

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: November 17, 2015

SUBJECT: Report on PR 21-367, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Eric J. Sheptock Confirmation Resolution of 2015”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 21-367, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Eric J. Sheptock 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 21-367, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Eric J. Sheptock 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 21-367 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Eric J. Sheptock for appointment as a member of the District’s Interagency Council on Homelessness as a formerly homeless representative.

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.”¹ In addition to agency heads from relevant District

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

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.² 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.³ 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 2020.⁴ Going forward, members will work to ensure the plan's implementation and execution.

Mr. Sheptock is a resident of Ward 6 and an Advocate for Housing and Jobs for the Homeless at the National Coalition for the Homeless. He has spoken publicly about his own experience with homelessness. This experience has equipped Mr. Sheptock to contribute significantly to the ICH's ongoing efforts.

The Committee of the Whole recommends his appointment.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 5, 2015 | PR 21-367, the "Interagency Council on Homelessness Eric J. Sheptock Confirmation Resolution of 2015" is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. |
| October 6, 2015 | PR 21-367 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 21-367 will be deemed approved. |
| October 9, 2015 | Notice of Intent to Act on PR 21-367 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| October 23, 2015 | Notice of a Public Hearing on PR 21-367 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 21-367. |

² See *id.*

³ See *id.*

⁴ See *Homeward DC*, available at: http://ich.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ich/page_content/attachments/ICH-StratPlan2.7-Web.pdf.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Mr. Sheptock 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 4th and November 10th 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 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 qualifications for appointment to the ICH.

Eric J. Sheptock, Nominee, summarized his background and experience of homelessness in the District. Mr. Sheptock emphasized his commitment to ending homelessness in the District of Columbia and his commitment to ensuring that full-time workers earn a sufficient wage to meet his or her basic needs and for the government to provide for the basic needs of those persons who are unable to work.

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 21-367.

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 21-367 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 21-367.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Eric J. Sheptock.
<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 21-367 shall take effect immediately upon publication in the <i>DC Register</i> .

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

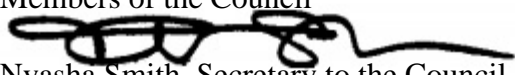
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 21-367 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 21-367.
5. Committee Print for PR 21-367.

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

Memorandum

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 Eric J. Sheptock Confirmation Resolution of 2015", PR21-0367

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 Eric J. Sheptock 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 Eric J. Sheptock Confirmation Resolution of 2015".

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

Eric J. Sheptock
425 2nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001
(Ward 6)

as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness to serve as a formerly homeless representative, 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 Darryl A. Becher, and to serve for a term to end August 10, 2016.

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.

Eric Sheptock's ICH Nomination Testimony

Chairman Mendelson and the DC Council:

As you well know, I am Eric Jonathan Sheptock whom several of you honored on November 18th, 2014 as you declared December 31st, 2014 to be Eric Jonathan Sheptock Day in the District of Columbia. It was due to my work from June 2006 to the present fighting for the city's homeless community. Even with several council members having taken office this past January and the late Marion Barry's seat having been filled since then, I know that all but one or two members have met me. It stands to reason that a body which has so honored me (giving me the day by which the 2004 plan would have ended homelessness if it had worked) would appoint me to the DC Inter-agency Council on Homelessness as a community representative.

With my nine-plus years of advocacy being well-documented on the internet and accessible through a simple Google search, I need not belabor the topic of my experience. Even so, I will indeed point out that I attended the first ever ICH meeting under the auspices of then-city administrator Robert Bobb as it was held on the 11th floor of 441 4th street NW – the Judiciary Square Building – in June 2006. I went to several of the ICH inaugural hearings which were held in several locations that are easily accessed by the poor and homeless of the city. As a matter of fact, I still have a lengthy e-mail document that spells out what people said at those hearings. That document and the annual point-in-time count give me multiple points of reference that I can use to determine how well we are doing at ending homelessness or even improving the conditions that people must endure while homeless.

Some might say that my critiques are, at times, as poignant as those given by the late, great Mitch Snyder. But anyone who knows me knows that I am a solution-oriented person. It has been a personal rule of mine for over 25 years that I don't open my mouth to complain unless I have a possible solution (there being an obvious exception when I lack the necessary expertise). That said, I was quite bothered when I heard talk of a second multiple-year plan without anyone having looked at why “Homelessness No More” has turned into “Homes No More” since its 2004 passage. I was also quite bothered by the fact that, with the ICH normally discussing the increase or decrease in homeless people at the meeting which follows the publishing of the count results, there was no discussion of the 13%, one-year increase to 7,748 people at the June 2014 ICH meeting. I dug and got an answer as to why – another pertinent skill of mine.

It should be noted that I am currently building the conversation around the future of the Federal City Shelter also known as CCNV, though I'm not the only one. I was a significant player in bringing forth the June 27th, 2013 Human Services hearing during which Councilman Graham decided to create the CCNV Task Force which has led to the creation of legislation that allows Mayor Bowser to create and move on a plan that hopefully will improve the lives of the shelter residents. I filed a FOIA request with the feds in January 2013, sent the info to Mr. Graham, pressed him every couple of weeks about the promised hearing and worked with my advocacy colleagues to get the homeless and concerned citizens involved. I plan to continue this particular effort; therefore, it behooves the DC Council to appoint me to the ICH. After all, me being on the ICH causes me to have to “play nicely in the sandbox”.

Whether I'm poignant or polite, my dedication to ending homelessness is clearly unwavering. However, my vision and goals are not defined by what we are ending so much as what we are beginning and creating. With so many of the advocates fighting for the disabled and for families, I have made my primary focus the able-bodied homeless adults – a topic I am speaking on extensively with a French

citizen who is currently working on her doctoral thesis. That said, I envision a world in which any full-time worker can afford all of life's necessities without government assistance – with those who can't work being provided for. This vision includes but is not limited to affordable-on-the-open-market housing and requires that all jobs pay a living wage. Let's work together toward these and similar goals.

Thanks.

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 21-367

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11 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
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16 To confirm the Mayoral appointment of Mr. Eric J. Sheptock to the Interagency Council on
17 Homelessness.

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

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

23 **Mr. Eric J. Sheptock**
24 **425 2nd Street, NW**
25 **Washington, DC 20001**
26 **(Ward 6)**
27

28
29 as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness to serve as a formerly homeless
30 representative, pursuant to section 4 of the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, effective
31 October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-752.01) (2015 Supp.), replacing
32 Darryl A. Becher, and to serve for a term to end August 10, 2016.

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

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