

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS**

_____)	
Cleopatra Jones,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	Administrative Hearing
)	No. 02-020
)	
Peter King,)	Re: Challenge to Nomination Petition
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

This matter came before the Board of Elections and Ethics on September 24, 2002, and involved a challenge to the candidacy of Peter King, candidate for the office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single-Member District 5C03. The challenge was brought by Cleopatra Jones. The Board was represented by Chairman Benjamin F. Wilson and Members Stephen Callas and Jonda McFarlane. Both the Challenger and the Candidate appeared at the hearing *pro se*.

According to the evidence presented to the Board, Candidate King submitted a nominating petition containing a total of 33 signatures. The minimum signature requirement to qualify for the ballot for this office is 25 signatures of persons who are duly qualified electors in the single-member district. Challenger Jones filed a total of 13 challenges to signatures on the nominating petition. As required by the Board's regulations, Challenger Jones specified the alleged defects pursuant to 3 D.C.M.R. 1609.2.

The final review of the challenge conducted by the Registrar of Voters indicated that 9 of the challenges were found to be valid. This decreased the number of valid signatures obtained by Candidate King to 24 registered qualified electors, which falls below the minimum number required for ballot access.

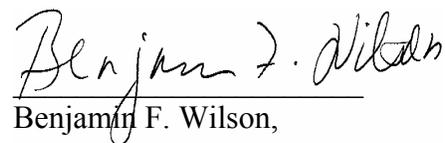
However, during the course of the hearing, Candidate King indicated that he could provide evidence to indicate that one of the signatures that had been successfully challenged should be credited to him. The signature, belonging to one Keltric Goff, had been challenged on the grounds that the signatory was not a duly registered voter. This challenge was based on the fact that while the voter registry lists Mr. Goff at 23 Seaton Place, N.W., the address he provided on Mr. King's nominating petition was 73 Seaton Place, N.W., Apartment B.

Mr. Goff provided to the Board a written statement which indicated that he currently resides at 23 Seaton Place, N.W., and had been residing there on the date upon which he signed the nominating petition, but that he would be moving shortly to 73 Seaton Place, N.W., Apartment B. He also provided a bill from a healthcare provider that indicated that he resides at 23 Seaton Place, N.W.

In view of the evidence presented involving Mr. Goff's voter registration status, the Board sees fit to resolve the challenge involving his signature in Mr. King's favor. Consequently, Mr. King's nominating petition contains 25 valid signatures, which meets the minimum number of signatures required for ballot access. Therefore, the Board denies the challenge as specified herein. Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that Candidate Peter King be granted access to the ballot in the November 5, 2002 General Election as a candidate for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single-Member District 5C03.

September 26, 2002
Date
Chairman


Benjamin F. Wilson,

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing order was hand-delivered this September 26, 2002 to Peter King, 77 Seaton Place, NW, Washington, DC 20001 and Cleopatra Jones at the Board's offices.

Terri D. Stroud