

**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:** May 15, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 22-771, the “Citizen Review Panel Sarah Schooler Appointment Resolution of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 22-771, the “Citizen Review Panel Sarah Schooler Appointment Resolution of 2018” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On February 27, 2018, PR 22-771, the “Citizen Review Panel Sarah Schooler Appointment Resolution of 2018” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson. PR 22-771 was referred to the Committee of the Whole on March 6, 2018. The purpose of PR 22-771 is to appoint Dr. Schooler as a member of the Citizen Review Panel for a three-year term.

Dr. Schooler is a Ward 4 resident. Dr. Schooler received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Harvard University and her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Virginia School of Medicine. She also completed the Pediatric Residency Program at Children’s National Health System. Dr. Schooler is licensed to practice medicine in Maryland and serves as a pediatrician at Silver Spring Pediatrics and at Holy Cross hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland. In addition, she is the Department Chair of the Pediatric Department at Holy Cross hospital. Previously, she served as the Chief Pediatric Resident at Children’s National Health System.

Furthermore, Dr. Schooler has served as a member of the Board of Directors for Postpartum Support Maryland, Thrive Behavioral Health, and Oyster-Adams Community Council.

In 2004, the Council approved the Child in Need of Protection Amendment Act (2004 Act).<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the 2004 Act was to reform the District's child protection law. More importantly, the goal of the Council was to create a seamless and effective system for responding to any type of child mistreatment, whether it was child abandonment, abuse, or neglect.<sup>2</sup> One of the outcomes of the 2004 Act was to codify the establishment of the Citizen Review Panel (Panel). The Panel serves as an independent oversight body for the District's child welfare system and to evaluate the District government agencies involved in child protection as well as services provided by vendors.<sup>3</sup>

Prior to the 2004 Act, the Panel was created administratively because Congress mandated that states and other jurisdictions establish such Panels by July 1999 pursuant to the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).<sup>4</sup> The requirement to establish a Panel was necessary to continue to receive CAPTA funds.<sup>5</sup> As required by CAPTA, the Panel evaluates the District's child protection standards pursuant to a state plan required by the federal government and pursuant to child protection standards set by federal law.

The Panel consists of 15 members, all of whom must be District residents.<sup>6</sup> The Mayor is required to appoint eight members of the Panel and must designate the Chairperson. The Council shall appoint seven members to the Panel and is required to designate the Vice Chairperson.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, the Panel is required to be broadly representative of the community and must include members that have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect.<sup>8</sup> In addition, the appointments to the Panel should have a diversity of professional backgrounds and must be familiar with the child welfare system.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> (D.C. Law 15-341; D.C. Official Code § 4-1301.01 *et seq.*).

<sup>2</sup> Bill 15-389, Child in Need of Protection Amendment Act of 2003, Report of the Committee on Judiciary, 1 (November 17, 2004).

<sup>3</sup> *See* D.C. Official Code § 4-1303.51.

<sup>4</sup> *Supra* note 2 at 55.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *See* D.C. Official Code § 4-1303.52.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

**Table 1: Membership of the Citizen Review Panel**

<b>Resolution #</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Appointee</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
<i>PR 22-769</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Patrick M. Foley</i>	<i>Proposed Council Appointee</i>	<i>Three-year term</i>
<i>PR 22-770</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Shana N. Bartley</i>	<i>Proposed Council Appointee</i>	<i>Three-year term</i>
<i>PR 22-771</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Dr. Sarah Schooler</i>	<i>Proposed Council Appointee</i>	<i>Three-year term</i>
<i>PR 22-815</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Elizabeth Corson Mohler</i>	<i>Proposed Council Appointee</i>	<i>Three-year term</i>
R 21-385	Vice-Chair	Emily Smith Goering	Council	February 2, 2019
R 21-387	Member	Marie Cohen	Council	February 2, 2019
	Member	Vacant	Council	
	Panel Chair	Ann Franke	Mayor	September 24, 2018
	Member	Katrina Foster	Mayor	September 24, 2018
	Member	Maura Gaswirth	Mayor	September 24, 2018
	Member	David Harper	Mayor	September 24, 2018
	Member	Megan Conway	Mayor	September 24, 2018
	Member	Claresa Venson	Mayor	September 24, 2018
	Member	Sherrill Taylor	Mayor	September 24, 2018
	Member	Richard Bardach	Mayor	September 24, 2018

Dr. Schooler is committed to serve on the Panel to make a meaningful difference in overseeing the District’s child welfare and child protection programs and services.<sup>10</sup> She wants to serve on the Panel to be able to give back to the District. Additionally, she intends to use her expertise as a physician to assist the Panel in determining how the physical and psychological needs of District children are being met.<sup>11</sup> During the April 25<sup>th</sup> roundtable, Dr. Schooler testified that she believes that the Child and Family Services Agency should be instituting a community-based approach to serve the needs of District residents.

The Committee believes as a pediatrician Dr. Schooler would be able to help the Panel better assist foster children who tend to have more complex health issues than their non-neglected peers. Dr. Schooler’s work at Holy Cross hospital has given her the necessary experience to serve on the Panel as she has cared for children who have been subject to abuse and neglect. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 22-771.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- February 27, 2018 PR 22-771, the “Citizen Review Panel Sarah Schooler Appointment Resolution of 2018” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
- March 6, 2018 PR 22-771 is “read” at a Legislative Meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
- March 9, 2018 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 22-771 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.

<sup>10</sup> Dr. Sarah Schooler, Nominee, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Pre-Roundtable Questionnaire, Page 2, April 23, 2018. (Attached).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

April 19, 2018 Notice of a Public Roundtable on PR 22-771 is filed with the Council's Office of the Secretary.

April 25, 2018 The Committee of the Whole holds a public roundtable on PR 22-771.

May 15, 2018 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 22-771.

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Dr. Schooler is a Council appointee to the Panel. The Executive provided no comment on Dr. Schooler's appointment.

### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 22-771.

### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 22-771 (and 3 other nominations to the Citizen Review Panel) on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The testimony summarized below is from that roundtable. A copy of the written testimony provided to the Committee is attached to this report.

*Dr. Sarah Schooler, Appointee*, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding her background and experience as it pertains to the Citizen Review Panel and her interest in serving on the Panel.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Dr. Schooler's appointment.

### VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Citizen Review Panel are appointed pursuant to section 351 of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-341; D.C. Official Code § 4-1303.51), which establishes the Panel.

### VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 22-771 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Members of the Citizen Review Panel are not entitled to compensation.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of PR 22-771.
- Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Sarah Schooler as a member of the Citizen Review Panel to serve for a term ending three years after the effective date of this resolution.
- Section 3 Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the appointee, the chairperson of the Panel, and to the Mayor.
- Section 4 Provides that PR 22-771 shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

## X. ATTACHMENTS

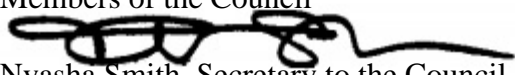
1. PR 22-771 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Legal sufficiency determination.
4. Committee Print for PR 22-771.

**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 : March 05, 2018

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Citizen Review Panel Sarah Schooler Appointment Resolution of 2018",  
PR22-0771

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

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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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To appoint Dr. Sarah Schooler to the Citizen Review Panel.

RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Citizen Review Panel Sarah Schooler Appointment Resolution of 2018”.

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

Dr. Sarah Schooler  
1651 North Portal Drive, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20012  
(Ward 4)

as a member of the Citizen Review Panel, established by section 351 of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-341; D.C. Official Code § 4-1303.51), to serve for a term ending three years after the effective date of this resolution.

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

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

**SARAH SCHOOLER, MD**

1651 North Portal Dr. NW  
Washington DC 20012  
(202) 246-2322  
[drschooler@gmail.com](mailto:drschooler@gmail.com)

**EDUCATION:**

Residency in Pediatrics, Children's National Medical Center  
Primary Care Track  
Washington, D.C.  
June 2001-June 2004

M.D., University of Virginia School of Medicine  
Charlottesville, Virginia  
August 1997-May 2001  
AOA

A.B., Harvard University  
Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Major: Psychology  
September 1992-June 1996  
Cum Laude

**EXPERIENCE:**

Chief Pediatric Resident  
Children's National Medical Center; Washington, D.C.  
June 2004-June 2005

Pediatrician  
Silver Spring Pediatrics; Silver Spring, MD  
July 2005- present

Pediatric Hospitalist  
Holy Cross Hospital; Silver Spring, MD  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
July 2005-present

Pediatric Department Leadership, Holy Cross Hospital  
Secretary/Treasurer, 2014-2015  
Vice Chair, 2015-2017  
Department Chair, 2018-present

**LICENSURE:** MD (D0063297), expires 9/30/2019

**MEDICAL BOARD CERTIFICATION:** Pediatrics, current

**COMMUNITY/BOARD EXPERIENCE:**

Board of Directors, Postpartum Support Maryland, 2012-2017  
Advisory Board, Thrive Behavioral Health, 2013-2014  
Secretary and At-Large Board Member, Oyster-Adams Community Council, 2013-2017  
Coach, DC Girls on the Run, 2013-2016





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

April 20, 2018

Dr. Sarah Schooler  
1651 North Portal Drive, NW  
Washington, DC 20012

Dear Dr. Schooler,

Congratulations on your nomination for appointment as a member of the Citizen Review Panel ("Panel"). 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 **Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at 2:30 p.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, April 23, 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 Panel?
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 three-year term?  
(b) How do you plan to help the Panel fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Panel over the next three 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 Panel.

At the April 25th roundtable, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving as a member of the Panel. 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

April 23, 2018

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** (*Unless Children's National Medical Center, the employer for my part-time hospitalist job at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, MD, has a business arrangement with the District Government that I am not aware of. The pediatric services for which CNMC compensates me are performed exclusively at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, MD. The patients I care for there are primarily residents of Montgomery County*)

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** (*See above*)

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. **Home mortgage, TD Bank**

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. **I am a joint owner of the home I live in; 1651 North Portal Dr. NW WDC 20012. I own no other property.**

7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.

**Medical License, state of Maryland, D63297; Board Certification, American Board of Pediatrics**

8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member. **American Academy of Pediatrics**

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. **NONE**

10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member. **NONE**

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. **NO**

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 Panel? **NO**

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. **NONE**

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**

(a) Why have you agreed to serve for a three-year term? ***I am happy and willing to commit three years so I might make a meaningful difference in overseeing DC welfare and child protection services.***

(b) How do you plan to help the Panel fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Panel over the next three years? ***I hope to contribute my professional expertise as a pediatrician, as it pertains to the physical and psychological well being of DC children.***

Please discuss any past and present experiences not already mentioned that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as a member of the Panel.

7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

8  
9 22-771  
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12 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
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15  
16 To appoint Dr. Sarah Schooler to the Citizen Review Panel.  
17

18 **RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**, That this  
19 resolution may be cited as the “Citizen Review Panel Sarah Schooler Appointment Resolution of  
20 2018”.

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

22 Dr. Sarah Schooler  
23 1651 North Portal Drive, N.W.  
24 Washington, DC 20012  
25 (Ward 4)  
26

27 as a member of the Citizen Review Panel, established by section 351 of the Prevention of Child  
28 Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-341; D.C. Official Code  
29 § 4-1303.51), to serve for a term ending three years after the effective date of this resolution.

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

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