

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DRAFT COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

**FROM:** Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** December 17, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 23-551, “Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors Brian Kenner Confirmation Resolution of 2019”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 23-551, “Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors Brian Kenner Confirmation Resolution of 2019” was referred, reports favorably thereon with technical amendments, and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On October 31, 2019, Proposed Resolution 23-551, the “Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors Brian Kenner Confirmation Resolution of 2019” was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. PR 23-551 would confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Mr. Brian Kenner for appointment as a member of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors for a four-year term to end May 16, 2023.

Mr. Kenner is a Ward 1 resident. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Iowa and his Master of Public Policy with a concentration in Public Sector Financial Analysis and Urban Economic Development from Harvard University – Kennedy School of Government. After earning his Master’s degree, he served as a Presidential Management Fellow under the Clinton Administration, and worked at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the

Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Office of Management and Budget.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Kenner also served in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, first as Chief Operating Officer and then as Deputy Mayor. As Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, he led economic development planning, strategy, and implementation for Washington, DC. Some of the projects that he oversaw as Deputy Mayor include the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Campus, the Wharf, Franklin School, Stevens School, the New Communities Initiative, St. Elizabeths East Campus, and Grimke School.<sup>2</sup> Currently, Mr. Kenner serves as an economic development official at Amazon. In this role, he supports investments and expansions of economic development projects in the Washington, DC metropolitan area and the Northeast Region of the United States.<sup>3</sup>

The Washington Convention and Sports Authority (Events DC) is an independent authority of the District government pursuant to the Washington Convention Sports Authority and Sports and Entertainment Commission Merger Amendment Act of 2009, effective March 3, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-111; D.C. Official Code § 10-1201.01 *et seq.*) (the Act). The Act merged the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission with the Washington Convention Center Authority, which was established in 2004, to create one organization to promote the District as a sports, entertainment, and special events destination.

The mission of Events DC is two-fold: (1) generate economic and community benefits for the District by creating the premier event experience; and (2) promote Washington, D.C. as a world-class tourist destination. Events DC owns, operates, and serves as the landlord for: the Walter E. Washington Convention Center (Convention Center); the Historic Carnegie Library at Mount Vernon Square (Carnegie Library); the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium (RFK) - including the RFK Festival Grounds and the Skate Park at RFK; the DC Armory; the Entertainment and Sports Arena (ESA); the Gateway DC and R.I.S.E. Demonstration Center on the grounds of the St. Elizabeths East Campus; and Nationals Park.

Events DC is governed by the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors (Board), which is comprised of 12 members. The purpose of the Board is not only to govern Events DC, but to develop policies for the management, maintenance, and operation of the convention center and District sports and entertainment facilities.<sup>4</sup>

Of the 12 members, three members are the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia, the President of the Hotel Association of Washington, DC, and an individual designated by the Mayor; they serve as ex-officio voting members.<sup>5</sup> The Mayor is required to appoint nine public members, all of whom shall be District residents, with the advice and consent of the Council.<sup>6</sup> Public members of the Board are appointed to four-year terms.<sup>7</sup> Of the nine public members, one shall be from the hotel industry, one shall be from the restaurant industry, one shall

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<sup>1</sup> Brian Kenner, Nominee, Testimony before the DC Council Committee of the Whole, 3, November 26, 2019.

<sup>2</sup>*Id.* at 2.

<sup>3</sup>*Id.* at 4.

<sup>4</sup> See D.C. Official Code § 10-1202.06.

<sup>5</sup> D.C. Official Code § 10-1202.05.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* The Mayor also must appoint the Chairperson of the Events DC Board.

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

be from organized labor, and the remaining six shall have proven expertise in municipal finance, business finance, economic development, construction, sports, entertainment, or tourism.<sup>8</sup>

**Table 1: Membership of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors (Events DC Board)**

<b>Resolution #</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Appointee</b>	<b>Term Expiring:</b>
<i>PR 23-551</i>	<i>Proposed Mayoral Appointee (Expertise in Economic Development)</i>	<i>Brian Kenner</i>	<i>May 16, 2023</i>
R.23-272	Mayoral Appointee (Chairperson) (Expertise in Municipal Finance)	Max Brown	May 16, 2023
R.23-199	Mayoral Appointee (Expertise in Business Finance and Restaurant Industry Representative)	Alan Bubes	May 16, 2023
R.22-487	Mayoral Appointee (Hotel Industry Representative)	Julio Haddock-Ortiz	May 16, 2022
R.22-485	Mayoral Appointee (Expertise in Municipal Finance)	Linda Greenan	May 16, 2022
R.22-176	Mayoral Appointee (Organized Labor Representative)	John Boardman	May 16, 2021
R.22-177	Mayoral Appointee (Expertise in Business Finance)	Cheryl Doggett	May 16, 2021
R.22-486	Mayoral Appointee (Expertise in Economic Development and Construction)	George Simpson	May 16, 2020
R.22-74	Mayoral Appointee (Expertise in Business Finance)	Denise Rolark Barnes	May 16, 2020
	Ex-Officio Voting Member (OCFO)	Jeffrey S. Dewitt	N/A
	Ex-Officio Voting Member (President of the Hotel Association of Washington, DC)	Solomon Keene, Jr.	N/A
	Ex-Officio Voting Member (Mayoral Designee)	John Falcicchio	N/A

From early 2015 to mid-2019, Mr. Kenner served as the Mayor’s designee – ex-officio voting member – on the Board. While serving on the Board, he helped oversee Events DC’s promotion of numerous events and festivals, the marketing of the District at the SXSW annual conference, the historic restoration of the Carnegie Library in partnership with Apple, and the development of the Entertainment Sports Arena.<sup>9</sup> His service as Deputy Mayor and on the Board helped reinforce his belief that economic development plays a critical role in the District’s economic welfare and cultural vitality.<sup>10</sup>

During the Committee’s public hearing on PR 23-551, Chairman Mendelson asked Mr. Kenner about potential conflicts of interest with his current role at Amazon, and whether he had an agenda before joining the Board such as building a new football stadium on the RFK Campus. Mr. Kenner testified that he is not aware of any potential conflicts and that if there was a conflict, he would recuse himself from the issue, and he would disclose it and would seek advice from the agency’s general counsel. As for RFK Campus, Mr. Kenner stated that he does not plan to bring up the return of the football team when he joins the Board.

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

<sup>9</sup> *Supra* note 1, at 4.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

If appointed, Mr. Kenner will provide consistent direction to Events DC’s staff in support of the development and implementation of initiatives that generate economic and community benefits for the District.<sup>11</sup> He has agreed to serve because he wants to further the District’s economy by continuing to diversify the tax revenue streams the District receives from Events DC.<sup>12</sup> Further, Mr. Kenner believes that Events DC should focus on providing world-class experiences for residents and visitors in order to showcase the District.<sup>13</sup>

The Committee believes Mr. Kenner meets the requirements to serve as a member of the Board pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 10-1202.05(a)(3) as he has an expertise in economic development. His extensive public service background and his knowledge of economic development strategies for the District government has given him useful experience to serve as a member on Board. Moreover, his previous stint on the Board, as the Mayor’s designee, makes him more than qualified to serve on the Board. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 23-551.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| October 31, 2019  | PR 23-551, the “Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors Brian Kenner Confirmation Resolution of 2019” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Bowser.  |
| November 5, 2019  | PR 23-551 is “read” at the November 5, 2019 Legislative meeting; on this date the referral of the PR to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 90-day period for Council review begins. If this measure is not acted upon by the Council before February 12, 2020, PR 23-551 will be deemed disapproved. |
| November 8, 2019  | Notice of Intent to Act on PR 23-551 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> .  |
| November 8, 2019  | Notice of Public Hearing on PR 23-551 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> .   |
| November 26, 2019 | The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on PR 23-551.  |
| December 17, 2019 | The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 23-551.   |

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<sup>11</sup> Brian Kenner, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Pre-Hearing Questionnaire, 3, November 15, 2019. (Attached to the Report).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Mr. Brian Kenner is the Mayor's nomination for appointment to the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors.

### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 23-551.

### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 23-551 on Tuesday, November 26, 2019. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. A copy of the written testimony provided to the Committee is attached to this report.

*Brian Kenner, Nominee*, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding his background and experience as it pertains to the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors and his interest in serving on the Board.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Mr. Kenner's appointment.

### VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors are appointed pursuant to Section 205 of the Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994, effective September 28, 1994 (D.C. Law 10-188; D.C. Official Code § 10-1202.05).

### VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 23-551 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 10-1202.05(k), members of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors are not entitled to compensation.

### VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 States the short title of Proposed Resolution 23-551.

- Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Brian Kenner as a member of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors for a four-year term to end May 16, 2023.
- Section 3 Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.
- Section 4 Provides that the resolution will take effect once approved by the Council.

## **IX. COMMITTEE ACTION**

## **X. ATTACHMENTS**

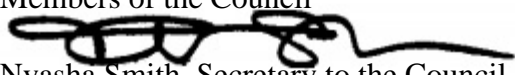
1. PR 23-551 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Written testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 23-551.

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**  
**Washington D.C. 20004**

Memorandum

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To : Members of the Council

From :   
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : November 05, 2019

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Thursday, October 31, 2019. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors Brian Kenner Confirmation Resolution of 2019", PR23-0551

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 Wednesday, February 12, 2020 without Council action.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services



2019 OCT 31 PM 5:08

OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

MURIEL BOWSER      OCT 31 2019  
MAYOR

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 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 section 205 of the Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994, effective September 28, 1994 (D.C. Law 10-188; D.C. Official Code § 10-1202.05), I am pleased to nominate:

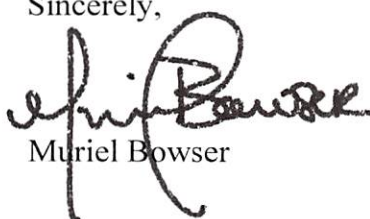
Mr. Brian Kenner  
1650 Beekman Place NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

for appointment as a public member of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors, replacing Miriam Huger, for a term to end May 16, 2023.


Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above nominee, together with 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,

  
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 appointment of Mr. Brian Kenner as a member of the Washington Convention  
and Sports Authority Board of Directors.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
resolution may be cited as the “Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors  
Brian Kenner Confirmation Resolution of 2019”.

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

Mr. Brian Kenner  
1650 Beekman Place NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
(Ward 1)

as a public member of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors,  
pursuant to section 205 of the Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994, effective  
September 28, 1994 (D.C. Law 10-188; D.C. Official Code § 10-1202.05), replacing Miriam  
Huger, for a term to end on May 16, 2023.

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.

# BRIAN T. KENNER

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | Amazon**

- Lead regional economic development role supporting investment and expansions in VA, Washington DC and MD. Collaboration with Amazon's economic development project managers on site expansion plans and new investments.
- Work with regional economic development and workforce development organizations on policies and programs that support economic diversity in the region. Support on-the-job training, workforce development, and other learning & development related opportunities for public/private partnerships. Work directly with key government agencies, officials as well as chambers of commerce, utilities, and other key public/private stakeholder groups.

2019 NOV -4 AM 11:11  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

## **DEPUTY MAYOR PLANNING AND ECON DEV | Government of the District of Columbia**

- Led economic development planning, strategy, and implementation for Washington DC.
- Managed an active \$7 billion real estate portfolio of over 90 projects and 16M square feet, to include negotiation of over 30 new real estate transactions over three years. Key projects include creating an iconic waterfront destination at the new District Wharf City Project and redeveloping historic properties at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.
- Led business development teams responsible for attracting and retaining companies from startups to global enterprises to the District of Columbia.

## **CITY MANAGER | City of Takoma Park, MD**

- Oversaw all operations of the City with 175 employees and 10 departments including Housing & Community Development, Police, Public Works, Library, Recreation, Communications, City Clerk, Information Systems, and Finance.
- Successfully achieved Council support for City's fiscal year budget. Effectuated reduction of expenditures from previous fiscal year, while expanding many City services as part of a new fiscally prudent management plan.

## **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | DMPED Government of the District of Columbia**

- Chief real estate development, budget, policy, and operations advisor to the Deputy Mayor.
- Managed team in successful financial closing of multi-year \$500M Interstate-395 highway air rights development project (Capitol Crossing). Structured Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Payment in lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and New Market Tax Credit (NMTC) investments for projects worth over \$100M.

## **SENIOR FUND MANAGER | Fannie Mae, Community Investments Group**

- Fund manager in charge of origination, underwriting, and closing of market-rate equity and mezzanine debt investments in market rate apartment and condominium housing projects, creating more than \$2 billion in development.
- Led negotiations for disposition of national portfolio of over 25 properties/land worth more than \$100M, including term sheet development, purchase and sale agreement structuring, and ground lease agreements with selected owners.
- Developed innovative public-private platform for sale of foreclosed single-family properties to public entities, in coordination with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP I). Successfully launched seven pilot projects across the nation returning over \$20M in housing assets back into productive use.

### **VICE PRESIDENT | Jones Lang LaSalle, Public Institutions Consulting Group**

- Served as one of the firm's practice leaders specializing in public-private initiatives, with clients including private companies, and the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Led real estate and financial underwriting for the U.S. Army's first hotel privatization project, including \$1 billion in hotel development for 19,000 hotel rooms across the country.
- Led negotiations for Corps of Engineers new public-private alternative financing method for public sector lease exchange for development services for 1.2M SF project.

### **SENIOR MANAGER | Ernst and Young LLP (E&Y), Real Estate Consulting Practice**

- Manager of client engagements related to public-private partnerships, finance, economic development, real estate and asset management, with clients including DOD (Air Force), HUD, DC Government, private financial services firms, and private equity funds.
- Successfully led project teams assisting the U.S. Department of the Air Force in closing deal structuring and financial underwriting for four military housing single-family and multifamily privatization projects worth over \$250 million in development. Projects resulted in new privatized housing created for military personnel.

### **PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOW | White House, Executive Office of the President**

- *Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation*, Financial Analyst. Performed financial analysis of community bank data and designed recommendations used as policy to set bank insurance premiums. Published findings for 20,000 banks, associations, and financial regulators.
- *Overseas Private Investment Corporation*, Investment Analyst. Performed financial analysis and due diligence on potential telecommunications business investments by U.S. companies in Lithuania, Argentina, and Brazil.
- *White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)*, Program Examiner. Supervised and conducted research to support analysis of U.S. Small Business Administration guaranteed loan programs. Recommended actions to reduce costs and to improve effectiveness.

## **EDUCATION**

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**HARVARD UNIVERSITY** - Kennedy School of Government, *Master of Public Policy*  
Concentration in Public Sector Financial Analysis and Urban Economic Development

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA** - *Bachelor of Arts in Biology*

## **RELATED INDUSTRY AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**

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*Distinguished speaker of over 100 speeches at various conferences and professional conventions including Urban Land Institute (ULI), South by Southwest (SXSW), International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), Washington Post, Washington Business Journal, Federal City Council, LISC, Bloomberg, Washington Board of Trade, and DC Chamber of Commerce. Topics include strategic real estate development, urban mobility, transportation innovation, DC tech startup economies, inclusive innovation, sports as economic development, foreign direct investment, and region-wide economic development.*

*Recently recognized by The Washington Business Journal as one of the 100 most influential business people in Washington, DC.*



Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 211 | Washington, DC 20004



Mr. Brian Kenner is an economic development official at Amazon.com, Incorporated, where he tackles regional economic development issues for the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

Most recently, Mr. Kenner served as Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) where he oversaw several District government agencies and assisted the Mayor in the coordination, planning, supervision, and execution of economic development efforts in the District of Columbia with the goal of creating and preserving

affordable housing, creating jobs, and increasing tax revenue.

Prior, Mr. Kenner served as City Manager for Takoma Park, Maryland, managing the city's day-to-day operations. Before taking over management of the Washington suburb, Mr. Kenner served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED). In addition to his familiarity with DMPED's portfolio, Mr. Kenner's work for the District of Columbia included managing the team that completed the reuse plan for the Walter Reed Army Medical Center site.

Mr. Kenner has also worked as a Senior Fund Manager of the Community Investments Group at Fannie Mae, served as Vice President of the Public Institutions Group at Jones Lang LaSalle, as a Manager of the Government Real Estate Advisory Services Consulting Practice at Ernst & Young, and as a Presidential Management Fellow for the federal government.

A Ward 1 resident, Mr. Kenner received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Iowa and his Master of Public Policy degree from Harvard University.



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



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Gianelle Rivera, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** October 30, 2019  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Resolution nominating Brian Kenner as a public member to the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors

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**This is to Certify that** this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation 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 black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

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Elizabeth Cavendish





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

November 15, 2019

Mr. Brian Kenner  
1650 Beekman Place, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Kenner,

Congratulations on being nominated for appointment to the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors (Events DC Board). As you know, the appointment is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public hearing on your nomination for **Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. in Hearing Room 412**. Enclosed is a copy of the hearing 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 Friday, November 22, 2019.

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 Events DC Board?
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. Do you understand how much time will be required of you to serve on the Events DC Board and do you commit to spend that time?
16. Why have you agreed to serve, and how do you plan to help the Events DC Board fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Events DC Board? Include in your answer what you believe should be the priorities of the Events DC Board and specific challenges you see for Events DC.
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 Events DC Board.

At the November 26<sup>th</sup> hearing, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving as a member of the Events DC Board. 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

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 504  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Chairman Mendelson:

Please see my responses to your questions sent on November 15, 2019 below.

- 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.**

See Questions 2-8.

- 2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest valued in excess of \$5,000, including publicly traded stock.**

None.

- 3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$1,000 during the past two years.**

I currently do not have any business entity transactions with the District Government. However, my current employer may have ongoing business transactions with the District Government that I'm not aware of or invited with.

- 4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.**

None.

- 5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$5,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts.**

None.

- 6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$5,000.**

1650 Beekman Place Apt D, Washington DC 20009



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

None.

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

None.

- 9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District government on which you are or have been a member, and include the term of service for each.**

Washington DC Economic Partnership (WDCEP) 2015-2019

Washington Sports and Convention Center Authority (Events DC) 2015-2019 \*ex-officio

Washington DC Housing Authority (DCHA) 2015-2019

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

None.

- 11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.**

No.

- 12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as a member of the Events DC Board?**

No.

- 13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past five years, including any campaign contributions to a local candidate or political action committee.**

Mayor Muriel Bowser Re-Elect 2017 - \$500

- 14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.**

No.

- 15. Do you understand how much time will be required of you to serve on the Events DC Board and do you commit to spend that time?**

Yes.

- 16. Why have you agreed to serve, and how do you plan to help the Events DC Board fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Events DC Board? Include in your answer what you believe should be the priorities of the Events DC Board and specific challenges you see for Events DC.**

I have agreed to serve because I believe strongly in furthering DC's economy through continuing to diversify its tax revenue streams and providing cultural/entertainment amenities for residents and visitors. I plan to help Events DC Board fulfill its mission by supporting Events DC staff in the development and implementation of programs, initiatives, and events that generate economic and community benefits for the City. A challenge not unique to Events DC is ensuring the Board provides consistent direction to the staff of the organization. I believe priorities for Events DC should be to provide world-class experiences for residents and visitors that showcase the best that Washington DC has to offer.

- 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 Events DC Board.**

Please see my testimony.

Sincerely,

Brian Kenner

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board**



Public Roundtable on  
PR23-0551, “Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors Brian Kenner  
Confirmation Resolution of 2019”

Testimony of  
Brian Kenner

Before the  
Committee of the Whole  
Chairman Phil Mendelson

Room 412  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

November 26, 2019  
3:30 pm

Good Afternoon, Chairman Mendelson, members, and staff of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Brian Kenner and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to appear before you to provide testimony on my nomination to the Board of Directors of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority, also known as Events DC. I am grateful to Mayor Bowser for nominating me and appreciate her support and confidence to serve on this board. I would also like to thank you, Chairman Mendelson, for holding this public hearing.

I am a Ward 1 resident and have lived in Washington, DC for the last 21 years. I attended the University of Iowa and subsequently completed a master's degree in public policy from Harvard University, before moving to Washington, DC in 1998. One of my first memories of Washington was walking around Penn Quarter and the then newly constructed MCI Center.

Since moving to DC, I have pursued a career focused on economic development and effective public private partnerships. I was a Presidential Management Fellow under the Clinton Administration and worked at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), and Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

During my work in the federal government, I saw first-hand the importance and value of public private partnerships and their role in improving the daily lives of everyday people. For the next nine years of my career I worked in the private sector primarily focused on supporting federal agencies and public interests. First, I served as a manager at Ernst & Young in their real estate advisory services practice, consulting to a variety of federal and local government organizations. As a vice president at Jones Lang LaSalle in their Public Institutions Group, where my work was focused on consulting to federal government clients with large real estate holdings. Finally, at Fannie Mae, I was a senior investment manager in their multifamily equity group, supporting workforce housing initiatives nationwide.

After close to a decade in the private sector, I became interested in moving back to the public sector. I became the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development in 2009 under Mayor Fenty, and continued in this role through 2013 under Mayor Gray. In 2013, I was appointed City Manager for the City of Takoma Park, Maryland. This role expanded the breadth of my managerial capabilities and responsibilities and gave me a comprehensive understanding of the provision of all city services for the benefit of residents.

In 2015, I was asked by Mayor Bowser to be the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), an opportunity I eagerly accepted. Serving DMPED and the residents of the District of Columbia enabled me to continue to work to support economic development in DC proper, and in the surrounding region. I wanted our projects to be focused on increasing tax revenue, growing jobs for DC residents, and supporting affordable housing. Many projects were completed or significantly advanced under my leadership, including the redevelopment of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center Campus, and other significant development projects such as the Wharf, Franklin School, Stevens School, numerous phases of the New Communities initiative, St. Elizabeths East Campus, and Grimke School.

In addition to real estate projects, my tenure as Deputy Mayor was also focused on furthering the economic vitality of the District of Columbia through new initiatives, such as the establishment of a new inclusive innovation incubator on Howard University's campus to support entrepreneurs from diverse social and cultural backgrounds, advancing women and minorities in technology, and developing new air routes from the DC region to India, Hong Kong, and El Salvador. I also worked to increase tourism and economic activity across the Washington Metropolitan Area, craft a new five-year economic development strategy for the District of Columbia, significantly increased funding to support affordable housing, and created new grant

programs to support mixed use projects, specifically targeting zip codes experiencing greater than 10 percent unemployment. One of the most memorable achievements during my time at DMPED was enabling the construction of a new grocery store in a food desert in Ward 8, Good Food Market, through one of our newly created grant programs.

As Deputy Mayor, I also had an opportunity to promote DC regionally, nationally, and internationally, working with organizations like Events DC, the Metropolitan Restaurant Association, the Hotel Association of Washington DC, and Destination DC. I consider myself fortunate to have worked alongside great ambassadors for DC, such as Greg O'Dell and Elliott Ferguson, and to have sat on the boards of the organizations they lead, while I was Deputy Mayor. My involvement with these organizations reinforced my belief in the critical role that economic development plays in the overall economic welfare and cultural vitality of DC.

During my previous tenure as a board member of Events DC, I had the opportunity to work with many of the current board members whom I deeply respect. Together, we helped to promote the success of important projects such as: the Cherry Blossom Festival, Jazz Festival, CitiOpen, the historic restoration of the Carnegie Library in partnership with Apple, the marketing of DC at the SXSW annual conference, and development of the Entertainment and Sports Arena on the St. Elizabeths East Campus, hosts to the WNBA Champions, the Washington Mystics.

Currently, I work in Amazon's Economic Development Group, supporting investments and expansions in the DMV and the Northeastern Region of the United States. This role allows me to continue to work with economic development focused organizations throughout the region to support workforce development, transportation, and public private partnerships.

Events DC plays an important role driving economic activity for Washington DC by supporting and sponsoring cultural programs, tourism initiatives, sporting events, and conventions. Were I to be confirmed, my goal as a board member of Events DC would be to work intensively with Events DC staff and fellow board members, and all of the organization's stakeholders to create amazing experiences for residents, visitors, and local communities – promoting the economic and cultural vitality of the city I call home and that I have grown to love so much.

Thank you for allowing me to testify today and am happy to answer any questions you have for me.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**

2 Committee of the Whole

3 December 17, 2019

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5  
6  
7 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

8  
9 23-551

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11  
12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13  
14 \_\_\_\_\_  
15  
16 To confirm the appointment of Mr. Brian Kenner as a member of the Washington Convention and  
17 Sports Authority Board of Directors.

18  
19 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
20 resolution may be cited as the “Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors  
21 Brian Kenner Confirmation Resolution of 2019”.

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

23  
24 Mr. Brian Kenner  
25 1650 Beekman Place, NW  
26 Washington, DC 20009  
27 (Ward 1)

28  
29 as a public member of the Washington Convention and Sports Authority Board of Directors, which  
30 was established by section 205 of the Washington Convention Center Authority Act of 1994,  
31 effective September 28, 1994 (D.C. Law 10-188; D.C. Official Code § 10-1202.05), for a term to  
32 end on May 16, 2023.

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

35 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.