

**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 21-366, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Nechama Masliansky Confirmation Resolution of 2015”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 21-366, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Nechama Masliansky 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 21-366, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Nechama Masliansky 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 21-366 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Nechama Masliansky for appointment 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. Masliansky is currently a resident of Ward 3 and the Senior Advocacy Advisor at So Others Might Eat (“SOME”), a District-based service provider. She is a graduate of Hofstra University, where she earned a Juris Doctor. Ms. Masliansky also holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Pace University. For over a decade, Ms. Masliansky has focused her work on homeless services, affordable housing, family services, and access to food. In addition, she has nearly a decade of work experience focused on domestic violence. Ms. Masliansky can lend her expertise in this broad range of areas to contribute to the ICH’s ongoing work.

The Committee of the Whole recommends her reappointment.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| October 5, 2015   | PR 21-366, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Nechama Masliansky Confirmation Resolution of 2015” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.  |
| October 6, 2015   | PR 21-366 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 21-366 will be deemed approved. |
| October 9, 2015   | Notice of Intent to Act on PR 21-366 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> .   |
| October 23, 2015  | Notice of a Public Hearing on PR 21-366 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.  |

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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).

November 17, 2015 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 21-366.

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Masliansky 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 Hacsckaylo, nominated under PR 21-370. The roundtable was reconvened on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 where testimony from Ms. Hacsckaylo 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 and 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 qualifications for reappointment to the ICH.

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

*Nechama Masliansky, Nominee*, summarized her background and described her over 40 years of work related to homelessness and domestic violence. In addition, she noted her current involvement with various ICH workgroups. Ms. Masliansky emphasized the overlap between her work at SOME and the work of the ICH and her commitment to continued service.

*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 21-366.

## 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 21-366 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 21-366.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Nechama Masliansky.
<u>Section 3</u>	Directs the Council to transmit a copy of this resolution to the nominee and the Office of the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 21-366 shall take effect immediately upon publication in the <i>DC Register</i> .

## **IX. COMMITTEE ACTION**

### **X. ATTACHMENTS**

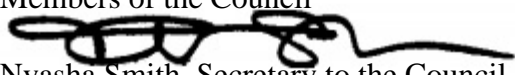
1. PR 21-366 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 21-366.
5. Committee Print for PR 21-366.

**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 Nechama Masliansky Confirmation Resolution of 2015", PR21-0366

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 appointment of Nechama Masliansky 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 Nechama Masliansky  
Confirmation Resolution of 2015".

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

Nechama Masliansky  
3001 Veazey Terrace, NW  
Unit 1224  
Washington, DC 20008  
(Ward 3)

as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness as a representative from an  
organization that provides 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.), replacing Kari K. Bedell, and to serve for a term to end  
August 10, 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.



71 "O" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Tel: (202) 797-8806  
Fax: (202) 797-1867  
Web: www.some.org

October 28, 2015

Phil Mendelson, Chair  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

Thank you for your letter of October 22, 2015, requesting information relating to my nomination for appointment to serve as a member of the District's Interagency Council on Homelessness. If approved, I will be honored to serve.

Below are replies to the questions posed in your letter:

1. Answers regarding Financial Disclosure are found below in items 2-8.
2. None. To the best of my knowledge and understanding, I do not have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000 in any business entity transacting any business with the District Government.
3. I am employed in the Advocacy & Social Justice Department of SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat). Several departments in SOME—but not the department I work in-- have contracts from time to time with various agencies within the District Government. These are for such services as mental health (DBH), addiction recovery (DBH-APRA), senior services (DCOA) and employment training (OSSE and DHS). SOME also produces supportive housing for extremely low-income persons, and some of its housing has been produced with assistance through the Housing Production Trust Fund (administered by DHCD), Local Rent Supplement Program (administered by DCHA), and bonds or Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (administered by DCHFA). One housing site has an ACC contract with DCHA and a contract with TCP to house families that are exiting D.C. General Shelter.
4. None. To the best of my knowledge, neither I nor members of my immediate family serve as an officer, director, partner, or agent of any business entity transacting business with the District Government.
5. My liabilities are a mortgage with BB&T Bank for my co-op unit (outstanding balance \$ 170,137) and an auto loan with Hyundai Finance (outstanding balance \$ 4,307).
6. I own shares in the Van Ness North Cooperative located at 3001 Veazey Terrace, N.W., Washington, DC 20008.



7. I am an Associate Member of the Virginia State Bar and a Retired Member of the New York State Bar. I was also admitted to federal practice in the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit and in the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York.
8. See item 7. SOME is a member of numerous organizations, and I participate in those.
9. None. I have not previously served on a board or commission connected with the District Government.
10. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Adas Israel Congregation, Washington, DC.
11. None. To the best of my knowledge, I have no outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to any government.
12. None. To the best of my knowledge and understanding, neither I nor immediate family has any interest of any kind that may directly or indirectly poses a conflict of interest for me in performance of my duties as a member of the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness.
13. I believe the purpose of the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness and its members is to serve the needs of the residents of the District of Columbia who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and to marshal the resources of District Government, together with the private sectors, to address those needs in a responsible manner.
14. I am now functioning as co-Chair of the Family Services Work Group of the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED), which began meeting in October 2015. I am also participating in the Housing Committee of CNHED.
15. My top five priorities as a member of the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness will likely be:
  - a. Support DHS in implementing the year-round right to shelter for families; work to ensure adequate annual budget allocation for Homeless Services.
  - b. Continue to encourage implementation of additional resources for unaccompanied homeless adults (singles).
  - c. Examine shelter conditions, with input from the new Shelter Conditions Work Group.
  - d. Explore prevention strategies that could be implemented months or years before a family or individual applies directly to the District-funded system for homeless shelter, so that they do not become at risk for homelessness.
  - e. Explore affordable housing as a prevention tool.

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Restoring Hope & Dignity One Person at a Time

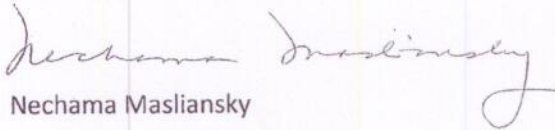
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In addition, I expect to remain engaged as a voting member in the ICH Emergency Response & Shelter Operations Committee and to continue to be engaged with its work on shelter capacity, winter planning, and calling of Extreme Weather Alerts. I also expect to continue to attend meetings of the Executive Committee and Strategic Planning Committee, among other committees and forums.

Thank you very much. I hope to have the opportunity to serve the residents of the District of Columbia through membership on this commission.

Very truly yours,

  
Nechama Masliansky

Senior Advocacy Advisor

SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat)

71 O St. NW

Washington, DC 20001

Designate  
UW # 8189



Designate  
CFC # 74405



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Restoring Hope & Dignity. One Person at a Time

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SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization established to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital.  
SOME is a 501(c) (3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. Federal ID #23-7098123.

*Please remember SOME in your will or estate plan*



71 "O" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
Tel: (202) 797-8806  
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**Testimony of Nechama Masliansky  
Senior Advocacy Advisor  
SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat)  
To the Committee of the Whole, on  
PR 21-366, "Interagency Council on Homelessness Nechama Masliansky  
Confirmation Resolution of 2015"  
November 4, 2015**

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council. My name is Nechama Masliansky, and I am the Senior Advocacy Advisor at SOME, Inc. also known as So Others Might Eat. On behalf of the 340 employees of SOME and our 11,000 clients each year, I want to thank the Mayor and you for advancing my nomination for membership on the D.C. Interagency Council on Homelessness. Many staff and clients of SOME submitted my name for this membership, and I thank them wholeheartedly.

For the past 10 ½ years, I have worked at SOME. SOME is a community-based nonprofit organization that for 45 years has provided comprehensive services to District residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We provide a hot breakfast and hot lunch daily—approximately 850 meals a day— plus clothing and showers. We offer social services, a primary medical care clinic, a state-of-the-art oral health clinic, behavioral and mental health services, substance abuse recovery services, a Center for Employment Training, family services, and senior services including shelter, permanent housing, and a day program. We develop and run our own housing sites. At this time, we have in operation or in development long-term supportive housing for 746 single adults and 216 families. We also are operating 119 units of transitional supportive housing.

Mr. Chairman, I would be proud to represent SOME on the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

I have been working for 40 years on many causes of homelessness. In the 1970s I helped design one of the first domestic violence programs in the United States. In the 1980s and 1990s I trained more than 2,000 professionals and laypersons, drafted legislation, and provided case consultations in literally thousands of cases of domestic or sexual abuse.

In the mid-1990s I was the Executive Director of the National Center on Women & Family Law, which provided support for all the Legal Aid and domestic violence programs in the country. After that, I was a Staff Attorney at the Virginia Poverty Law Center.

My advocacy over the decades has included work on poverty, child support, and income supports.

Since early 2005, I have been honored to work at SOME. SOME's Advocacy & Social Justice Department in which I work provides policy analysis, advocacy, and community education on all the above issues. We also engage our own staff, clients and residents to speak for themselves on issues they are concerned about. My areas of focus currently are homeless services, affordable housing and family services.

As part of my work at SOME, for about nine years, I facilitated the local Coalition of Housing and Homeless Organizations known as COHHO. In the first years after passage of the Homeless Services Reform Act in 2005, COHHO was a stalwart supporter of the nascent Interagency Council on Homelessness. We encouraged the ICH to meet regularly and to have a formalized and open nomination process. We provided public forums for the ICH to meet its HSRA requirements. In addition, COHHO was a safe place where providers, government officials, and community members explored cutting-edge issues and recommended solutions.

Similarly, SOME has provided hospitality to the ICH for plenary meetings and for regular meetings of the Shelter Capacity Workgroup and the Shelter Conditions Workgroup.

For nine years, SOME and COHHO provided detailed feedback about the implementation of the HSRA, specifically about the calling of Extreme Weather Alerts and about shelter usage. This written analysis and feedback was given to the Chair of the Council's Committee on Human Services in addition to the City Administrator and the Director of the Department of Human Services. SOME and COHHO also provided data analysis that contributed to acceptance of the data-driven process that now informs the development of the annual Winter Plans.

I am a voting member on the ICH Emergency Response & Shelter Operations Committee and a regular participant in the Shelter Capacity Workgroup. I frequently attend meetings of the Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Medicaid Workgroup of the Housing Solutions Committee. I also attended meetings leading up to the introduction of the ICH Strategic Plan. I coordinate implementation of the annual Point in Time enumeration in 22 of SOME's programs.

My work at SOME includes understanding the issues that drive people into homelessness, with an emphasis on the crisis in affordable housing and the need to sustain supportive services to prevent homelessness and to prevent recidivism back into homelessness. These include job training, literacy, and financial education.

Thank you for holding this Public Roundtable, and thanks again to all the persons who recommended my nomination. I will be pleased to provide further information and to answer any questions.

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Restoring Hope & Dignity One Person at a Time

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1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 Committee of the Whole  
3 November 17, 2015  
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7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**  
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9 21-366

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11 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
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16 To confirm the Mayoral appointment of Ms. Nechama Masliansky to the Interagency Council on  
17 Homelessness.  
18

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

22 **Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:**

23 Ms. Nechama Masliansky  
24 3001 Veazey Terrace, NW  
25 Unit 1224  
26 Washington, DC 20008  
27 (Ward 3)  
28

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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 of the  
32 Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C.  
33 Official Code § 4-752.01) (2015 Supp.), replacing Kari K. Bedell, and to serve for a term to end  
34 August 10, 2017.

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

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