

**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 21-368, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Donald L. Brooks Confirmation Resolution of 2015”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 21-368, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Donald L. Brooks 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 21-368, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Donald L. Brooks 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 21-368 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Donald L. Brooks 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. Brooks is currently a resident of Ward 5 and an advocate for homeless veterans. Since 2007, Mr. Brooks has worked in various capacities assisting individuals experiencing homelessness, including work to assist veterans to secure housing and employment. This experience has equipped Mr. Brooks to contribute significantly to the ICH's ongoing efforts, particularly as the District seeks to end veteran homelessness in the coming months.

The Committee of the Whole recommends his appointment.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| October 5, 2015 | PR 21-368, the "Interagency Council on Homelessness Donald L. Brooks Confirmation Resolution of 2015" is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. |
| October 6, 2015 | PR 21-368 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 21-368 will be deemed approved. |
| October 9, 2015 | Notice of Intent to Act on PR 21-368 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| October 23, 2015 | Notice of a Public Hearing on PR 21-368 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 21-368. |

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. Brooks 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 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 reappointment to the ICH.

Donald L. Brooks, Nominee, summarized his background and personal experience with homelessness. Mr. Brooks emphasized his experience with the ICH, his professional experience as an advocate for and service provider to individuals experiencing homelessness, and his commitment ending homelessness in the District.

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 21-368.

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 21-368 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 21-368.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Donald L. Brooks.
<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 21-368 shall take effect immediately upon publication in the <i>DC Register</i> .

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

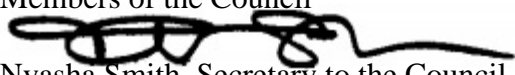
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 21-368 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 21-368.
5. Committee Print for PR 21-368.

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 Donald L. Brooks Confirmation Resolution of 2015", PR21-0368

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 Donald L. Brooks 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 Donald L. Brooks Confirmation Resolution of 2015".

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

Donald L. Brooks
1649 Franklin Street, NE
Unit 1
Washington, DC 20018
(Ward 5)

as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness to serve as a formerly homeless representative, pursuant 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 June 4, 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.

October 30, 2015

ICH Answers to Questionnaire

DONALD BROOKS

1-8- I do not owe no sums of \$5,000.00 or more to any one, I do not own any property that I know of and most of the organizations I belong to are civic as far as I know of .

9. I serve on the board of DC office of Veterans Affairs other than being on the Interagency Council on Homelessness.

10-12. These questions do not apply to me since I explained before Other than daily expenses I do not owe any taxes, fees, nor payments to any organization or businesses that may cause a conflict of interest.

13. The purpose of the ICH is to provide the Mayor and the City Council, and other city residents about the issues, ideas, problems and solutions to its Homelessness situation. Each member role is important because they bring different perception, solutions and cultural and socially angle to the equation of homelessness.

I have agreed to serve for many years because I feel my input is important because of my personal experience with homelessness, my professional experience working with that particular population and lastly I enjoy being part of a civic group that has produce solutions to a country wide problem that maybe a best practice model for the world.

14. I have worked in the homelessness populations as An Addiction Counselor, as Shelter (Residential Counselor), An Housing and Employment and Outreach Specialist for several non-profits that serve and work with the homelessness in this city and beyond. Another factor to include is that I am a native Washingtonian, a Veteran and An Educated Black Male who have very close family roots in this city.

15. As a member my top five priorities would be in no rigid order would of course be SHELTER, EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING, EDUCATION and CIVIC PRIDE and SELF- ESTEME!! Of course these priorities could change in my function as a board member on the ICH if they can impact immediately resolutions to a particular situation or problem.

Good morning Chairman and other distinguish quest.

My name is Donald Brooks, I am native Washingtonian, third generation. I am also a graduate of the DC Public School system who happens to live in Ward 5 for the past 11 years. My interest in the ICH comes from my personal experience with homelessness and my professional experience with servicing and advocating for the homeless.

I have been involved with the ICH since its conception and the infancy stages of the Homeless Reform Act which was the birthing ground for the ICH. The ICH has provided me the opportunity to give back to a population from which I have a strong passion and respect for due to my own experience. I have lived in the streets, shelters, and other uninhabitable places such as my constituents. I have been involved with the National Coalition for the Homeless been a member of faceless panels of the Homeless, which allowed me to travel around the US, to talk

about homeless and the issues that confronts this population. I even sold the city homeless newspaper, Street Sense. So, as you can see I have been quite involved with homeless issues and the ICH. Lastly, I would like to add if there is a chance to bring possible solutions to a group of people who have the unforgiven stigma of being homeless, I want to continue to be involved because it can affect anyone and because it's personal.

With that I thank you for allowing me to state my case for being reconfirmed to the ICH.

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 21-368

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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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16 To confirm the Mayoral reappointment of Mr. Donald L. Brooks 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 Donald L. Brooks
21 Confirmation Resolution of 2015”.

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

23 Mr. Donald L. Brooks
24 1649 Franklin Street, NE
25 Unit 1
26 Washington, DC 20018
27 (Ward 5)
28
29

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

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

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