

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: December 15, 2020

SUBJECT: Report on PR 23-1002, “District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board Katharine Aiken Huffman Reappointment Resolution of 2020”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 23-1002, “District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board Katharine Aiken Huffman Reappointment Resolution of 2020,” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On November 2, 2020, PR 23-1002, the “District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board Katharine Aiken Huffman Reappointment Resolution of 2020” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson. PR 23-1002 was referred to the Committee of the Whole on November 11, 2020. The purpose of PR 23-1002 is to reappoint Ms. Huffman as a member of the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board (“Board”) for a 2-year term to end May 4, 2022.

Ms. Huffman is a Ward 3 resident of the District of Columbia. Ms. Huffman received her Bachelors of Arts in psychology from Emory University and her Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School. After completing her law degree, Ms. Huffman clerked for the Honorable Martha Craig Daughtrey and then served as Soros Justice Fellow at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia. During her fellowship, Ms. Huffman represented incarcerated people in civil rights litigation, challenging lack of access to medical and mental health services, inhumane

conditions of confinement, and unconstitutional criminal justice practices. Following her fellowship, Ms. Huffman worked for the Drug Policy Alliance, where she established the first state-level office of the Drug Policy Alliance and served as National Director and lead strategist on all state-level initiatives for the Alliance. Additionally, Ms. Huffman has served as a consultant to the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission. Currently, Ms. Huffman is a Principal at the Raben Group, LLC, where she assists clients, generally non-profit advocacy organizations, in identifying policy goals, creating strategic plans, building organizational programming, expanding coalition partnerships, and implementing public policy education and lobbying campaigns. In addition, she serves on the board of directors of the Justice Policy Institute and the Southern Center for Human Rights.

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (“CIC”) was created by Congress in the 1997 National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act (“Revitalization Act”) for the purpose of investigating the conditions of District of Columbia residents with felony convictions scattered throughout the Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) facilities following the closing of the Lorton Correctional Complex. The CIC’s role was expanded by the Jail Improvement Act of 2003¹, which requires the CIC to conduct inspections of local correctional facilities and mandates that the Department of Corrections (“DOC”) provide access to members of the CIC, its staff, designees, and agents for this purpose, including unmonitored interviews of incarcerated people.

As the Revitalization Act transferred the jurisdiction of District residents with felony convictions to the BOP, many District residents formally housed at the Lorton Correction Complex were dispersed to penal institutions throughout the country. Thus, the District is unlike any other state in that residents with felony convictions are not incarcerated within (and many are not even near) its borders. Over 3,000 District residents are incarcerated in over 120 BOP facilities in 35 states and D.C.² Approximately 1,480 District residents are in the custody of DOC.³ Having an effective, well-funded mechanism to monitor the treatment of incarcerated District residents is essential so that this population receives proper treatment and necessary resources and programs.

In 2010, the Council approved the Corrections Information Council Amendment Act of 2010⁴ (“2010 Act”), which restructured the CIC by creating the Board and an independent Executive Director position, and provided subordinate personnel. The 2010 Act vested in the Executive Director several responsibilities that had been with the appointed members of the former CIC.⁵ The Executive Director acts as the investigator as well as ombudsman, looking at conditions, responding to complaints, and making recommendations to the Board.⁶

The role of the Board is to provide advice and information to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons and the Director of the Department of Corrections regarding matters affecting District of

¹ D.C. Law 15-62; D.C. Official Code § 24-211.02.

² Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Census of Detained Justice-Involved Persons in the District of Columbia, December 4, 2020.

³ *Id.*

⁴ D.C. Law 18-233; D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01.

⁵ Bill 18-404, Corrections Information Council Amendment Act of 2010, Report of the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary, at 2 (April 13, 2010).

⁶ *Id.*

Columbia residents who are incarcerated.⁷ In addition, the Board is tasked with reviewing the findings of the Executive Director and making recommendations, where appropriate, regarding the conditions of confinement of District of Columbia residents who are incarcerated in both BOP and DOC custody.⁸ The Board is also tasked with giving final approval of the Executive Director’s annual report to the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, the Council, and the Mayor regarding the conditions of confinement of District of Columbia residents who are incarcerated.⁹

The Board consists of five members: three appointed by the Mayor and two by the Council of the District of Columbia.¹⁰ The Mayor designates the Chairperson of the Board.¹¹ Members of the Board shall serve for terms of two years.¹² All members of the Board serve without compensation.¹³

Table 1: Membership of the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board

Resolution #	Position	Appointee	Term Expiring:
PR 23-1002	Proposed Council Appointee	Katharine Aiken Huffman	May 4, 2022
R 22-633	Council Appointee	Nkechi Taifa	December 7, 2020
R 22-690	Mayoral Appointee	Charlie Whitaker	June 7, 2020
R 23-307	Mayoral Appointee (Chairperson)	Charles Thornton	June 7, 2021
R 23-308	Mayoral Appointee	Calvin Woodland, Jr.	June 7, 2021

Ms. Huffman was first appointed to the Board on May 4, 2012.¹⁴ She was reappointed to the Board in 2017 and 2018.¹⁵ Ms. Huffman wants to be reappointed to the Board because she remains committed to the work of the CIC to ensure the wellbeing of incarcerated District residents.¹⁶ She has helped the CIC establish and maintain good relationships with the BOP and DOC and was instrumental in guiding the CIC when it was restructured in 2012. Based on her impressive credentials and dedication to public service, the Committee recommends the reappointment of Ms. Huffman to the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board. Not only does Ms. Huffman have a keen awareness regarding the conditions and treatment of incarcerated people, but her policy background will be instrumental in continuing to aid the CIC. The Committee recommends the adoption of PR 23-1002.

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(c).

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(f).

¹⁰ D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(b)(2)(A). In Council Period 21, the Council approved the Omnibus Public Safety and Justice Amendment Act of 2016, effective April 22, 2017 (D.C. Law 21-280; D.C. Official Code 24-101.01), which expanded the Board from three to five members.

¹¹ D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(b)(2)(C).

¹² D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(b)(2)(B).

¹³ D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(b)(2)(E).

¹⁴ Corrections Information Council Governing Board Katharine A. Huffman Appointment Resolution of 2012 (R 19-417; 59 DCR 4170).

¹⁵ Corrections Information Council Governing Board Katherine A. Huffman Appointment Resolution of 2017 (R 22-316; 64 DCR 12892) and Corrections Information Council Governing Board Katherine A. Huffman Appointment Resolution of 2018 (R 22-460; 65 DCR 5997).

¹⁶ Katharine Aiken Huffman, Nominee, Written Responses to the Committee of the Whole’s Pre-Roundtable Questionnaire, Page 2, November 16, 2017. (On file with the Committee of the Whole).

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- November 2, 2020 PR 23-1002, the “District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board Katharine Aiken Huffman Reappointment Resolution” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
- November 6, 2020 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 23-1002 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- November 11, 2020 PR 23-1002 is “read” at a legislative meeting, and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
- December 15, 2020 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 23-1002.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Huffman is the Council’s appointee to the Board. The Executive provided no comment on Ms. Huffman’s reappointment.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions on PR 23-1002.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole did not hold a public hearing or roundtable on Ms. Huffman’s reappointment.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Board are appointed pursuant to section 11201a(b) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, effective October 2, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-233; D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(b)), which established the Board.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 23-1002 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(b)(2)(E), members of the Board are not entitled to compensation.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of PR 23-1002.
- Section 2 Confirms the reappointment of Katharine Aiken Huffman as a member of the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board to serve a 2-year term to end May 4, 2022.
- Section 3 Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the appointee, the Chairperson of the Board, and to the Mayor.
- Section 4 Provides that PR 23-1002 shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

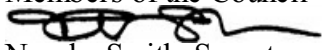
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 23-1002 as introduced.
2. Legal sufficiency determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 23-1002.

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 : Monday, November 2, 2020
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, November 02, 2020. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board
Katharine Aiken Huffman Reappointment Resolution of 2020", PR23-1002

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

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

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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15 To reappoint Ms. Katharine Aiken Huffman to the District of Columbia Corrections Information
16 Council Governing Board.

17 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
18 resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing
19 Board Katharine Aiken Huffman Reappointment Resolution of 2020”.

20 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia reappoints:

21 Katharine Aiken Huffman
22 Woodley Place, NW
23 Washington, DC 20008
24 (Ward 3)
25

26 as a member of the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board,
27 established by section 11201a(b) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government
28 Improvement Act of 1997, effective October 2, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-233; D.C. Official Code §
29 24-101.01(b)), to serve a 2-year term to end on May 4, 2022.

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

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

Katharine Aiken Huffman

2635 Woodley Place NW, Washington, DC 20008

Home: (202) 299-9369 Cell: (202) 360-1991

Email: khuffman@rabengroup.com

CURRENT WORK EXPERIENCE:

The Raben Group LLC, Washington, DC

Spring 2004-Present

Principal. Serve as Principal in a comprehensive legislative law firm, leading teams comprising firm staff, client staff and board members, and other consultants. Assist clients (primarily nonprofit advocacy organizations) in identifying policy goals, developing short- and long-term strategic plans, building organizational programming and resources, expanding coalition partnerships, and implementing public and policymaker educational and lobbying campaigns.

PAST WORK EXPERIENCE:

Independent Consulting

Summer 2003-Spring 2004

Worked as an independent consultant, providing research and report preparation, campaign development and implementation, and strategic planning and fundraising assistance.

Drug Policy Alliance, New York, NY and Washington, DC Summer 2002-Winter 2003

Director, Office of State Affairs. Served as National Director and lead strategist on all state-level initiatives for the Drug Policy Alliance, a national non-profit drug policy reform foundation. Coordinated the work of the organization's four state-level offices (CA, NJ, NM, and NY) and federal office (DC); directly supervised hired lobbyists and contractors in other priority states (nine states in 2003), overseeing all legislative campaign planning and activities; coordinated all organizational political campaign work including management of successful non-partisan issue-based GOTV program in 2002 election cycle; served as Advisory Board member of the Tides Foundation's Fund for Drug Policy Reform. October-December 2003, also served as Interim Director of National Affairs, overseeing federal work of DC-based Office of National Affairs.

Drug Policy Alliance, Albuquerque and Santa Fe, NM Winter 2000-Summer 2002

Director, New Mexico Drug Policy Project. Established first state-level office of the Drug Policy Alliance. Directed statewide lobbying efforts on drug policy reform legislation, including identifying legislative goals, developing strategic plan, supervising lobbyists, overseeing political and media consultants, coordinating grassroots lobbying mobilization, and directly lobbying the governor and legislators; developed and assisted with implementation of drug policy reform measures in state agencies; provided information, education, and training on drug policy and harm reduction approaches for policy-makers, media, healthcare and treatment providers, law enforcement officials, and the public.

Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta, GA

Fall 1997-Winter 2000

Soros Justice Fellow, Staff Attorney. Represented prison and jail inmates in civil rights litigation challenging lack of access to medical and mental health services, inhumane conditions of confinement, and unconstitutional criminal justice practices. Educated the public and state and local policy-makers on criminal justice issues, particularly concerning the effectiveness and financial benefits of alternatives-to-incarceration programs and the need for efficient coordination of criminal justice, health, and social service agencies; co-founded and organized Georgians for Equal Justice, a coalition of non-profit organizations, state and local agency representatives, and individuals working together to develop and execute education and lobbying strategies on criminal-justice-related issues.

Honorable Martha Craig Daughtrey, Nashville, TN

Fall 1996-Fall 1997

Judicial Law Clerk. Researched and prepared legal memoranda on assigned cases and other matters before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Yale Legal Services, Prisons Clinic, New Haven, CT

Fall 1995-Spring 1996

Student Clinical Director. Assisted clinical faculty with casework, curriculum, and student supervision in Legal Services Prisons Clinic. Monitored compliance with consent judgment

regarding HIV/AIDS care and confidentiality within the Connecticut prison system; advocated on behalf of individual incarcerated clients.

Legal Internships:

Summer 1995: D.C. Prisoners' Legal Services Project, Inc., Washington, DC

Summer 1995: Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

Summer 1994: Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Legal Department, Eagle Butte, SD

Summer 1994: Capital Representation Resource Center, Montgomery, AL

Literacy Volunteers of America, Gadsden County, FL Summer 1992-Summer 1993
Literacy Coordinator. Placed by Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) to coordinate nonprofit, county-wide adult literacy program. Recruited and trained volunteer tutors; recruited and tested adult learners; served as staff representative to Board of Directors; prepared organizational grant applications.

EDUCATION:

Yale Law School, New Haven, CT

J.D., June 1996.

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

B.A. in Psychology, May 1992; additional major in Music Performance (piano).

BAR ADMISSIONS:

Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama.

1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **December 15, 2020**

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7 **A RESOLUTION**

8
9 23-1002

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12 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
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16
17 To reappoint Ms. Katharine Aiken Huffman to the District of Columbia Corrections Information
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21 Board Katharine Aiken Huffman Reappointment Resolution of 2020”.

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30 Improvement Act of 1997, effective October 2, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-233; D.C. Official Code §
31 24-101.01(b)), to serve a 2-year term to end on May 4, 2022.

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

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