

**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 21-370, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Margaret A. HacsKaylo Confirmation Resolution of 2015”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 21-370, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Margaret A. HacsKaylo 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 21-370, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Margaret A. HacsKaylo 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 21-370 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Margaret A. HacsKaylo for appointment as a member of the District’s Interagency Council on Homelessness as an advocate for the District’s homeless population.

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 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.

Ms. Hacskaylo is currently a resident of Ward 2 and the Executive Director of the District Alliance for Safe Housing, a District-based service provider for survivors of domestic violence and their families. Ms. Hacskaylo is currently a candidate for a Master of Business Administration at Georgetown University. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a Master of Social Work. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. For over 25 years, Ms. Hacskaylo has focused her work on service to and advocacy on behalf of survivors of domestic violence. Her expertise will be of great value to inform the ICH’s ongoing work regarding the specific needs of survivors of domestic violence and their families.

The Committee of the Whole recommends her reappointment.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| October 5, 2015 | PR 21-370, the “Interagency Council on Homelessness Margaret A. Hacskaylo Confirmation Resolution of 2015” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. |
| October 6, 2015 | PR 21-370 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 21-370 will be deemed approved. |
| October 9, 2015 | Notice of Intent to Act on PR 21-370 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| October 23, 2015 | Notice of a Public Hearing on PR 21-370 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. |

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

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.

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 21-370.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Hacskaylo 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 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 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 described the special challenges of survivors of domestic violence experiencing homelessness in finding safe housing options. She noted the need to include these needs in the development of strategies to end homelessness created through the ICH. Ms. Hacskaylo emphasized her desire to bring her expertise to bear in her service with 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 21-370.

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 21-370 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

Section 1 States the short title of PR 21-370.

Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Margaret A. Hacskaylo.

Section 3 Directs the Council to transmit a copy of this resolution to the nominee and the Office of the Mayor.

Section 4 Provides that PR 21-370 shall take effect immediately upon publication in the *DC Register*.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

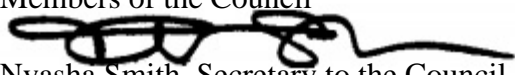
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 21-370 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 21-370.
5. Committee Print for PR 21-370.

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 Margaret A. HacsKaylo Confirmation Resolution of 2015", PR21-0370

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 Margaret A. Hacskaylo 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 Margaret A. Hacskaylo
Confirmation Resolution of 2015".

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

Margaret A. Hacskaylo
1325 13th Street, NW
Unit 47
Washington, DC 20005
(Ward 2)

as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness to serve as an advocate for the District's
homeless population, 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 Nan Roman, and to serve for a term to end May 1, 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 27, 2015

Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am honored to have been nominated for appointment to serve as a member of the District's Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH). As a native Washingtonian and lifetime resident of the area, I am committed to ensuring that all of our residents, particularly those who have suffered domestic or sexual violence, can avoid homelessness as the only alternative to living free from abuse. I hope that I will be able to support this through the work of the ICH.

I regret to inform you that I will be unable to attend the hearing scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 4 as I will be out of the country attending and presenting at the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters in the Hague, Netherlands. I have prepared responses to your questions concerning the appointment below.

1. As this is a new appointment for me and I have not been on any boards or commissions until recently, I have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability.
2. I am the registered agent for the District Alliance for Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc. (DASH), and for DASH Properties, LLC. Both organizations are valued at more than \$5,000. Neither is publicly traded.
3. I am the registered agent and Executive Director for the District Alliance for Safe Housing, Inc. (DASH), a Washington, DC based nonprofit organization that receives grant funding from various District agencies, including the Office of Victim Services and the Department of Human Services, in excess of \$1,000. I receive an annual salary of \$110,000/year.
4. I serve as an ex-officio member of the board of directors for DASH, a nonprofit organization providing housing and housing resources to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the District of Columbia. I also serve as a member of the board of directors for the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Both organizations do business with the District Government.
5. I have no loans through non-federally or state insured institutions.
6. I am the co-owner of a condominium unit at 1325 13th Street, NW, #47, Washington, DC, as well as parking space at the same address. DASH Properties, LLC and DASH are deed holders of a building at 1835 3rd Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 which serves as our

residential program for survivors of domestic violence.

7. N/A

8. I am a member of the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Professional Women, and the Association of Community Organization and Social Administration.

9. I was recently appointed and confirmed as a commissioner to the DC Commission for Women. My three year term runs from Oct. 2015 to Sept. 2018. I was a member of this same commission from July 2004 to January 2006.

10. As stated above, I serve as an ex-officio member of the board of directors for DASH, a nonprofit organization providing housing and housing resources to victims of domestic and sexual violence in the District of Columbia. I also serve as a member of the board of directors for the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an advocacy and research organization focused on issues concerning domestic violence in the District.

11. No.

12. No.

13. I believe the purpose of the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) is to bring together agents, advocates, and consumers of housing and homeless programs to coordinate on, and ultimately eradicate, homelessness in the District of Columbia. Formally, the ICH is charged with creating and guiding the city's strategic plan to end homelessness. But more than that, the ICH is the brain-trust of the city's effort to prevent homelessness among our citizens, mitigate the destructive impact of homelessness on our community, and ensure that everyone who resides in the District has a safe place to call home, wherever that may be. I have agreed to serve as a representative to ensure that victims of domestic and sexual violence who face homelessness are included in this important effort and to help the District be a safe, welcoming place for everyone who resides here.

14. I have worked in the field of housing for survivors of domestic violence most of my career, ranging from emergency shelters to transitional and permanent housing programs. I helped found the Safe Places Residential Program in Fairfax County, VA to provide transitional housing for victims of domestic violence in 1997 and founded the District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) in 2006 to provide more, urgently needed, safe housing and housing options for victims in the District. In that time, DASH has become the largest dedicated housing provider for victims of domestic violence and their families in the city.

Our program model has been recognized locally and nationally. DASH has been asked to consult to federal agencies, as well as to provide training to numerous local, statewide, and national housing and domestic violence organizations, culminating in a contract this year from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, to develop the National Alliance for Safe Housing to provide training and technical assistance across the

country on addressing the intersection of domestic violence and homelessness. I look forward to bringing this expertise to my service with the ICH and helping to highlight the exceptional work being done in the District to end homelessness.

15. Survivors of abuse face enormous barriers to safety and independence in the District. In 2013, there were almost 33,000 domestic violence-related calls made to the Metropolitan Police Department and the number of civil protection orders sought by victims increased seven percent that same year. But despite this growing need, the number of safe places for victims to find safe housing cannot keep pace. On a one-day census count in 2014, 847 victims were served by local domestic violence service providers, but another 77 requests for services went unmet, with 36% of those being for housing (2014 Domestic Violence Counts, National Network to End Domestic Violence). In fact, domestic violence is consistently cited as a major cause of homelessness among women in the U.S. (National Alliance to End Homelessness 2014).

Furthermore, local and national domestic violence advocates report that a lack of safe housing options is one of the leading reasons why people in abusive relationships are unable to leave and achieve safety for themselves and their children. The District of Columbia has the largest local incidence of homelessness in the area and the number of single adults who became homeless as a result of domestic violence increased 27% from 2013 to 2014 (2014 Point in Time Count of Homeless Persons in the Metro Washington Region). The number of families who are in the homeless system due to domestic violence increased as well (ibid).

As a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, my top five priorities would be to: 1) Support implementation of the 5-Year Strategic Plan to End Homelessness; 2) Improve collaboration between the homeless/housing and victim services communities address gaps in services for survivors who become homeless as a result of abuse; 3) Ensure that survivors who face homelessness have access to safe housing, confidentiality, and trauma-informed care throughout the Continuum of Care; 4) Develop partnerships to support the delivery of victim-specific safe housing which complements existing homeless housing programs; and, 5) Devise and implement solutions for preventing homelessness as the only alternative to living free from abuse.

I look forward to discussing this further with you, at your convenience. Again, please accept my gratitude for this consideration and please let me know if you need any additional information or have any questions. Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Margaret (Peg) Hacskaylo

cc: Kristy Greenwalt, ICH
Steven Walker, MOTA



D A S H
DISTRICT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE HOUSING

Chairman Phil Mendelson

Committee of the Whole

Interagency Council on Homelessness Confirmation Resolution 2015

Nov. 10, 2015

Testimony of:

Margaret (Peg) HacsKaylo

Executive Director

District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH)

202-462-DASH (3274) x110

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I appreciate the Council's time and consideration of my nomination to the District's Interagency Council on Homelessness, and apologize for my absence at last week's hearing. I was attending and presenting at the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters in the Hague, Netherlands. This was a gathering of shelter programs from around the world to address the urgent need for safe housing for victims of domestic violence and to share strategies for ending violence against women. As a representative of DASH's programs at this conference, I was able to share our model and learn from other advocates about ways to ensure that survivors of abuse don't face homelessness or worse when escaping violent homes.

The District Alliance for Safe Housing's mission is to be an innovator in providing access to safe housing and services for survivors of domestic violence and their families as they rebuild their lives on their own terms. Since our founding in 2006, DASH has facilitated a continuum of housing services for primarily low-income women and their children in need of support finding, and keeping, a range of housing options in order to become safe from violence. We are now Washington, DC's largest dedicated safe housing program for survivors.

Survivors of abuse face enormous barriers to safety and independence in the District. In 2013, there were almost 33,000 domestic violence-related calls made to the Metropolitan Police Department and the number of civil protection orders sought by victims increased seven percent that same year. But despite this growing need, the number of safe places for victims to find safe housing cannot keep pace. On a one-day census count in 2014, 847 victims were served by local domestic violence service providers, but another 77 requests for services went unmet, with 36% of those being for housing (2014 Domestic Violence Counts, National Network to End Domestic Violence). In fact, domestic violence is consistently cited as a major cause of homelessness

among women in the U.S. (National Alliance to End Homelessness 2014).

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for victims in the District.

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Thank you for your time, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

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 21-370

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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. Margaret A. Hacskaylo to the Interagency Council
17 on 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 Margaret A. Hacskaylo
21 Confirmation Resolution of 2015”.

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

23 Ms. Margaret A. Hacskaylo
24 1325 13th Street, NW
25 Unit 47
26 Washington, DC 20005
27 (Ward 2)
28
29

30 as a member of the Interagency Council on Homelessness to serve as an advocate for the
31 District’s homeless population, pursuant to section 4 of the Homeless Services Reform Act of
32 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-35; D.C. Official Code § 4-752.01) (2015
33 Supp.), replacing Nan Roman, and to serve for a term to end May 1, 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.