B. The number of purportedly valid signatures appearing on the nominating petition filed by the Candidate total 71;

C. The number of signatures deemed invalid because of objections sustained as a result of the records examination total 58;

D. The remaining number of signatures deemed valid as a result of the records examination total 13.

11. The Electoral Board finds that the number of valid signatures appearing on the Candidate's nominating petition following completion of the records examination was less than the minimum number of valid signatures required by law to be placed upon the official ballot as a candidate for the election to the office of REPUBLICAN Party Ward Committeeperson of the 6th Ward, City of Chicago, State of Illinois.

12. If requested by a party pursuant to Rule 8, the Hearing Officer conducted a hearing to allow the party an opportunity to present evidence in support of its Rule 8 motion objecting to the Board's clerk's findings during the records examination.

13. 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 only 13 valid signatures, which is 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, 6th Ward of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and that the Candidate's Nomination Papers should be found invalid.

14. 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. 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 LARON MARKS are, therefore, invalid.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Objections of CHARLES E. WILLIAMS to the Nomination Papers of LARON MARKS are hereby SUSTAINED and said Nomination Papers are hereby declared INVALID and the name of LARON MARKS, candidate for election to the office of REPUBLICAN Party Ward Committeeperson of the 6th 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 12, 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.