

**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: July 10, 2018

SUBJECT: Report on PR 22-836, “Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach Confirmation Resolution of 2018”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 22-836, the “Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach Confirmation Resolution of 2018,” was referred, reports favorably thereon, with technical amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On April 17, 2018, PR 22-836, the “Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach Confirmation Approval Resolution of 2018” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. The purpose of PR 22-836 is to confirm the reappointment of Andrew Aurbach as an archeologist member of the Historic Preservation Review Board (the “Board”) for a term to expire July 21, 2021. Mr. Aurbach is a Ward 3 resident.

Mr. Aurbach is a communications consultant with over 25 years of experience in education programs, community engagement, media strategy, and video content production with a focus on planning, urbanism, cultural and environmental sustainability, and community building. His early career focused on documentary and public affairs television where he produced a number of award winning historical pieces on figures such as Vincent Van Gogh, Hap Arnold, Rocky and Bullwinkle, and Hector Berlioz. Mr. Aurbach holds a Master’s degree in City and Regional Planning from the Catholic University of America School of Architecture and Planning, and a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism and History from the University of Wisconsin. Mr. Aurbach is

the President of Media Production and Communications Consulting for Rivendell International, Inc. He is also a Principal at ASAA Multimedia, LLC, and is involved with Capital Sustainability, Inc.

Mr. Aurbach is a member of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, on the Steering Committee for Ward 3 Vision, former President of the Sidwell Friends School Alumni Association, and a former board member of the Cleveland Park Historical Society. He also is a member of the Connecticut Avenue Pedestrian Action Steering Committee and a previous member of the Office of Planning's Neighborhood Sustainability Indicator Pilot Project. In 2015, Mr. Aurbach helped launch Tenleytown Main Street, a National Trust for Historic Preservation initiative funded by the city and deeply intertwined with preservation.

At the public roundtable on PR 21-863 on June 21, 2018, Mr. Aurbach discussed his engagement with the Cleveland Park Community that resulted in his joining the Cleveland Park Historical Society Board in 2000, which led to an appointment on the Board in 2007. His work in local preservation led him to earn his Master's degree focusing on sustainability and the relationship between the built environment and ecology. Mr. Aurbach testified that the "concept of historic preservation as both an urban planning tool and an act of sustainability is core to why I am such a supporter of the preservation movement." Mr. Aurbach also emphasized the importance of community engagement and discussed how HPO has broadened engagement during his nine years of service on the board.

The Historic Preservation Review Board was created by the "Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978" (District Act).¹ This law includes a section declaring the purposes behind the legislation, which include: to protect and enhance landmarks and districts "which represent distinctive elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history," to in turn "[s]afeguard the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage," in order to foster civic pride in the history of the city, to enhance and perpetuate tourism, to bolster the economy, and to generally promote the use of the District's landmarks and historic districts "for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people" of the city.²

The Historic Preservation Review Board was created by the "Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978" (District Act).³ This law includes a section declaring the purposes behind the legislation, which include: to protect and enhance landmarks and districts "which represent distinctive elements of the city's cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history," to in turn "[s]afeguard the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage," in order to foster civic pride in the history of the city, to enhance and perpetuate tourism, to bolster the economy, and to generally promote the use of the District's landmarks and historic districts "for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people" of the city.⁴

¹ See Bill 2-367; D.C. Law 2-144 (codified at D.C. Official Code § 6-1101 *et seq.* (2014)).

² D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 6-1101(a) (2016).

³ See Bill 2-367; D.C. Law 2-144 (codified at D.C. Official Code § 6-1101 *et seq.* (2014)).

⁴ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 6-1101(a) (2016).

The Board is composed of nine members appointed by the Mayor after confirmation by the Council.⁵ The District Act requires that the Board shall be constituted and its members qualified in order to comply with the requirements for a State Review Board pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (federal Act) and federal regulations.⁶ The federal Act was enacted in 1966 as a response to the destruction of older buildings and neighborhoods following World War II and to preserve the history and heritage of the nation.⁷ With the federal law, a national framework was established that linked national with local historic preservation efforts, creating historic preservation offices in the states and the District, expanding the National Register of Historic Places to include state and local properties, and making preservation grants available to the states.⁸

Table 1: Membership of the Historic Preservation Review Board

Resolution #	Position	Appointee	Term Expiring:	Residency
PR 22-836	Historian Member	Andrew P. Aurbach	July 21, 2021	Ward 3
R. 22-397	Architect Member	Thomas G. Brokaw	July 21, 2020	Ward 4
R. 22-416	Historian Member	Sandra Jowers-Barber	July 21, 2020	Ward 4
R. 21-668	Public Member	Marnique Heath	July 21, 2018	Ward 6
R. 21-704	Public Member	Outerbridge Horsey	July 21, 2019	Ward 2
R. 21-584	Public Member	Linda Greene	July 21, 2019	Ward 8
R. 20-583	Architect Member	Chris Landis	July 21, 2019	Ward 4
R. 21-556	Architectural Historian Member	Gretchen K. Pfaehler	July 21, 2018	Ward 6
R. 21-445	Archeologist Member	Brian D. Crane	July 21, 2017	Ward 2

The federal regulations for State Review Boards require that all Board members have “demonstrated competence, interest, or knowledge in historic preservation.”⁹ Additionally, a majority of the members must meet the “Secretary of the Interior’s (Historic Preservation) Professional Qualification Standards.”¹⁰ The Secretary’s Standards specify professional qualifications for the disciplines of history, archeology, architectural history, architecture, and historic architecture. The members of the Board subject to the Standards must include, at a minimum, one individual meeting the Standards for history, one meeting the Standards for prehistoric archeology or historic archeology, and one meeting the Standards for architectural history.¹¹ The remaining members of the Board subject to the Standards may represent any of the described disciplines.¹²

Mr. Aurbach is nominated for appointment as a historian member of the Board. As discussed in Table 2 below, the qualifications for a Board member specializing in history are a

⁵ *Id.* § 6-1103(a).

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Preserving America’s Historic Places*, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, <http://www.nps.gov/history/40th/> (last visited Mar. 28, 2016).

⁸ See TANYA EDWARDS BEAUCHAMP, FROM GERMANY TO AMERICA: HISTORIC PRESERVATION SOLUTIONS FOR ADOLF CLUSS BUILDINGS 1962-2005 2 (undated), available at: <http://goo.gl/VqxS3s>.

⁹ 36 C.F.R. § 61.4(f)(1) (2016).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.* (The regulations state that one person may meet the standards for more than one required discipline. *Id.*).

¹² *Id.*

graduate degree in history or closely-related field; or a bachelor's degree in history or closely-related field, plus either two years of full-time experience in a professional activity with an academic institution, historic organization or agency, museum, or other professional institution or substantial contribution through research and publication to the body of scholarly knowledge in the field of history. While Mr. Aurbach meets the two-year professional activity and contribution requirement as demonstrated by his professional experience producing historic documentaries, the Committee recognizes and acknowledges that Mr. Aurbach lacks the degree requirements. However, given Mr. Aurbach's involvement in historic preservation in the District and his several years of service on the Board, the Committee has decided to move forward with his reappointment as an historian member.

D.C. Law 21-144 specifies that all appointments to the Board: "...shall be made with a view toward having its membership represent to the greatest practicable extent the composition of the adult population of the District of Columbia with regard to race, sex, geographic distribution and other demographic characteristics."¹³ Each member serves a term of three years, and terms are staggered so that one-third of the appointments expire each year.¹⁴ Mr. Aurbach's nomination by the Mayor for appointment is for a term to end July 21, 2021.

The duties of the Board include:

- Advising the Mayor on whether proposed demolitions, alterations, subdivisions, and new construction affecting historic properties in the District are compatible with the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 (D.C. Law 2-144; D.C. Official Code § 6-1101 *et seq.*);
- Designating and maintaining a current inventory of historic landmarks and historic districts;
- Performing the functions and duties of a State Review Board pursuant to D.C. Law 2-144 and the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*);
- Acting on referrals from the Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment relating to the demolition, alteration, or new construction of foreign missions, chanceries, and international organizations located in historic districts or that are historic landmarks, pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. § 4306); and
- Other functions and duties relating to the "protection, preservation, enhancement and perpetuation of the historic, architectural, cultural and aesthetic heritage" of the District as assigned by the Mayor.¹⁵

¹³ D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 6-1103(b) (2014).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ *Id.* § 6-1103(c); D.C. MUN. REGS. title 10C, § 106 (2004).

Table 2: Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Standards for Historic Preservation¹⁶

Discipline	Professional Qualifications
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduate degree in history or closely-related field; or ▪ Bachelor’s degree in history or closely-related field, plus one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least two years of full-time experience in research, writing, teaching, interpretation, or other demonstrable professional activity with an academic institution, historic organization or agency, museum, or other professional institution; or 2. Substantial contribution through research and publication to the body of scholarly knowledge in the field of history.
Archeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduate degree in archeology, anthropology, or closely-related field, plus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least one year of full-time professional experience or equivalent specialized training in archeological research, administration, or management; 2. At least four months of supervised field and analytic experience in general North American archeology, and 3. Demonstrated ability to carry research to completion. ▪ For prehistoric archeology, must also have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the prehistoric period. ▪ For historic archeology, must also have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the historic period.
Architectural History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Graduate degree in architectural history, art history, historic preservation, or closely-related field, with coursework in American architectural history, or ▪ Bachelor’s degree in architectural history, art history, historic preservation or closely-related field, plus one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least two years of full-time experience in research, writing, or teaching in American architectural history or restoration architecture with an academic institution, historical organization or agency, museum, or other professional institution; or 2. Substantial contribution through research and publication to the body of scholarly knowledge in the field of American architectural history.
Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professional degree in architecture plus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least two years of full-time experience in architecture; or 2. A state license to practice architecture.
Historic Architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professional degree in architecture, or state license to practice architecture, plus one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At least one year of graduate study in architectural preservation, American architectural history, preservation planning, or closely- related field; or 2. At least one year of full-time professional experience on historic preservation projects. ▪ Graduate study or experience must include detailed investigations of historic structures, preparation of historic structures research reports, and preparation of plans and specifications for preservation projects.

Mr. Aurbach brings to the Board a substantial breadth of experience in historic preservation, urbanism, and civic engagement. Moreover, he currently serves as a member of the Board. The Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Andrew Aurbach’s nomination for reappointment as an historian member of the Historic Preservation Review Board.

¹⁶ *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines [As Amended and Annotated]*, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, <http://goo.gl/qDMbmn> (last visited Mar. 28, 2016).

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- April 17, 2018 PR 22-836, “Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach Confirmation Resolution of 2018” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.
- April 27, 2018 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 22-836 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- May 1, 2018 PR 22-836 is officially “read” at the legislative meeting; on this date the referral of the proposed resolution to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 90-day period for Council review begins. If the measure is not acted upon by the Council before October 1, 2018, PR 22-836 will be deemed disapproved.
- June 8, 2017 Notice of a public hearing on PR 22-836 is published in the *Register*.
- June 21, 2018 The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on PR 22-836.
- July 5, 2018 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 22-836.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Andrew Aurbach is the Mayor’s nominee for one of nine positions appointed by the Mayor to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 22-836.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 22-836 on Thursday, June 21, 2018. The testimony summarized below is from that roundtable as it pertains to Mr. Aurbach’s reappointment. Copies of the written testimony are attached to this report.

oard nominees and expressed concern with filling other available Board positions based on professional qualifications at the expense of meeting the demographic and geological representation required by the regulations. He stated that currently there are no Board members from Wards 1, 5, and 8. Mr. Sandor also testified on the functions of the Board and shared DCPL’s concern that HPRB members are substituting personal criteria for those specified in the law when making designation decisions. He suggested that a possible remedy would be continued Board

member training and assigning an attorney to aid the Board when and if legal advice is needed during a hearing.

Sally Berk, Committee of 100 on the Federal City, testified about general concerns relating to the Board's consideration of owner objection at the expense of consistently applying historic preservation criteria.

Nick Sementelli, Public Witness, testified about general concerns relating to the historic preservation review process by the Board. Mr. Sementelli shared his concerns with the Kingman Park historic district designation process, citing to a lack of community engagement and political consensus. He expressed that he worries the same will happen to his Bloomingdale Neighborhood.

Bob Coomber, Commissioner, ANC 7D01, testified about general concerns relating to the historic preservation review process by the Board. Commissioner Coomber spoke about the recent historic district designation of Kingman Park, located within the ANC he represents. He emphasized the lack of public input and transparency throughout the process. Commissioner Coomber concluded by offering suggestions to allow for more resident participation.

Andrew Aurbach, Nominee, testified and answered questions regarding his background and experience as it pertains to the Board, and his interest in continuing to serve on the Board. Mr. Aurbach emphasized his experience with historic preservation and sustainability, and related this cross-disciplinary approach to his priorities for the Board. Mr. Aurbach also testified about improving community engagement and transparency as additional priorities for the Board.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Mr. Aurbach's reappointment. The Committee received a letter from Mr. Don Alexander Hawkins in support of Mr. Aurbach's reappointment.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Nine positions exist on the Historic Preservation Review Board that require Council confirmation. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 6-1103(a), the Board shall be constituted and its members qualified in order to meet the requirements for a State Review Board under regulations issued pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These regulations require all Review Board members to have "demonstrated competence, interest, or knowledge in historic preservation," and that a majority of Board members meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Historic Preservation.¹⁷ That majority must specifically include at a minimum, one individual meeting the Secretary's Standards for history, one meeting the Standards for archeology, and one meeting the Standards for architectural history.¹⁸ One member may meet the Standards for more than one of the required disciplines, and the other members required to meet the Standards may represent any of the described disciplines.¹⁹ Thus,

¹⁷ 36 C.F.R. 61.4(f)(1) (2016).

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

five members of the Board must meet the Standards as described above, while the other four members are not so required. As an historian member, Mr. Aurbach is required to meet the Secretary's standards for professional qualifications, which he does not entirely meet, but the Committee is willing to move forward given his years of service on the Board and supplementary experience in historic preservation (as discussed earlier in this report).

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 22-836 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-611.08(c)(2)(h), Historic Preservation Review Board members are compensated for their services at a rate of \$25 per hour, with a cap of \$3,000 per board member per year.²⁰ The compensation for members of the Board is included as part of the annual budget for the Office of Planning.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 22-836.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Andrew Aurbach as an historian member of the Historic Preservation Review Board for a term to expire July 21, 2021.
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 22-836 shall take effect immediately.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 22-836 as introduced
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions
3. Written testimony and letters in support of nominee
4. Legal sufficiency determination
5. Committee Print for PR 22-836

²⁰ In the case when the Chairperson of the Board a public member, that member receives an addition compensation of 20% above the annual \$3,000 cap. See D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 1-611.08.

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 18, 2018

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Tuesday, April 17, 2018. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach Confirmation Resolution of 2018", PR22-0836

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 disapproved on Monday, October 1, 2018 without Council action.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services



2018 APR 17 PM 1:30
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

APR 17 2018

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

In accordance with section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01) and pursuant to Mayor's Order 83-119, dated May 6, 1983, and section 4 of the Historic Landmark and Historic Protection Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-144; D.C. Official Code § 6-1103), I am pleased to nominate the following person for reappointment:

Mr. Andrew Aurbach
3711 Morrison Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20015
(Ward 3)

as a historian member of the Historic Preservation Review Board, for a term to end July 21, 2021.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing Mr. Aurbach's experience, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

I would appreciate the Council's earliest consideration of this nomination for confirmation. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or Steven Walker, Director, Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments, should the Council require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser



Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution
which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To confirm the reappointment of Mr. Andrew Aurbach to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach Confirmation Resolution of 2018".

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

Mr. Andrew Aurbach
3711 Morrison Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20015
(Ward 3)

as a historian member of the Historic Preservation Review Board, established by Mayor's Order 83-119, issued May 6, 1983 (30 DCR 3031) in accordance with section 4 of the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-144; D.C. Official Code § 6-1103), for a term to end July 21, 2021.

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.

apaurbach@rivendell.tv
Twitter: apaurbach
3711 Morrison Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015
202-744-1783

Andrew Phillip Aurbach

Over twenty years of years of entrepreneurial experience designing and executing educational programs, tactical community engagement and advocacy campaigns, innovative media strategy, award-winning video and multimedia production, meeting/conference planning and communications consulting for a diverse set of clients across the corporate, government and non-profit sectors.

Professional

Consulting and strategy for the development and implementation of content across video, print and multimedia platforms including broadcast and non-broadcast video, web applications, mobile applications, analytics, SEO, digital relationships and social media. Focus on planning, urbanism, cultural and environmental sustainability and community building at the local, state and regional level. Manage multiple projects and a flexible work staff across many locations based on project work.

Capital Sustainability, Inc. Community, environmental and energy sustainability, 2014-Present
Rivendell International, Inc., Media Production and Communications Consulting, President 1992-Present
ASAA Multimedia, LLC Digital Solutions and Application Development, Principal 1997-Present

Selected Clients:

Government: US Department of Defense, US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Emergency Management Administration, Transportation Security Administration, National Academy of Sciences, Prince William County, Virginia,

Non-Profit: AASHTO, Washington, DC and the Capital Region USA, Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund, Georgetown University, Institute of Medicine, American Psychological Association, International Association of Women Judges, Constitution Project, DC Cooperative Housing Coalition

Corporate: Sodexo, Distributed Energy Financial Group, Central Uniforms, Dress it Up Dressing, Leadership Connection, DCBiofuel, DinolinShaw, GreaterPlaces.com

Selected Awards: Telly, Aurora, Aegis, Communicator, Accolade, Das Goldene Stattdor (Travel and Tourism, Germany)

Guest Lecturer, Catholic University of America, City and Regional Planning

Topics: Digital Media, Community Engagement, Public Participation

Selected Educational and Advocacy Programming

- Day In the Life of the Utility Customer, award-winning program that brought customer care leaders from utilities nationwide for a series of working meetings that yielded content envisioning the customer experience in 2015 (see www.rivendell.tv/dilo). First produced in 2008, the 2020 update is currently underway.
- Prince William County, Virginia, ongoing video, online and print materials supporting the Building Development Division, Neighborhood Services Division and the County Communications Office; educating county residents and businesses to navigate the various regulatory processes including starting a business and obtaining occupancy permits.
- *Great Decisions*, Producer for half-hour international policy series for Georgetown University and the Foreign Policy Association, distributed nationally on Public Television. Broadcast program content coordinated with the publishers of briefing books that catalyzed discussion with local discussion groups nationwide (1994-2006).

Boards and Appointments

Coalition for Smarter Growth, (Current) Member, Champions/Advisory Council, Ward 3 Vision, (Current) Steering Committee

Advising CSG on organizational sustainability, strategic marketing and communications and on issues related to advocacy of sustainable development. At the community level, promoting Smart Growth and Transit Oriented Development in the District of Columbia. Work with community stakeholders, local legislative bodies and the executive branch to articulate and implement policies and actions associated with housing and transportation choices, compact development in conjunction with sustainable and livable communities' initiatives. Successfully worked with community stakeholders on development projects to incorporate smart growth principles to the benefit of neighborhoods and the District.

District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board, (2006-2009, 2012-present) Mayoral appointee charged with designation and design review of historic assets in the Nation's Capital. Currently, as Chair of the Sustainability Task Force, responsible for rewriting historic building guidelines and incorporating sustainable features to be compatible with historic structures. Responsible for bringing representatives from OP, DDOE, DCRA, DOES, DGS, OSSE and HPO into the program and coordinating the funding from a variety of city capital and operational sources across these agencies. The Task Force will oversee the creation and deployment of communications programs and outreach strategies including social media, web resources and meeting materials to ensure stakeholder acceptance and community involvement.

Sidwell Friends School Alumni Association, President, 2008-2011. Oversaw programming for and fundraising of a membership of over 3,000. Successfully implemented first Strategic Plan which resulted in measured increases in alumni participation and fundraising, expanded volunteer base and utilization of resources for the benefit of the community; ex-Officio member of the Board of Trustees.

Current: Chair of the Nominating Committee

The Cleveland Park Historical Society 2000-2007
Board Member and Webmaster

University of Wisconsin Alumni Club of Washington, DC President, 1992-1997

Planned and executed events for over 4,000 local alumni. Created a local foundation fund and raised over \$30,000 for the local scholarship endowment

Community Organizations

Connecticut Avenue Pedestrian Action Steering Committee Member; work with community groups, legislative stakeholders and the DC Department of Transportation to advocate for and implement a progressive multi-modal solution for this heavily traveled corridor; Successfully raised monies and completed a pedestrian audit working with over 80 volunteers in phase one of the project.

District of Columbia Office of Planning, Neighborhood Sustainability Indicator Pilot Project, Task Force, Identified sustainability indicators and potential stakeholders to collaborate on this neighborhood focused project to enable the community mitigate negative environmental impacts and to promote and improve more responsible and environmentally sustainable practices (2009-2010).

Selected Broadcast Credits

- Network White House Producer, 1996 Campaign and Election
- Producer, *Legends of Airpower*, a multi-part series detailing the lives and times of those who shaped United States aviation history
- U.S. Production Coordinator, *The Clintons: A Marriage of Power*, a three-part miniseries produced for the BBC and Discovery Networks
- Producer, *Runways of Fire*, documentary on the quest for zero-length launch of Air Force F-100 aircraft during the Cold War. Distributed nationally for [Air & Space Smithsonian](#)

EDUCATION

The Catholic University of America, School of Architecture and Planning

Masters in City and Regional Planning

Tau Sigma Delta Honors Society

Thesis: Innovative Technology Platforms in the Public Engagement Process

Outstanding Student Award

Member, American Planning Association

The University of Wisconsin at Madison, Bachelor of Sciences

Awarded Distinction in both majors: Journalism and History (1990)

Earned Certificate in Integrated Liberal Studies



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

Andrew Aurbach



Andrew Aurbach, current member of the Historic Preservation Review Board, is the President of Media Production and Communications Consulting for Rivendell International, Inc.

Mr. Aurbach has built a successful media consulting business that includes designing and implementing multimedia and communications strategies for numerous clients spanning Fortune 500 companies, federal, state, local governments, major institutions of higher learning, trade associations, and community groups. He was previously a network White House producer and produced the first interactive DVD-ROM, Encyclopedia Electronica, a multimedia educational resource. Mr. Aurbach has developed an interactive presence for the Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council of the US Federal Highway Administration and also served as a team member for the update of the FEMA Risk Map initiative for the web.

A Ward 3 resident, Mr. Aurbach obtained a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and History from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning from The Catholic University of America School of Architecture and Planning.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Alana Intrieri, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: April 6, 2018
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolution nominating Andrew Aurbach, Brian Crane, Marnique Heath, and Gretchen Pfaehler to the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board.

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced Resolution and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

Elizabeth Cavendish

**3711 Morrison Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015**

June 15, 2016

Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington,

DC

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

I am looking forward to my hearing before the Committee of the Whole in support of my nomination to the Historic Preservation Review Board. I am providing as quickly as possible, a response to your letter dated June 29, 2016.

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 no. 2-8 in lieu of that statement.

See responses below.

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 \$1,000, including publicly traded stock.

Capital Sustainability, Inc, a company I co-own, has recently completed a project for DCPS.

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 \$200 during the past two years.

Per question #2, Capital Sustainability, Inc.

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.

Per question #2, Capital Sustainability, Inc. As indicated, I am a co-owner. The company consults on and develops sustainability solutions. For more information, please see www.capitalsustainability.com

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 \$1,000. 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.

Not Applicable.

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 \$1,000.

Our primary home residents, 3711 Morrison Street, NW, Washington DC. In addition, I have an interest in a development on Howard Road, SE (no current address.)

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

Not Applicable.

8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.

I am a member of the American Planning Association and the Green Building Network.

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.

I have served on HPRB for terms from 2007-2009 and 2012-2018. The current term is set to expire in July.

10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Boards of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are a member.

Tenleytown Main Street

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.

Not Applicable.

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 HPRB?

Not to my knowledge.

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 candidate or political action committee.

I believe I made a contribution to my friend, David Garber for Council in 2015, and this is the only political contribution I have made in the past 5 years. I consulted on website development for both Mary Cheh (Ward 3) and Charles Allen (Ward 6)

14. Please list gifts and donations, by source and amount, received or made to any District employee over the last year that was not connected to your role on the Board.

Not Applicable.

15. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered, the date(s) of your registration and the clients on whose behalf you have lobbied.

Not Applicable.

16. (a) What do you believe is the role and purpose of the HPRB?

My role on HPRB is to serve as the Historian member and weigh landmark and historic district nominations and applications for their merit be included in either or both of the Federal and DC Inventory. In addition, the Board provides advice to the Mayor (Mayor's Agent) for alterations to landmarks and contributing structures in historic districts as well as new construction in historic districts.

- (b) What is your vision for the office?

My vision is to continue to build on the good work as it has evolved over the past 10 years in terms of education, engagement and participation. Historic Preservation is an important urban planning tool, and there is significant value for the residents of the District to understand how it has served the city in the past and in the future.

- (c) Why have you agreed to serve?

In addition to the regular monthly work of the Board, I am interested in continuing to strengthen the outreach and advocacy by the Board and Staff. In addition, the Board created an informal Task Force about 7 years ago to examine its guidelines through the lens of sustainability. Staff and DOEE achieved a stated goal to examine our Preservation Guidelines through the lens of sustainability. This is an effort started about 7 years ago and continues with stakeholders from DOEE, DCRA and other agencies. Periodically, we have cases that propose cutting edge design techniques or materials that supersede our guidelines, which were written in the early 1990's. DOEE issued an RFP for a vendor to examine our guidelines with input from stakeholders such as

June 15, 2018

the various community groups, the building trades and “green” professionals, to develop a new document that can help inform and provide direction to the Board on cases going forward. The draft is currently available for public comment.

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

I have served three previous terms on the Board. This is my fourth appointment. I am honored for having been asked to serve by three different mayors and am grateful to Mayor Bowser for this opportunity.

18. What will be your top priorities for the board?

Per my response to question 16, I am interested in seeing the Preservation Guidelines being updated to a 21st Century vernacular. I am also interested in continuing to urge staff to adopt more modern engagement practices, such as posting submissions digitally, to save paper and the costs associated therein.

Sincerely,

Andrew Aurbach



June 21, 2018

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Chairman Mendelson and Council Members:

The DC Preservation League (DCPL), Washington's citywide nonprofit advocate dedicated to the preservation and protection of the city's historic built environment would like to offer the following comments regarding the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) today. The focus of our comments today are on the general makeup and performance of the HPRB and its functioning under the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978 (DC Law 2-144) and its associated regulations.

Nominees:

Two sets of regulations govern the make-up of the HPRB: one at the federal level mandating certain professional qualifications be represented to allow participation in the National Register programs and qualify for federal grant money, and the other at the city level requiring representation of the composition of the adult population of the District of Columbia with regard to race, sex, geographic distribution and other demographic characteristics, to be met with members who only need have a "demonstrated interest in historic preservation."

While it would be acceptable to have multiple board member representing each of the professional positions of Architectural Historian, Architect, Historian and both historic and prehistoric Archaeologist that would be impracticable to achieve while meeting the city requirements for demographic representation and geographic distribution. As we have advocated in the past, having more than one position filled by an architect can facilitate the HPRB's design review function that is so large a part of what they do, but we question filling other available positions based on professional qualifications at the expense meeting the demographic and geographical representation required by our city regulation. At present there are no members of the Board from Wards 1, 5 and 7. We ask you to encourage the mayor to put forth nominees who could broaden the representation of the Board.

Function of the Board:

The implementing regulations for the D.C. historic preservation law (Title 10-C of the D.C. Municipal Regulations) describe, among other things, the procedures for "Designation of Historic

Landmarks and Districts.” The regulations discuss eligible applicants, noticing, public comments and the process for the designation hearing. They also lay out the legal criteria for designation in both the DC Inventory and the National Register.

DCPL is concerned that statements by HPRB members suggest that some are substituting personal criteria for those specified in the law when making designation decisions, which could invite legal challenges to those designations. Moreover, DCPL's Executive Director recently participated in a panel discussion at the American Institute of Architects where an informed discussion about the HPRB revealed considerable concern about inconsistency in its rulings more generally.

Having fair and consistent hearings is a necessary tool to encourage investment in our historic neighborhoods and downtown core that not only results in the preservation and adaptive reuse of these irreplaceable resources, but ultimately produces tremendous financial benefits to the city.

Whether professional or citizen, all members of the Historic Preservation Review Board are required to have demonstrated competence, interest or knowledge in historic preservation. They should also be expected to be knowledgeable about the purposes of the DC preservation act and the content of its associated regulations. Training in the applicable legal standards should be offered as needed, particularly when new members join the HPRB. In addition, if legal advice is needed during the hearings, the Office of Planning now has an attorney on staff who could provide such assistance.

We encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity afforded when existing members of the HPRB are being re-nominated to confirm their understanding of the criteria established in law as the basis for their decisions and their willingness to follow the law in their actions.

Historic preservation has a tremendous positive economic and social impact on our city. Residents and others who invest in the city deserve to have a well-functioning, fair board that is well versed in its responsibilities under the historic preservation law.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

John Sandor, President
Board of Trustees
DC Preservation League

Nick Sementelli
1644 North Capitol St NW
Washington, DC 20002

Testimony before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole
on
PR 22-834, Historic Preservation Review Board Marnique Heath Confirmation Resolution of 2018
PR 22-835, Historic Preservation Review Board Brian Crane Confirmation Resolution of 2018
PR 22-836, Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach Confirmation Resolution of 2018
&
PR 22-837, Historic Preservation Review Board Gretchen Pfaehler Confirmation Resolution of 2018
on
Thursday, June 21, 2018
11:00 a.m.
Hearing Room 412, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Members of the Council,

Good morning. My name is Nick Sementelli. I'm a Bloomingdale resident and I chose to testify today because I have been actively involved in my neighborhood's conversation about whether to become a historic district.

As part of that involvement, I have paid close attention to the designation of Kingman Park, and after watching what happened in those hearings, I have serious concerns about the ability of most of the current board to properly fill these roles, including Commissioners Heath, Crane and Pfaehler,

I specifically am leaving Commissioner Aurbach off that list because he was the lone member of the board who, in my opinion, properly identified what happened in the Kingman Park proceedings – namely that the process this board used to weigh community opinion was broken. Specifically, Commissioner Aurbach identified two precedents that have been lost:

1. That it's the role of the applicants is to engage the community and build political consensus, and that applicants that have not succeeded in this work should be held to a critical standard.

and

2. That "traditionally this board did not approve landmark applications unless the property owner was on board with the landmark. And over the course of my tenure on this board, that's changed. So, I feel like adopting a historic district when a significant percentage of property owners appear...to be opposed to it, to me feels like not the right thing to do." (Aurbach, May 3rd HPRB Hearing)

I'll go a step further. It's not only that the commissioners approved the district over opposition. It's that they failed to even engage with that opposition in a good faith way. It appears to be a cardinal rule of the HPRB that there are no downsides or tradeoffs to historic districts. The entirety of the conversation about opposing views in Kingman Park was misleadingly and condescendingly framed as a simple matter of misinformation. Opponents were hand-waived away as innocently naive at best and maliciously mendacious at worst.

I oppose the proposed historic district in my neighborhood, and I can assure you that neither I nor my 99 neighbors who signed our petition opposing designation are naive about this subject. Our neighborhood has been talking about this for almost 5 years with numerous information sessions, meetings, flyerings and votes.

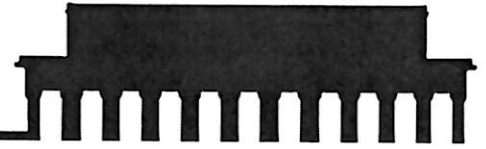
For example, I am aware that designation only impacts the exterior, I know it won't affect what color I can paint my door, I know it doesn't mean a blanket ban on solar panels, I know 95% of permits get approved on the spot, I know about the price-stabilization studies, I'm familiar with the Historic Homeowner Grant program, and I know that the 2008 Washington Post article about the wheelchair ramp was not a representative example of a typical historic review.

But I also know about the other studies showing historic districts raise prices, I know that some houses on corner lots fail the stick test in every case, I know the grant program only serves about 20 residents a year and I know people who have had expensive, nightmare experiences with arbitrary HPO review decisions.

So, my opposition is not based in misinformation. I'm not in need of a remedial ANC meeting or an HPRB task force to point me to the website's FAQ. I have the information, I'm simply coming to a different conclusion about how to apply it to the cost-benefit analysis at the heart of this decision.

Is it really too much to expect the same informed, balanced review from HPRB? Is our only option a systematic gaslighting of anyone who believes there are tradeoffs here?

What's the point of our neighborhood's last 5 years of effort if they're ultimately going to be ignored when they don't fit a pre-determined outcome? Based on the evidence, HPRB should cut the community input charade and save us all the time.



PHIL MENDELSON, CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE

2018 June 21

Founded 1923

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945 G Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20001

202.681.0225

info@committeeof100.net

PR 22-834, Historic Preservation Review Board Marnique Heath Confirmation Resolution of 2018

PR 22-835, Historic Preservation Review Board Brian Crane Confirmation Resolution of 2018

PR 22-836, Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach Confirmation Resolution of 2018

PR 22-837, Historic Preservation Review Board Gretchen Pfaehler Confirmation Resolution of 2018

Chairman Mendelson,

My name is Sally Berk. I'm testifying on behalf of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City, a planning and preservation advocacy organization. The Committee is concerned that a few HPRB members are making decisions based on irrelevant personal preferences, rather than decisions based on the criteria mandated by federal and DC laws and regulations; specifically in regard to landmark nominations.

DC's preservation ordinance is a direct result of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which was enacted to acknowledge the importance of protecting our nation's heritage from rampant development. It mandated that local governments are to identify and save significant historic sites. These local designations do not require owner approval because they have been viewed to be within the city's regulatory power -- like a zoning ordinance or other land use program. A property owner can't oppose the zoning in which he is located, for example, or whether his property is in a flood plain.

The criteria is not whether there is owner objection, nor whether a certain cultural group thinks the site is important or not, but whether the property meets the criteria for significance. Once a reviewing body votes subjectively, consistency is lost, as is fair and equitable evaluation of the property.

We've heard it stated that perhaps this lack of consistency is the result of insufficient training for the HPRB members. I'm not sure this is, in fact, the reason that a few HPRB members are considering owner objection when they vote on landmark nominations. It may simply be that they choose to ignore the legal criteria and establish their own, instead.

Regarding the reappointments that are before you today:

Brian Crane has stated that he understands that owner objection is not a criterion by which he can determine if a property should be designated. We anticipate that he will implement this consistently.

Marnique Heath is doing a credible job chairing HPRB. In actuality, she is required to chair two different hearing types. One is to review proposed new construction, as well alterations to existing sites, that entail historic property. The other is to consider landmark nominations. This is not an easy job but she manages it with an even hand.

Regarding Gretchen Pfaehler, I've had years in which to observe her at HPRB hearings and have concluded that she is a great asset to preservation in our city. As you know, she is an architect. When she reviews projects for their compatibility, her comments always improve the project. When she votes on a landmark nomination, she is bound by the criteria. We look forward to her continuance on the board.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE

Thursday, 6/21/2018; 11:00am

Room 412; John A. Wilson Building

Testimony of Bob Coomber, ANC 7D01

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I very much appreciate the opportunity to discuss the historic preservation review process by the Board and HPO to approve historic districts.

I say “approve” historic districts because that is what the Board does. The Board does not reject historic districts. I asked a 20 year veteran at HPO if the Board had ever rejected an historic district and she told me, “not that I know of.” Under the current historic designation criteria, literally any District property could be determined to be historic. As a result, over 20% of the properties in DC are under historic designation. Which begs the question, “what isn’t historic in DC?”

The total number of historic properties in DC equal the number of historic properties in Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia combined, and those are three cities with significant histories. And this might be fine, if everyone wanted an historic district. But not all of us do. There are legitimate reasons to oppose historic districts – dozens of studies show¹ that maintaining homes in historic districts is more expensive than those outside, and cities regularly use historic districts to boost their tax base. We might rather not have the extra expenses as a neighborhood.

My neighborhood didn’t. Yet, a defunct neighborhood organization that hasn’t met in years, doesn’t have legitimate bylaws, had banned a half a dozen residents for 99 years from participating in the organization – including myself – applied for designation in Kingman Park. HPO told us the quality of the application was substandard, the application didn’t make sense, and so the application would not be approved. This is what happened in Chevy Chase when those residents opposed an historic District, Barney Circle, Brookland, and Northern Capitol Hill when those communities opposed historic districts. In those cases, HPO would not let those historic district applications through the process.

In Chevy Chase, HPO told the Washington Post, “‘it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that it has a good chance of meeting the designation criteria. The sense I get is that most people are not contesting that,’ Maloney said. ‘They agree it's a wonderful suburb. What they are contesting is whether it's something they want to deal with in their daily lives. And that is an issue for us.’”

Well, apparently it’s no longer an issue, because that was not the case for Kingman Park. For us, even though over 70% of residents’ comments supplied to the HPRB opposed the historic district, the district went forward and Kingman Park residents’ opinions were ignored. When testifying about a poll we conducted and the broad opposition demonstrated in the comments to HPRB, Board members asked why I hadn’t done a second poll. When I said I was willing to do a second poll, the Board then decided that a second poll was not needed, and ended up approving the district despite our neighborhood’s overwhelming opposition, and even expanded the boundaries of the historic district to blocks that had nothing to do with the initial purpose of the historic district, and went against the suggestion of HPO. One Board member even tried to include a church built in 1999 into the district.

It was clear from our neighborhood's involvement in the historic designation process that there is no clear historic designation process. Anyone claiming to be a civic organization can file an application for historic designation, even if it's just a couple people who don't even have meetings. We were told the applicant had to hold public meetings. They held zero (though they attended ANC meetings). We were told historic designations would not be approved unless there was overwhelming community support, then it was broad support, then HPRB weighed peoples' opinions from other states, as far afield as Texas and Arizona, over the will of Kingman Park residents.

Meanwhile, our legitimate civic organization discussed this issue in several meetings over more than a year, including a panel discussion hosted by WAMU's Martin Austermuhle, HPO, developers, and preservationists. We thought about this long and hard as a community, and we didn't want it. Yet the Board rammed it through anyway, even expanding the district without explanation at the last minute over HPO's objections.

I ask that the Council consider democratic safeguards for historic districts going forward. Let residents vote when these issues arise. Let's be more cautious about historic districts. Not every gas station, strip mall, and power substation need be preserved. There are better ways to preserve social history than freezing residents' homes in amber, especially when that history is not reflected in the architecture of the neighborhood, as was the case in Kingman Park. We have so little say as District residents, don't let unelected Boards with no restraint make such significant decisions about our homes. Let the people decide.

ⁱ Additional information on historic districts and affordability:

- Cities and neighborhoods actively seek historic designations to augment their property tax base:
 - Travel Industry Association of America, Profile of Travelers Who Participate in Historic and Cultural Activities, Results from the TravelScope E Survey, 1997.
 - Listoken, D. and M.L. Lahr, Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation, Research prepared for the New Jersey Historic Trust, 1997.
 - Winson-Geideman, K., D. Jourdan, and S. Gao, Preserving Whose Neighborhood? The Effects of Adaptive Reuse by the Savannah College of Art & Design on Property Value and Community Change in Savannah, Georgia, commissioned by the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, 2007.
- Finding that historically designated property sale prices to be 16% higher than similar, non-designated properties. Found amount to be greater than the capitalized tax benefit, implying value in the designation.
 - Narwold, A, S. Jonathan, and C. Tu, Historic Designation and Residential Property Values, International Real Estate Review, 2008, 11, 1, 83-95.
- Renovation expenditures contributed significantly to higher property assessments, the impact of the increase was .33 for each dollar spent.
 - Cyrenne, P., R. Fenton, and J. Warbanski, Historic Buildings and Rehabilitation Expenditures: A Panel Data Approach, Journal of Real Estate Research, 2006, 28, 4, 350-379.
- Properties within historic districts typically sell at a premium
 - Coulson, N.B. and R.M. Leichenko, The Internal and External Impact of Historical Designation on Property Values, Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics, 2001, 23, 113-24.
 - Clark, D.E. and W.E. Herrin, Historical Preservation and Home Sale Prices: Evidence from the Sacramento Housing Market, The Review of Regional Studies, 1997, 27, 29-48.
 - Asabere, P.K., G. Hachey and S. Grubaugh, Architecture, Historic Zoning, and the Value of Homes, Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics, 1989, 2, 181-195.
 - Ford, D., The Effect of Historic District Designation on Single-Family Home Prices. Journal of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, 1989, 17, 353-362.

Testimony before the Committee of the Whole,
Consideration of PR 22-836, the Historic Preservation Review Board
Andrew Phillip Aurbach Confirmation Resolution of 2018

Good Morning Chairman Mendelson, it is my honor to come before the Committee of the Whole today in support of my renomination to the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board as a Historian Member. I am grateful to Mayor Bowser for entrusting me with this opportunity. Since 2007, I have had the privilege to serve the District in this capacity and have witnessed first hand some of the most exciting adaptive re-use and new developments in our time.

Professionally, I am a communications consultant with a twenty-five year record of providing clients in the public and private sector with a variety of services including media strategy, video and digital production. My early career focused on documentary and public affairs television, and I helped produce a number of award winning historical pieces on such figures as Vincent Van Gogh, Hap Arnold, Rocky and Bullwinkle and Hector Berlioz. through the years, my career has adapted with advances in technology across various platforms and devices. I have received many peer awards for my documentary and video work.

As you know, I was an engaged resident in Cleveland Park. This engagement led to an invitation to join the Cleveland Park Historical Society board in 2000, where I served for two terms. As my CPHS Board term was winding down, then Mayor Adrian Fenty nominated me to the Historic Preservation Review Board. My service to both the CPHS and HPRB stoked a deepening interest in the District and the relationship between our built environment and our ecology. This led me back to school - to Catholic University, where I earned a Masters Degree in City and Regional Planning with a focus on Sustainability in 2012 and was given an award for outstanding thesis. Soon after, I was re-appointed to the Board. I have used what I learned studying for my Masters Degree as part of a foundational approach to bringing sustainability to underserved communities in the District and throughout the region. It has been a meaningful and humbling experience to make the direct connections between my studies, my interests and my love of the District and its many communities, to help people in a significant manner.

Community engagement and volunteerism are central to my life, and I have dedicated my time and efforts to a number of different organizations and causes, from coaching youth sports to

servicing on a variety of Boards. In 2015, I worked with a small group of community member to found and launch Tenleytown Main Street, which is funded in part by the city. The Main Street program is deeply intertwined with preservation as it is an initiative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

I have truly enjoyed the nine years I have spent on the Board. When I first met with former Chair Teresh Boasberg, he relayed a stories about how he could walk certain streets in downtown and recall specifics of cases the the impact and importance of service to the Board. I am enjoying an equivalent experience now, particularly in fast growing areas like the 14th Street corridor, where we have seen tremendous adaptive reuse and new construction stitching a once torn community.

The concept of historic preservation as both an urban planning tool and an act of sustainability is core to why I am such a supporter of the preservation movement. However, the challenges today are different than those 30 years ago. In a time of a city declining in population, preservation was a tool that helped stabilize the physical and cultural environment. Now, however, the District is fortunate to be growing its population fairly rapidly. The role preservation plays today and tomorrow is very different than the role it played 30 years ago. the new challenges and barriers of preservation in the context of a growing city are real. How we respond, particularly in the areas of housing affordability and environmental sustainability will set a standard for the next generation not only in Washington, DC but throughout the country as DC has the possibility to serve a model for the nation.

A someone who takes community engagement seriously I was pleased to see the HPO staff adopt a number measures that help broaden engagement during my service on the board. This includes a placard program where details and contact information are visible and prominently placed on property where significant renovation will take place. Bruce Yarnell sends out emails and posts to listservs in impacted neighborhoods the details of Board deliberations as well as the monthly notice. As well, guidelines and other information are posted to an ever expanding website. The efforts made by HPO on this front are real and impactful. As a follower of preservation discussions, I am always looking for new ways to help educate and reach the public.

During my tenure, we have also encourage more consistency in the staff reports. Certainly we have one of the best and most professional preservation staffs in the country. Former Chairs Tersh Boasberg and Catherine Buell and current Chairperson Heath, all attorneys, made great strides encouraging a regular pattern of “case precedent” that established a consistency for the staff and Board to follow. While each property and proposal are unique, there are certain characteristics: building type, siting, topography, for example, that help guide what may be considered acceptable change in a historic district. Further, when relevant, the staff has included different elements of the Preservation Law or other policy provisions within the staff reports to help explain their reasoning to both the public and the Board. This was not the case during my earlier years of service. I look forward to continuing to help provide advice and guidance to ensure the staff reports are consistent and helpful to applicants, but to be honest and with great pleasure, I note that the quality of the reports over the past several years have merited little need on this front.

I have also, in this period and when appropriate, urged applicants to provide open records and other information so interpretation of important historical figures or features are made more prominent as both an educational tool as well as a matter of basic civic pride. One example of this was with the McMillan Sand Filtration site, where the unique system and vestige silos and out-buildings tell the tale of cutting edge sanitation technology of its day. To my knowledge, the master developer has incorporated a series of interpretation techniques into their plans.

My goal for a next term is to continue to oversee the effort to examine our Preservation Guidelines through the lens of sustainability. This is an effort started about 7 years ago and continues with stakeholders from DOEE, DCRA and other agencies. Periodically, we have cases that propose cutting edge design techniques or materials that supersede our guidelines, which were written in the early 1990’s. In 2017, DOEE released an RFP and in 2018, new draft guidelines were released for public comment. It is my hope that this new document can help inform and provide direction to the Board on cases going forward.

In addition to the Sustainability Task Force, I continue to embrace and look forward to the role of providing advice to the Mayor on new development proposals, adaptive re-use proposals and renovation of the historic structures in the District.

It is an honor to receive this re-appointment and serve the city I love. I stand ready to answer any questions you might have.

HAWKINSMAPS 36945 CHARLES TOWN PIKE HILLSBORO VIRGINIA
20132

Phil Mendelson

Chairman, DC Council

Wilson Building

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

June 20, 2018

Dear Chairman Mendelson

It is my privilege and pleasure to support the nomination of Andrew Aurbach to continue his commendable work as a member of the Historic Preservation Review Board. His experience on the Board, and the broadened education he has brought to it, have made him a steady and dependable contributor to the discussions that are so important to the resolution of preservation issues. The Board needs such qualities as Andrew brings to bear on the subject: character and intelligence. Please allow to him to continue his service to the District of Columbia on the HPRB.

Sincerely,

Don Alexander Hawkins

PHONE 540-668-6123 CELL 202-321-0111 *HAWKINSMAPS@GMAIL.COM*

1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 July 10, 2018
4
5
6
7

8 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**
9

10
11 22-836
12
13

14 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
15
16 _____
17

18
19 To confirm the reappointment of Mr. Andrew Aurbach to the Historic Preservation Review
20 Board.
21

22 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this**
23 resolution may be cited as the “Historic Preservation Review Board Andrew Aurbach
24 Confirmation Resolution of 2018”.

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

26
27 Mr. Andrew Aurbach
28 3711 Morrison Street, N.W.
29 Washington, D.C. 20015
30 (Ward 3)
31

32 as an historian member of the Historic Preservation Review Board, established by Mayor’s Order
33 83-119, issued May 6, 1983 (30 DCR 3031), in accordance with section 4 of the Historic
34 Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-
35 144; D.C. Official Code § 6-1103), for a term to end July 21, 2021.

36 **Sec. 3.** The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,
37 upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

38 **Sec. 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.