

**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: March 6, 2018

SUBJECT: Report on PR 22-736, “Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee Barbara Davis Blum Appointment Resolution of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 22-736, the “Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee Barbara Davis Blum Appointment Resolution of 2018” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	3
III.	Position of The Executive.....	4
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions	4
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	4
VI.	Impact on Existing Law	4
VII.	Fiscal Impact	4
VIII.	Section-By-Section Analysis	5
IX.	Committee Action.....	5
X.	Attachments	5

I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On January 23, 2018, PR 22-736, the “Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee Barbara Davis Blum Appointment Resolution of 2018” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson and referred to the Committee. The purpose of PR 22-736 is to appoint Ms. Blum as a Council appointee to the Other-Post Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) for a five-year term.

Ms. Blum is a Ward 2 resident of the District of Columbia. She received her Bachelor of Science and Masters of Social Work in politics, psychology, and sociology from Florida State University. She has substantial experience in financial management and pension investments. Currently, Ms. Blum serves as President of BDB Investment Partnership. Ms. Blum served on the District of Columbia Retirement Board (Retirement Board) for 16 years. She was chair of the

Retirement Board's Investment Committee for 12 years. Further, Ms. Blum served as President and CEO of the Adams National Bank and the Abigail Adams National Bancorp. She also has extensive public service experience as she previously served as Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and served as a member of the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Advisory Council. In addition, she serves on the Board of DCTV and Friends of Mitchell Park.

The Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund (Fund), originally referred to as the Annuitants' Health and Life Insurance Employer Contribution Trust Fund, was established as the mechanism for the District to contribute to the health and life insurance plans for retired District of Columbia employees.¹ These benefits for former District employees fall into the category of Other Post-Employment Benefits, which are essentially non-pension benefits for retirees. District government employees are eligible for these benefits if they were first employed after September 30, 1987 and retired from the District government.² The Fund was established in 1999 to pay the District's portion of post-1987 retiree's health and life insurance premiums, and it is managed by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO).³

In 2014, the Council approved the Other-Post Employment Benefits Fund Amendment Act which created the Advisory Committee.⁴ The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to advise the OCFO in its administration of the Fund. The duties of the Advisory Committee include: advising the CFO on general administration of the Fund, investment objectives, asset allocation, establishment of assumptions, selection of consultants, and whether the Fund is employing best practices.⁵ Importantly, the Advisory Committee is required to, by February 1st of each year, transmit written recommendations to the CFO for inclusion in the annual report for the Fund.⁶ In the annual report, the CFO must also describe any actions taken in response to the Advisory Committee's recommendations, including an explanation why no action was taken on any recommendation, if applicable.

The Advisory Committee consists of 7-members, all of whom shall serve a term of five years.⁷ Four of the members are appointed by the Chief Financial Officer, one member is appointed by the Mayor, one member is appointed by the Council, and one of the members must either be a member of the Retirement Board or a member of the Retirement Board's professional staff.⁸ The Advisory Committee is responsible for electing a chairperson on an annual basis.⁹ Appointed members of the Advisory Committee "shall have expertise in one or more of the following areas: (1) Accounting; (2) Employee benefits law; (3) Financial Advisory Services; (4)

¹ Committee of the Whole, Report on Bill 20-627, the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Amendment Act of 2014, 2 (June 3, 2014).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.* The federal government funds these benefits for retired District employees who were first employed prior to October 1, 1987.

⁴ (D.C. Law 20-151; D.C. Official Code § 1-601.01 *et seq.*).

⁵ D.C. Official Code §1-621.53.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ D.C. Official Code §1-621.52.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.* At this time no member as been selected as chairperson of the Advisory Committee.

Government administration; (5) Investment management; and (6) Life and health insurance plans.”¹⁰

Table 1: Membership of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee

Resolution #	Position	Appointee	Term Expiring:
PR 22-736	Proposed Council Appointee	Barbara Davis Blum	Five-year term
	Mayoral Appointee	Ventris Gibson	January 1, 2021
	Chief Financial Officer Appointee	Thompson Sawyer	November 1, 2020
	Chief Financial Officer Appointee	Deborah Fries	January 1, 2023
	Chief Financial Officer Appointee	Ritta McLaughlin	November 1, 2020
	Chief Financial Officer Appointee	Matthew Brown	January 1, 2023
	District of Columbia Retirement Board Appointee	Sheila Morgan-Johnson	November 1, 2020

Ms. Blum’s significant experience with pensions and investments will be of great importance in advising the OCFO in its management of the Fund. As a member of the Advisory Committee she plans to use her experience she gained while serving on the Retirement Board to help ensure the Fund is strong and well-funded.¹¹ It should be noted during her time as chair of the Investment Committee the assets of the retirement funds moved from \$2 billion to \$7 billion.¹²

The Committee supports Ms. Blum’s appointment based on her impressive credentials and her dedication to serve the residents of the District. Further, the Committee believes Ms. Blum meets the statutory requirements to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-621.52(b) as she has an expertise in: financial advisory services and investment management. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 22-736.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- January 23, 2018 PR 22-736 the “Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee Barbara Davis Blum Appointment Resolution of 2018” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson and referred to the Committee of the Whole.
- January 26, 2018 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 22-736 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- March 2, 2018 Notice of a Public Roundtable on PR 22-736 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- March 1, 2018 The Committee of the Whole holds a public roundtable on PR 22-736.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Barbara Davis Blum, Nominee, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Pre-Roundtable Questionnaire, 2, February 26, 2018.

¹² Barbara Davis Blum, Nominee, Testimony before the DC Council Committee of the Whole, 1, March 1, 2018.

March 6, 2018 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 22-736.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Blum is the Council's appointee to the Advisory Committee. The Executive provided no comment on Ms. Blum's appointment.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 22-736.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 22-736 on Thursday, March 1, 2018. The testimony summarized below is from that roundtable.

Ms. Barbara Davis Blum, Appointee, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding her background and experience as it pertains to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee and her interest in serving on the Advisory Committee.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Blum's appointment.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee are appointed pursuant to section 2152(a)(1) of the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective December 17, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-151; D.C. Official Code § 1-621.52(a)(1)).

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 22-736 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-621.52(h), members of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee are not entitled to compensation.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of PR 22-736.
- Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Ms. Barbara Davis Blum as a member of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee for a five-year term.
- Section 3 Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the appointee, to the Advisory Committee, and to the Mayor.
- Section 4 Provides that PR 22-736 shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

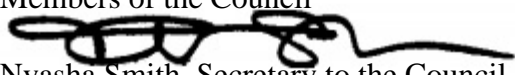
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 22-736 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Written testimony.
4. Legal sufficiency determination.
4. Committee Print for PR 22-736.

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 : January 23, 2018

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 23, 2018. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Other Post-Employment Benefits Funds Advisory Committee Barbara Davis Blum Appointment Resolution of 2018", PR22-0736

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

CO-SPONSORED BY: Councilmembers Evans and Bonds

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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8 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

9
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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
12
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14 To appoint Ms. Barbara Davis Blum to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory
15 Committee.

16
17 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
18 resolution may be cited as the "Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee
19 Barbara Davis Blum Appointment Resolution of 2018".
20

21 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia appoints:

22 Ms. Barbara Davis Blum
23 2231 Bancroft Place, N.W.
24 Apt. 3A
25 Washington, DC 20008
26 (Ward 2)
27

28 as a member of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee ("Committee"),
29 established by section 2151 of the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit
30 Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-601 *et*
31 *seq.*), to serve a term ending 5 years after the effective date of this resolution.

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

35 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
36 the District of Columbia Register.

BARBARA DAVIS BLUM BIOGRAPHY

Barbara Davis Blum is President of BDB Investment Partnership, a closely held family company. She was Chair, President and CEO of the Adams National Bank and the Abigail Adams National Bancorp (NASDAQ:AANB) the oldest and largest bank holding company majority owned and managed by women. Additionally, she is a founder and former board chair of the successful Main Street Bank in Virginia..

She was also a Trustee of the District of Columbia Retirement Board, the pension fund for the capitol city's teachers, police and firefighters. The fund is considered to be one of the top funds in the United States. For 12 years ending in September 2017 she served as chair of the fund's Investment Committee, overseeing its growth from \$2.3 to \$7 Billion. She is board chair of the Washington D.C. based communications firm, Hager Sharp Inc.,and is s a board member of DCTV.

She has served in a leadership position in many national and local non profits including the Institute of American Indian Arts, Smart Growth America, the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, and the Stimson Center -- all national non profits-- the Howard University Hospital Board of Governors.,and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

For 15 years Blum was a national, as well as a regional, board member of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Kaiser Foundation Hospitals, dba Kaiser Permanente, where she chaired the Executive and Compensation Committees in Oakland, California.

Blum was the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where she set national environmental policy and represented the agency with the White House on all issues concerning energy and urban policy. She chaired the U.S./Japan Environmental Agreement, was a U.S. representative to OECD and negotiated the first environmental agreement with the People's Republic of China. Subsequently, she was the Senior Advisor to the United Nations Environment Programme in which capacity she advised developing countries on public infrastructure for sustainable economic development. The Federal Republic of Germany awarded Blum the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit, the country's highest civilian award, in recognition of her international environmental leadership.

She was the Deputy Director of the successful Carter/Mondale Presidential campaign as well as the Director of the Carter/Mondale Presidential Transition. She was a speaker at all of of President Clinton's national economic conferences and has held four Presidential appointments requiring Senate confirmation. For eight years she was a member of the U.S. Small Business Administration's National Advisory Council where she headed the committee on capital formation.

She was a founder and chair of Leadership Greater Washington, a diverse training and networking organization that in the last 23 years has graduated over twelve hundred regional leaders. She received their top honor, Volunteer of the Year in 2008 and remains active in the organization. Among her many awards are The International Alliance for Women's World of Difference Award for entrepreneurial, corporate and public service contributing to the economic empowerment of women, the National Association of Women Business Owners' Outstanding Woman Business Leader Award and the Council of Real Estate Women's Outstanding Woman award.

Her BA and MSW are from Florida State University. She is listed in Who's Who International, Who's Who in America and Who's Who of American Women.



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson
Chairman

Office: (202) 724-8032
Fax: (202) 724-8085

February 23, 2018

Ms. Barbara Davis Blum
2231 Bancroft Place, N.W.
Apt. 3A
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ms. Blum,

Congratulations on your nomination for appointment as a member of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee ("Committee"). As you know, the nomination is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public roundtable on your nomination for **Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 123**. Enclosed is a copy of the roundtable notice. It is standard for the Council to submit questions to nominees. I request your response to the following questions no later than close of business Monday, February 26, 2018.

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions 2-8 in lieu of that statement.
2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock.
3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.
4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.
5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.
6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000.
7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.
8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.

9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.
10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.
11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.
12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Committee?
13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a local candidate or political action committee.
14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.
15. (a) Why have you agreed to serve for a five-year term?
(b) How do you plan to help the Committee fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Committee over the next five years?
16. Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as a member of the Committee.

At the March 1st roundtable, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving as a member of the Committee. The testimony of persons interested in supporting your nomination is helpful but not necessary. Interested parties may call the Committee office to register to testify (724-8196) or, alternatively, may submit written comments to the Committee regarding your nomination via letter mail or e-mail (COW@dccouncil.us).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Peter Johnson on my staff at (202) 724-8083.

Sincerely,



Phil Mendelson
Chairman

enc.

PM/pj

February 23, 2018

Ms. Barbara Davis Blum
2231 Bancroft Place, N.W.
Apt. 3A
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ms. Blum,

Congratulations on your nomination for appointment as a member of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee (“Committee”). As you know, the nomination is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public roundtable on your nomination for **Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 123**. Enclosed is a copy of the roundtable notice. It is standard for the Council to submit questions to nominees. I request your response to the following questions no later than close of business Monday, February 26, 2018.

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Campaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please provide answers to questions 2-8 in lieu of that statement. ***I have not file a Financial Disclosure Statement since 2016 when I filed for my mrmbershio on the DCRB.***
2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock. ***None.***
3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years. ***None.***
4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details. ***None***
5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts. ***None.***

6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000. **2231 Bancroft Place, NW, 3A, WDC 20008**
7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you. **None.**
8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member. **None.**
9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each. **DCRB. Term: 16 years ending in mid 2017.**
10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member. **DCTV, late 2017 to the present; Friends of Mitchel Park, January 2018 to the present.**
11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim. **None.**
12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Committee? **None.**
13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a local candidate or political action committee. **Campaign contribution to Eleanor Holmes Norton. No local campaign activity in the past 5 years.**
14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered. **No.**
15. (a) Why have you agreed to serve for a five-year term? **Because I feel I can be of optimal value for the next 5 years.**
(b) How do you plan to help the Committee fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Committee over the next five years? **By bringing my vast experience in pensions and investments as an advisor to the CFO.**
16. Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as a member of the Committee. **I have served 16 years as Chair of the Investment Committee of DCRB. Previously I was Chair, President and CEO of a bank for 15 years and Board Chair of another for 5 years.**

At the March 1st roundtable, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving as a member of the Committee. The testimony of persons interested in supporting your nomination is helpful but not necessary. Interested parties may call the Committee office to register to testify (724-8196) or, alternatively, may submit written comments to the Committee regarding your nomination via letter mail or e-mail (COW@dccouncil.us).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Peter Johnson on my staff at (202) 724-8083.

Barbara Davis Blum
Other Post-Employment Benefits
Advisory Committee

February 23, 2018
Page 3 of 3

Sincerely,

Phil Mendelson
Chairman

enc.

PM/pj

**Barbara Davis Blum
Nominee, Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund (OPEB)**

**Testimony Before the Committee of the Whole, D.C. City Council
March 1, 2018**

I am honored to be considered as the D.C. City Council's appointee to the OPEB Advisory Board and am willing to bring my considerable experience in financial management and pension investments to advise.

Sixteen years' experience as Chair of the Investment Committee of the D.C. Retirement Board (DCRB) during which time assets moved from approximately \$2 billion to \$7 billion, provides the background for my in-depth understanding of pension fund investments and general management. During that time I worked closely with Sheila Morgan Johnson, Executive Director, DCRB, a member of the OPEB Advisory Committee. It was Sheila, who recommended me for the Committee.

Prior to my appointments to DCRB by 3 different D.C. Mayors, I was Chair, President and CEO of a National bank and bank holding company located in D.C. and additionally was Chair of a Virginia bank. While in these positions I had authority over the banks' regulated investments. I have also served as Finance Chair of several non-profit and for-profit national boards.

I have held four Presidential appointments requiring Senate confirmation: Deputy Administrator US EPA, Chair Resource Conservation and Recovery Commission and the Institute of American Indian Arts (twice by 2 different Presidents).

I believe that the above qualifies me for the advisory position. I am very happy to serve Washington D.C. in any capacity at any time. I have been a proud D.C. resident and homeowner for many years.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 March 6, 2018
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7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

8
9 **PR 22-736**
10
11 _____

12 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
13
14 _____

15 To appoint Ms. Barbara Davis Blum to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory
16 Committee.

17
18 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** That this
19 resolution may be cited as the “Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee
20 Barbara Davis Blum Appointment Resolution of 2018”.

21
22 **Sec. 2.** The Council of the District of Columbia appoints:

23 Ms. Barbara Davis Blum
24 2231 Bancroft Place, N.W.
25 Apt. 3A
26 Washington, D.C. 20008
27 (Ward 2)
28

29 as a member of the Other Post-Employment Benefits Fund Advisory Committee, pursuant to
30 section 2152(a)(1) of the District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act
31 of 1978, effective December 17, 2014 (D.C. Law 20-151; D.C. Official Code § 1-621.52(a)(1)),
32 to serve a term ending 5 years after the effective date of this resolution.

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

35 **Sec. 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in
36 the District of Columbia Register.