

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** November 17, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 21-364, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Deborah Shore Confirmation Resolution of 2015”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 21-364, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Deborah Shore Confirmation Resolution of 2015” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

Proposed Resolution 21-364, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Deborah Shore Confirmation Resolution of 2015,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor on October 5, 2015 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of PR 21-364 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Deborah Shore for reappointment as a member of the District’s Interagency Council on Homelessness as a representative from an organization that provides services within the Continuum of Care.

The Interagency Council on Homelessness (“ICH”) was established by the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005 “for the purpose of facilitating interagency, cabinet-level leadership in planning, policymaking, program development, provider monitoring, and budgeting for the

Continuum of Care of homeless services.”<sup>1</sup> In addition to agency heads from relevant District agencies, members of the ICH include representatives of organizations that provide services within the Continuum of Care, homeless or formerly homeless individuals, and advocates for the District’s homeless population, among others.<sup>2</sup> Annually, the ICH develops and publishes the District’s “Winter Plan” detailing how and where the District will provide hypothermia shelter for individuals and families.<sup>3</sup> In March 2015, the ICH published its 5-year “strategic plan,” *Homeward DC*, which describes the District’s plan to end chronic homelessness in the District by 2020.<sup>4</sup> Going forward, members will work to ensure the plan’s implementation and execution.

Ms. Shore is currently a resident of Ward 3 and the Executive Director of Sasha Bruce Youthwork, a District-based service provider to homeless minors, young adults, and families. She is a graduate of Antioch College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and History. For over 40 years, Ms. Shore has worked as a service provider and advocate focused on the needs of vulnerable youth. This focus and experience will enable her to continue to contribute to the ICH’s work, particularly its ongoing youth-specific initiatives.

The Committee of the Whole recommends her reappointment.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| October 5, 2015   | PR 21-364, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Deborah Shore Confirmation Resolution of 2015” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.   |
| October 6, 2015   | PR 21-364 is “read” at the October 6, 2015 Legislative Meeting; on this date the referral of the PR to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 60-day period for Council review begins. If this measure is not acted upon by the Council before December 6, 2015, PR 21-364 will be deemed approved. |
| October 9, 2015   | Notice of Intent to Act on PR 21-364 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .   |
| October 23, 2015  | Notice of a Public Hearing on PR 21-364 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .  |
| November 4, 2015  | The Committee of the Whole holds a roundtable on PR 21-361 through PR 21-372, which is recessed until November 10, 2015 to hear testimony on PR 21-370.   |
| November 10, 2015 | The Committee of the Whole reconvenes the public hearing on PR 21-361 through PR 21-372.  |
| November 17, 2015 | The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 21-364.  |

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. Law 16-35, Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005 (eff. Oct. 22, 2005).

<sup>2</sup> See *id.*

<sup>3</sup> See *id.*

<sup>4</sup> See *Homeward DC*, available at: [http://ich.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ich/page\\_content/attachments/ICH-StratPlan2.7-Web.pdf](http://ich.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ich/page_content/attachments/ICH-StratPlan2.7-Web.pdf).

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Shore is the Mayor's nominee for appointment as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 21-361 through PR 21-372 on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, but the roundtable was recessed due to a conflict for Ms. Margaret Hacskaylo, nominated under PR 21-370. The roundtable was reconvened on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 where testimony from Ms. Hacskaylo was received. The testimony summarized below is from both November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup> reconvened roundtable. Copies of written testimony are attached to this report.

*Christina M. Respress, Nominee*, summarized her background qualifications for appointment to the ICH.

*Elizabeth Schroeder Stribling, Nominee*, summarized her background qualifications for reappointment to the ICH.

*Michael L. Ferrell, Nominee*, summarized his background and qualifications for reappointment to the ICH.

*Deborah Shore, Nominee*, summarized her background and discussed her past experience, particularly her experience with homeless and otherwise vulnerable youth. Ms. Shore noted her more than 40 years of work with and on behalf of youth and her ongoing participation with the ICH. She discussed her leadership of a homeless service organization focused on the needs of minors and young adults. Finally, Ms. Shore expressed her commitment to supporting further implementation of the ICH strategic plan and development of targeted support services for young adults and their children.

*Adam Rocap, Nominee*, summarized his background and qualifications for appointment to the ICH.

*Nechama Masliansky, Nominee*, summarized her background and qualifications for appointment to the ICH.

*Eric J. Sheptock, Nominee*, summarized his background and qualifications for appointment to the ICH.

*Donald L. Brooks, Nominee*, summarized his background and qualifications for reappointment to the ICH.

*Albert Townsend, Nominee*, summarized his background and qualifications for appointment to the ICH.

*Margaret A. Hacskaylo, Nominee*, summarized her background and qualifications for appointment to the ICH.

*Margaret Riden, Nominee*, summarized her background and qualifications for reappointment to the ICH.

*Jill Carmichael, Nominee*, summarized her background and qualifications for appointment to the ICH.

*Adam Maier, Housing Director, Pathways to Housing DC*, testified that that each of the 12 nominees possesses knowledge and experience in the areas of homeless services policy and service delivery. Mr. Maier recommends approval of all nominees.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to PR 21-364.

## VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Interagency Council on Homelessness are appointed pursuant to section 4 of the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-751.01 *et seq.*), which established the ICH.

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of PR 21-364 will have no fiscal impact. Members are not compensated by the District government and the operations of the Interagency Council on Homelessness are funded through the office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 21-364.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Deborah Shore.
<u>Section 3</u>	Directs the Council to transmit a copy of this resolution to the nominee and the Office of the Mayor.

Section 4 Provides that PR 21-364 shall take effect immediately upon publication in the *DC Register*.

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

## X. ATTACHMENTS

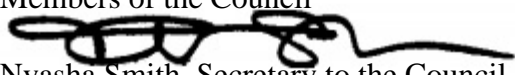
1. PR 21-364 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 21-364.
5. Committee Print for PR 21-364.

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**  
**Washington D.C. 20004**

Memorandum

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To : Members of the Council

From :   
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : October 06, 2015

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, October 5, 2015. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Interagency Council on Homelessness Deborah Shore Confirmation Resolution of 2015", PR21-0364

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole. This resolution will be deemed approved on Sunday, December 6, 2015 without Council action.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services



Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution,  
which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

To confirm the reappointment of Deborah Shore to the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the "Interagency Council on Homelessness Deborah Shore Confirmation Resolution of 2015".

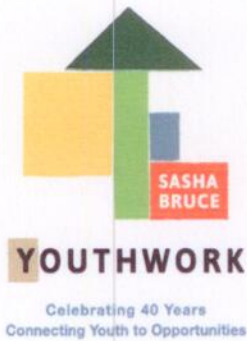
Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

Deborah Shore  
3408 Patterson Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20015  
(Ward 3)

as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, to serve as a representative of an organization providing services within the Continuum of Care, pursuant to section 4(a) of the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-752.01)(2015 Supp.), to serve for a term to end May 1, 2017.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

Re: My Appointment to the Interagency Council on Homelessness

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am writing to respond to the questions you posed in preparation for consideration of my appointment to the Interagency Council on Homelessness. My responses are as follows:

1. I have not submitted a Financial Disclosure Statement to either of the offices mentioned and so will answer questions 2 – 8 in lieu of those statements.
2. I do not have a beneficial interest in any business entity transacting business with the District Government.
3. I am the Executive Director of Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc. which is where I derive my income. Sasha Bruce has numerous contracts with the city for services to homeless and at risk youth and their families.
4. I am a Board member of Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc which as mentioned previously has numerous contracts and grants from the city to provide services. I am also the President of the Sasha Bruce Youthwork corporation.
5. I have no outstanding loans or liabilities except for a mortgage on my house which is held by a federally insured lender.



6. I am the owner of my home which is located at 3408 Patterson St, NW, 20015.
7. I have no professional or occupational licenses at this time.
8. I am a member of the National Network for Youth, an organization which provides public education to the Congress and federal agencies on the needs of runaway and homeless youth. I am also Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee.
9. I have had a previous tenure on the Interagency Council on Homelessness.
10. I am on the Board of Directors of the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates and Board Chairman of the National Network for Youth.
11. I have no outstanding liability for taxes, fees or other payments to any government.
12. I do not foresee the possibility of myself or any member of my immediate family having an interest that would pose a conflict of interest.
- 13.. The mission of the Interagency Council is to coordinate the District's response to homelessness, to oversee the implementation of the plan to end homelessness in the District and to create partnerships between the public and private sectors to reduce and end homelessness. I understand the role of each member as representing our knowledge and experience in the development and oversight of the plan and its implementation. I agreed to serve because I believe I have an important perspective based on my daily work. I intend to help the ICH be as effective as possible in its oversight and to bring other stakeholders to the table whenever possible.
14. For the past 40 years, I have played a role as a provider and advocate in the youth homelessness field. I have been a pioneer in the development of effective approaches and provided care for thousands of youth. This has translated to involvement in work on the national and the local level including the development of the recent bill entitled Ending Youth Homelessness which established a mandate to create a more robust service system for homeless youth. I remain passionate about the work and what is possible. I am keenly interested in contributing to the ICH being a high functioning body that fulfills its important.
15. My priorities will be to :

Lend my support to the implementation of the Homeward DC plan especially in the continued development of a robust and right sized homeless youth service system that has prevention, intervention and housing supports as needed.

Encourage effective programming to support young families that help them towards self sufficiency, the development parenting skills and good care for their children.

Encourage the blending of services that help homeless youth have housing and education, training and preparation for a career that provides a pathway to a self sufficient adulthood.

Assure and support efforts towards all services being age appropriate and culturally competent.

Support regular assessments of the scope of need for populations like youth who are not often visible and for evaluation efforts for programs and the system as a whole. .

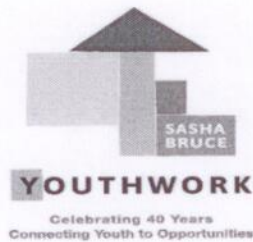
Thank you. I look forward to the confirmation hearing and answering questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Shore". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Deborah Shore





**Testimony of Deborah Shore, Founder and Executive Director  
Of Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc.  
To The Committee of the Whole, on  
PR 21-366, " Interagency Council on Homelessness  
Deborah Shore Confirmation Resolution of 2015"  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Good Morning Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Council:**

I am Deborah Shore, Founder and Executive Director of Sasha Bruce Youthwork, a principal provider of services to young homeless minors, young adults and families. I am very pleased to be here today as I am proud of the work I have done in the city for more than 40 years as a provider and an advocate. I am here to ask for your support to be re-appointed as a member of the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness.

I started my career in youthwork during college and was one of the pioneers of what has become the youth development and empowerment approach to work with young people. I was also fortunate to have had benefit of training by some of the early lights in the family therapy movement. Sasha Bruce has always combined these approaches in our work with homeless youth where family reunification was possible and even when families could no longer live together.

Sasha Bruce Youthwork serves about 1500 young people each year who are homeless and who need upstream services to prevent family dissolution in with mentoring, counseling, life skills and workforce skills development.

The experience of developing, refining and being so committed to providing services to homeless youth and young adults is part of what recommends me to a position on the ICH. I believe what also matters is that I have always seen my role as an advocate as well. The knowledge I have of what young people are facing, what families are facing, is invaluable as the guide to developing



interventions that meet the real needs and that good theory is developed into good practice. Homeless youth work at not being seen and known as homeless and many young people are disconnecting from our schools silently.

So from the outset of my career, I have contributed to the advocacy and systemic change efforts. I came into the work during the movement to reform the juvenile justice system in the 1970's which resulted in what was to be a wholesale de institutionalization of status offenders. There is more work needed now here in DC on this as we have seen a steady climb in the number of youth who are being ensnared in the school to prison pipeline as a result of truancy. I have been involved in many efforts since that time in DC to enhance supports for youth who are in the juvenile justice system and the child welfare system and who also who have needed a hand before involvement in these systems. I have participated in the initiation of advocacy campaigns and organizations. One of these is the DC Alliance of Youth Advocates which has been such an important voice for improvements to make our city more youth friendly.

I am also the Chair of the Board of the National Network for Youth which provides federal advocacy about the needs of runaway and homeless youth and the programs which serve them. I have through these means had the opportunity to know what other communities and countries are doing to end youth homelessness and to be a part of some of the national discourse about the issues on the federal level. This is very useful in the discussions about how we can strengthen our system in the District to be creative and effective. I am proud of the Champion for Change award I received in 2012 from the White House for my work to end youth homelessness.

I want to continue to be on the Interagency Council on Homelessness so I can:

- Lend my support to the Homeward DC plan implementation and especially to the continued development of a robust system of prevention, intervention and housing supports to end youth homelessness;
- Help to develop targeted support services to young families aimed at growth for the young parents and well as their children
- Encourage a more well coordinated system for young people to receive housing, education, training and career development.
- Assure services are age appropriate and culturally competent
- Support efforts to do regular assessments of need and impact of the system and programs...

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 Committee of the Whole  
3 November 17, 2015  
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7  
8 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

9  
10 21-364

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12 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
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16  
17 To confirm the Mayoral reappointment of Ms. Deborah Shore to the Interagency Council  
18 on Homelessness.

19  
20 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That**  
21 this resolution may be cited as the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Deborah Shore  
22 Confirmation Resolution of 2015”.

23 **Sec. 2.** The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:

24 Ms. Deborah Shore  
25 3408 Patterson Street, NW  
26 Washington, DC 20015  
27 (Ward 3)  
28

29  
30 as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness as a representative from an  
31 organization that provides services within the Continuum of Care, pursuant to section 4  
32 of the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-  
33 35; D.C. Official Code § 4-752.01) (2015 Supp.), to serve for a term to end May 1, 2017.

34 **Sec. 3.** The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this  
35 resolution, upon its adoption, to the appointee and the Office of the Mayor.

36 **Sec. 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.