

**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: May 15, 2018

SUBJECT: Report on PR 22-815, the “Citizen Review Panel Elizabeth Corson Mohler Appointment Resolution of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 22-815, the “Citizen Review Panel Elizabeth Corson Mohler Appointment Resolution of 2018” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On March 28, 2018, PR 22-815, the “Citizen Review Panel Elizabeth Corson Mohler Appointment Resolution of 2018” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson. PR 22-815 was referred to the Committee of the Whole on April 10, 2018. The purpose of PR 22-815 is to appoint Ms. Mohler as a member of the Citizen Review Panel for a three-year term.

Ms. Mohler is a Ward 3 resident. Ms. Mohler received her Bachelor of Arts from Yale University and her Master of Social Welfare from the University of California, Los Angeles. Currently, she serves as the Director of Social Services at the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC). In this position she provides leadership for LAYC’s mental health and substance use disorders treatment program. Previously, she served as the clinical supervisor at LAYC. In addition, Ms. Mohler previously was employed as a senior supervisory social worker at Foundations for Home and Community and as a social worker in the adult behavioral clinic at

Walter Reed Medical Center. Furthermore, she served as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the National of Association of Social Workers, Metro DC Chapter.

In 2004, the Council approved the Child in Need of Protection Amendment Act (2004 Act).¹ 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.² 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.³

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).⁴ The requirement to establish a Panel was necessary to continue to receive CAPTA funds.⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷ 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.⁸ In addition, the appointments to the Panel should have a diversity of professional backgrounds and must be familiar with the child welfare system.⁹

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

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

³ *See* D.C. Official Code § 4-1303.51.

⁴ *Supra* note 2 at 55.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *See* D.C. Official Code § 4-1303.52.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

Table 1: Membership of the Citizen Review Panel

Resolution #	Position	Appointee	Appointing Authority	Term Expiration
<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

Ms. Mohler wants to serve on the Panel because she is committed to its mission and wants to be of assistance in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of those organizations involved in child protection and child welfare.¹⁰ Moreover, she wants to serve on the Panel because she has an interest in the health and well-being of District residents.¹¹ Ms. Mohler believes her experience working with District youth who are at risk of becoming involved in the foster care system will allow her to contribute to the work of the Panel.¹² She testified at the April 12th roundtable that the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) has gotten better, but they still need improvement. As a member of the Panel she would like to help improve the services provided by CFSA.

The Committee believes Ms. Mohler’s significant experience as a social worker and her direct experience with CFSA will make her an invaluable addition to the Panel. Ms. Mohler’s knowledge of CFSA and with District youth who have been subject to abuse and neglect would help guide the Panel to provide greater oversight over the District’s child welfare system. Mr. Mohler’ extensive working knowledge of the District’s current child welfare system makes her a perfect addition to the Panel and for those reasons the Committee recommends adoption of PR 22-815.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

March 28, 2018 PR 22-815, the “Citizen Review Panel Elizabeth Corson Mohler Appointment Resolution of 2018” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.

April 10, 2018 PR 22-815 is “read” at a Legislative Meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.

¹⁰ Elizabeth Corson Mohler, Nominee, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Pre-Roundtable Questionnaire, Page 2, April 23, 2018. (Attached).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

- April 13, 2018 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 22-815 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- April 19, 2018 Notice of a Public Roundtable on PR 22-815 is filed with the Council's Office of the Secretary.
- April 25, 2018 The Committee of the Whole holds a public roundtable on PR 22-815.
- May 15, 2018 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 22-815.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

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

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 22-815.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 22-815 (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.

Ms. Elizabeth Corson Mohler, 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 Ms. Mohler'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 22-815 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

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| <u>Section 1</u> | States the short title of PR 22-815. |
| <u>Section 2</u> | Confirms the appointment of Elizabeth Corson Mohler as a member of the Citizen Review Panel to serve for a term ending three years after the effective date of this resolution. |
| <u>Section 3</u> | Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the appointee, the chairperson of the Panel, and to the Mayor. |
| <u>Section 4</u> | Provides that PR 22-815 shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register. |

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

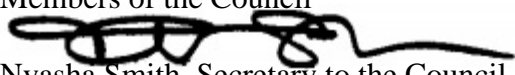
X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 22-815 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Legal sufficiency determination.
4. Committee Print for PR 22-815.

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 : April 05, 2018

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Wednesday, March 28, 2018. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Citizen Review Panel Elizabeth Corson Mohler Appointment Resolution of 2018", PR22-0815

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 Ms. Elizabeth Corson Mohler 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 Elizabeth Corson Mohler Appointment Resolution of 2018".

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

Elizabeth Corson Mohler
2939 Van Ness Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
(Ward 3)

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.

ELIZABETH CORSON MOHLER, LICSW, LCSW-C
2939 Van Ness Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008
(213) 324-6205/ ecmohler@yahoo.com

PROFILE

Determined, results-oriented manager and clinician. Expert in crisis management and in navigating fluid work environments. Highly skilled in interpersonal relations and team building. Experienced in program development and in developing and managing budgets. Strong verbal and written communication skills. Readily masters new information.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

LATIN AMERICAN YOUTH CENTER

2014- Present

Washington, DC

Social Services Director - May 2017-Present

- Provides leadership for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Treatment Program.
- Seeks funding opportunities and continues to build internal program capacity Participates in the preparation of proposals.
- Prepares the annual budget in coordination with the COO and CFO.
- Reviews and approves mental health and substance use disorders clinical manuals.
- Develops, implements and monitors administrative and programmatic procedures to facilitate and enhance the delivery of services.
- Oversees all personnel matters, including: Hiring and firing, training, supervising and evaluating.
- Leads all compliance activities in accordance to DBH Chapters 63 and 34 that regulates the provision of substance use disorders and mental health services respectively;
- Sits on Suitability Committee of the District of Columbia Juvenile Behavioral Diversion Program.

Clinical Supervisor – May 2014-May 2017

- Led program transition from paper to electronic consumer records via Department of Behavioral Health Integrated Care Applications Management System (iCAMS). Trained all staff in iCAMS, acts as program “super user.”
- Established and directed Community Based Intervention (CBI) program. This is the first fully bilingual Spanish/English CBI in the District of Columbia, which fills a longstanding gap in services for Latino families in DC.
- Implemented Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA), an evidence-based program for substance use disorders treatment. Certified A-CRA supervisor and clinician.
- Directed Quality Assurance activities for Behavioral Health Program.
- Developed and delivered training program for staff.
- Facilitated Affiliation Agreement for clients to receive psychiatric services with partner agency.
- Supervised team of six masters and bachelor level clinicians who provide mental health, substance use disorders services to DC youth.

FOUNDATIONS FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY

2010-2014

Washington, DC

Senior Supervisory Social Worker

Led unit of five social workers and one family support worker in therapeutic foster care program. Provide clinical and administrative supervision to staff. Promote practice model that empowers families involved in the child welfare system to plan for their children’s futures.

- Monitored unit performance which averages 95% of required benchmarks.
- Coached and facilitated family team conferences using agency practice model to assist families in moving toward permanency.
- Collaborated with family members, foster parents, court system, DC government and other private agencies to ensure best outcomes for children.
- Recognized by team members for effective leadership and maintaining a positive work environment.
- Planned and executed successful retreat for 80+ staff with no financial support from agency.

WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

2008-2010

Washington, DC

Social Worker, Adult Behavioral Health Clinic

Provided assessment and psychotherapeutic treatment to soldiers in the Warrior Transition Unit returning from Iraq and Aghanistan, as well as other active duty military members and their families.

- Provided intake assessment for approximately 75 patients.
- Carried ongoing caseload of more than 30 patients.
- Developed and led group therapy program for female soldiers.

DIDI HIRSCH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

2003-2008

Los Angeles, CA

Was rapidly promoted to management positions at non-profit community mental health center serving low income, minority populations.

Program Coordinator II, Child Outpatient Program

- Coordinated and managed day-to-day operations of large child/adolescent outpatient program (350+ clients).

Child and Family Therapist II

- Supervised Associate Clinical Social Workers.
- Provided psychotherapy to children ages 4-18.

CalWorks Therapist

- Provided psychotherapy to CalWorks participants as part of Welfare-to-Work plans.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Certificate for Advanced Trauma Training – Level I, Ferentz Institute	2017
Certified Supervisor and Clinician, Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach	2015
National Association of Social Workers, Metro DC Chapter, <i>Member at Large</i>	2013-Present
National Association of Social Workers, Metro DC Chapter, <i>Treasurer</i>	2011-2013
Exploring Complementary and Adjunctive Medicine in the Military, <i>Interim Chair</i>	2009-2010

EDUCATION

Yale University

Bachelor of Arts, cum laude

University of California, Los Angeles

Master of Social Welfare



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

Ms. Elizabeth Corson Mohler
2939 Van Ness Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ms. Mohler,

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

Elizabeth C. Mohler, LICSW, LCSW-C
2939 Van Ness Street, NW #426
Washington, DC 20008
(213) 324-6205

April 23, 2018

Mr. Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 200

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am very pleased to be nominated as a member of the Citizen Review Panel and look forward to meeting with you and other Council members on April 25 at the public roundtable. Below please find my responses to the questions you provided on April 20, 2018.

1. I have not filed a Financial Disclosure Statement, please see my answers to subsequent questions.
2. I do not have a beneficial interest in any business entity transacting business with the District Government.
3. I am employed by the Latin American Youth Center, a 501(c) (3) organization that conducts business with the District Government.
4. I am the Social Services Director for the Latin American Youth Center.
5. I have a mortgage with Wells Fargo on a condominium; approximate liability is \$250,000.
6. My condominium is located at 2939 Van Ness Street, NW, #426, Washington, DC 20008.
7. I am a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker, District of Columbia; Licensed Certified Social Worker – Clinical, State of Maryland.
8. I am a member of the National Association of Social Workers, DC Metro Chapter.
9. I was Treasurer of the Board of Directors, National Association of Social Workers, Metro DC Chapter, from 2011-2013 and Member-at-Large of the Board of Directors, National Association of Social Workers, Metro DC Chapter from 2013-2015.
10. I am not currently a member of any boards.

11. I do not have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local government.

12. No conflicts of interest for me or my immediate family.

13. I have not been involved in any local political activities over the past five years.

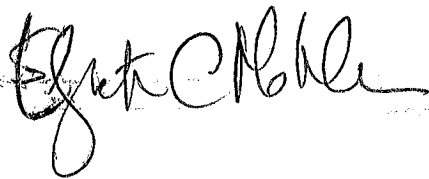
14. I am not registered with any local, state or federal government to lobby.

15. I have agreed to serve for a three-year term because I am committed to the mission of the Citizen Review Panel to serve as an external, independent oversight body for the District's child welfare system, and, over time, will gain knowledge to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of those organizations involved in child protection and child welfare.

16. I was born in the District of Columbia and grew up in the area, and have an interest in the health and well-being of DC residents. I am a social worker by profession, and have specialized in working with children and families who face challenges related to poverty and discrimination and who have traditionally lacked access to resources and services that support family cohesion and healthy development. I am currently the director of a behavioral health program that provides mental health and substance use treatment to adolescents. Many of these young people have been or are at risk of becoming involved in the foster care system, and I have observed directly the negative impact of child and abuse and neglect. I believe that my experience and interest will enable me to contribute to the work of the Citizens Review Panel.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions for me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elyse C. Noble". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "E".

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 May 15, 2018
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7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

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9 22-815
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12 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
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15
16 To appoint Ms. Elizabeth Corson Mohler 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 Elizabeth Corson Mohler Appointment
20 Resolution of 2018”.

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

22 Elizabeth Corson Mohler
23 2939 Van Ness Street, NW
24 Washington, DC 20008
25 (Ward 3)
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.