

**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: May 4, 2021

SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-90, “Corrections Information Council Governing Board Nkechi Taifa Appointment Resolution of 2021”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-90, the “Corrections Information Council Governing Board Nkechi Taifa Appointment Resolution of 2021,” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On February 12, 2021, PR 24-90, the “Corrections Information Council Governing Board Nkechi Taifa Appointment Resolution of 2021” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson. The purpose of PR 24-90 is to reappoint Ms. Taifa as a member of the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board (“Board”) for a two-year term.

Ms. Taifa is a Ward 4 resident of the District of Columbia. Ms. Taifa received her Bachelor of Arts from Howard University and her Juris Doctorate from George Washington University Law School. After completing her law degree, Ms. Taifa served as a Staff Attorney for the National Prison Project of the ACLU Foundation. Ms. Taifa has also served as Public Policy Counsel for the Woman’s Legal Defense Fund, Legislative Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, and as an Adjunct Professor at the American University Washington College of Law and the Howard University School of Law. Additionally, Ms. Taifa served as Advocacy Director and Senior Policy Analyst for the Open Society Foundations and Open Society Policy Center. In this

role, Ms. Taifa worked on federal criminal justice issues, including sentencing reform, prison reform, reentry, and law enforcement accountability. Ms. Taifa also served as a Commissioner and Chair of the District's Commission on Human Rights. Recently, Ms. Taifa started a consulting firm, The Taifa Group, LLC, which focuses on advancing justice. In addition, she founded the Justice Roundtable, which is an advocacy coalition advancing federal criminal justice reforms.

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 generally the conditions of the District of Columbia sentenced felon population 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 inmates.

As the Revitalization Act transferred the District's sentenced felon population 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 its state-sentenced felon population is not incarcerated within (and many are not even near) its borders. Over 3,300 District residents are incarcerated in over 118 BOP facilities in 35 states and DC.² In addition, approximately 1,400 District residents are in the custody of DOC.³ Having an effective mechanism to monitor the treatment of District prisoners 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 Columbia inmates.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 inmates in both BOP and DOC custody.⁸ The Board is also

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

² Corrections Information Council 2020 Annual Report, pg. 7.

³ D.C. Department of Corrections, Daily Population Report, April 17-April 23.

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.*

⁷ D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(c).

⁸ *Id.*

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 inmates.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:
<i>PR 24-90</i>	<i>Proposed Council Appointee</i>	<i>Nkechi Taifa</i>	<i>Two-year term</i>
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
R. 23-623	Council Appointee	Katharine Aiken Huffman	May 4, 2022

Ms. Taifa would like to continue serving on the Council because she wants to further its work inspecting, monitoring, and reporting on the conditions of confinement in facilities that house District residents.¹⁴ In her testimony, Ms. Taifa said that it will be a priority for her and the Council to resume in-person site visits and inspections once facilities open back up. She also noted that the Council will monitor conditions in the halfway house on Benning Rd. once it is built and operational.

Based on her contributions to the Council and her impressive credentials and commitment, the Committee recommends the reappointment of Ms. Taifa to the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 24-90.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

February 12, 2021 PR 24-90, the “Corrections Information Council Governing Board Nkechi Taifa Appointment Resolution of 2021” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.

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

February 16, 2021	PR 24-90 is “read” at a legislative meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
February 19, 2021	Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-90 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> .
April 16, 2021	Notice of a Public Roundtable on PR 24-90 is published in the <i>District of Columbia Register</i> .
April 26, 2021	The Committee of the Whole holds a public roundtable on PR 24-90.
May 4, 2021	The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 24-90.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

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

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions on PR 24-90.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on PR 24-90 on Monday, April 26, 2021. The testimony summarized below is from that roundtable. A copy of the written testimony is attached to this report.

Nkechi Taifa, Appointee, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding her background and experience as it pertains to the Board and her interest in serving another term on the Board.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Taifa’s appointment.

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 24-90 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

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 24-90.
<u>Section 2</u>	Appoints Nkechi Taifa as a member of the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board to serve for a term ending two years after the effective date of this resolution.
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the appointee, the chairperson of the Board, and to the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 24-90 shall take effect immediately upon the first date of publication in the District of Columbia Register.

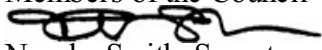
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-90 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee questions.
3. Written Testimony.
4. Legal sufficiency determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-90.

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 : Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Friday, February 12, 2021. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Corrections Information Council Governing Board Nkechi Taifa Appointment Resolution of 2021", PR24-0090

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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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To appoint Ms. Nkechi Taifa to the Corrections Information Council Governing Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Corrections Information Council Governing Board Nkechi Taifa Appointment Resolution of 2021”.

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

Ms. Nkechi Taifa
27th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20015
(Ward 4)

as a member of the Corrections Information Council Governing Board, established by 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)), for a term to end 2 years after the effective date of this resolution.

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

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

Nkechi Taifa, Esq.

Washington, DC 20015

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Advocacy Director and Strategic Policy Analyst

- Coordinate federal criminal justice agenda working closely with members of Congress and their staff and key committees on issues that relate to sentencing reform, prison reform, reentry, law enforcement accountability
- Analyze and review, conduct policy analysis and advocacy strategies
- Serve as principal spokesperson on criminal justice reform issues
- Convene Washington-based advocacy coalition advancing criminal justice policy reforms ; liaison with governmental agencies, institutions & others
- Provide technical assistance to members of Congress and their staff, U.S. Sentencing Commission, Mayor, City Council, and other policy makers, including preparation and delivery of testimonies

Academician

- Public interest counselor for law students
- Teach specialized law school seminars
- Develop and coordinate opportunities for law student pro bono activities and public service employment
- Legal research and writing
- Teach high school students in summer law camp

Private Practitioner

- Cases involving adult criminal defense, juvenile court, employment discrimination, landlord & tenant, child abuse and neglect, family law
- Litigation, analyzing & indexing discovery, preparation and examination of expert and lay witnesses for trial, taking and defending depositions, settlement negotiations
- Landmark cases, *Shepherd v. American Broadcasting Companies*, 864 F. Supp. 486 (D.C. Cir. 1994); 62 F.3d 1469 (D.C. Cir. 1995); *U.S. v. Whitehorn*, 710 F. Supp. 803 (1989), *Knop v. Johnson*, 655 F. Supp. 871 (WD Mich 1987)

Manager

- Oversee recruiting, hiring and supervision of staff, research assistants, law clerks and interns, and promote professional development opportunities
- Mentor young professionals who have gone on to work at organizations such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Leadership Conference on Civil and

Human Rights, American Constitution Society, Justice Policy Institute, D.C. Public Defender Service, etc.

- Convene and Manager of the Justice Roundtable Coalition
- Manage conceptualization, planning and implementation of events including congressional briefings, lobby days, call-in days, town hall meetings, etc.
- Identify best practices & improvement of internal systems, policies & procedures
- Manage law school public interest resource center & supervise Externship Program

Communicator

- Represent criminal justice and civil rights policy reform priorities before the federal government, state legislatures, city council, coalitions, conference panels and community events
- Respond to media requests and develop communication strategies
- Speaker/moderator/keynote at countless conferences, town halls, panels, workshops, and trainings nationwide
- Prepare diverse range of documents, including issue briefs, reports, book chapters, articles, memos, summaries, blogs

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Open Society Foundations and Open Society Policy Center, *Advocacy Director for Criminal Justice & Senior Policy Analyst*; Manager, Justice Roundtable Coalition, 2002-present
- National Bar Association Law Camp – summers 2001-present
- Howard University School of Law
 - Director, Equal Justice Program, 1995-2002
 - Supervisor, Externship Program, 1995-2002
 - Adjunct Professor, 1995-2009
- American University Washington College of Law
 - Adjunct Professor, 1997-99
- American Civil Liberties Union, Legislative Counsel, 1991-1995
- Women's Legal Defense Fund, Public Policy Counsel, 1989-1991
- Private Practitioner, Law Office of Nkechi Taifa, Esq. 1987-1991
- National Prison Project of the ACLU Foundation, Staff Attorney, 1984-1987
- Washington Office on Africa, Network Organizer/Office Manager, 1980-1983
- NationHouse Watoto School, First Grade Teacher, 1977-1980

EDUCATION

- George Washington University Law School
 - Juris Doctor degree, 1984*
- Howard University
 - Bachelor of Arts degree, 1977, magna cum laude*

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

- United States Supreme Court
- United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit
- District of Columbia Court of Appeals

SELECTED HONORS and AWARDS

- Black Resistance Matters Award, Malcolm X Commemoration Comm (2017)
- Wiley Branton Award, National Bar Association (2016)
- Hope House Dads Award, Hope House (2016)
- IBW Legacy Award (2016)
- Cornelius “Neil” Alexander Humanitarian Award, DC Commission on Human Rights (2015)
- Marcus Garvey Outstanding Community Service Award, UNIA (2015)
- Wiley Branton Award Recipient, Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs (2014)
- Umoja Award, National Black United Front (2014)
- Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Advocacy, Congresswoman Maxine Waters (2011)
- NBA Crump Law Camp Service Award, National Bar Association (2011)
- President’s Award, Washington Council of Lawyers (2005)
- African Consciousness Award, United Black Community (2004)
- Furthering the Legacy Award, Howard Law School Students (2002)
- Warren Rosmarian Award for Excellence in Teaching and Service, presented by Howard University School of Law, (2000)
- Professor of the Year, Howard Law School (1999)
- Pro Bono Publico Award for outstanding leadership of Howard Law School’s Equal Justice Program, (1996)
- Outstanding Social Engineer Award, Howard Law Student Bar Assn (1996)
- Dedicated Service Award, Kwanzaa Children’s Party, Inc. (1996)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- American Constitution Society for Law and Justice
- Bipartisan Summit
- Coalition for the Fair Sentencing of Youth
- Congressional Black Caucus Foundation
- CATO Institute
- Charles Koch Institute
- Data & Civil Rights: A New Era of Policing and Justice
- Drug Policy Alliance
- National African American Reparations Commission
- National Press Club
- CNN & Company, Fox Morning News, BET, C-SPAN, WPFW-FM
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

- Council of State Governments
- Black Law Students Association
- Howard Law Journal Symposium
- Institute of the Black World 21st Century
- Maryland Legal Services Partnership
- National Alliance Against Homelessness
- National Bar Association
- National Black Caucus of State Legislators
- National Black Police Association
- National Conference of Black Lawyers
- NAACP/NAACP-LDF
- US Department of Agriculture
- Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs
- Yale Law School, Harvard Law School, Howard University & Law School, University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke UDC School of Law, Georgetown Univ. Law School, George Washington Law School, American University, George Mason University, Univ. of Arkansas Law School, University of Connecticut, University of Chicago Law School, University of Maryland Law School, Sojourner-Douglas College, Columbia University Law

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Numerous guest blog posts in American Constitution Society, Open Society Voices and Huffington Post
- “Racism in the U.S. Criminal Justice System - Institutionalized Genocide?” Issue Brief, American Constitution Society (Nov. 3, 2016)
- “Righting Historical Wrongs Through Clemency,” Washington Informer Newspaper (Feb. 28, 2014)
- “Integrative Solutions to Interrelated Issues: A Multidisciplinary Look Behind the Cycle of Incarceration,” Harvard Law and Public Policy Review, Co-Author, (summer 2009)
- “The “Crack/Powder Disparity: Can the Intl Race Convention Provide a Basis for Relief?” American Constitution Society for Law & Policy (2006)
- *Tulia, Tip of the Drug War Iceberg*, Book Project Chair (2005)
- “Roadblocked Reentry: The Prison After Imprisonment,” National Bar Association Magazine (2003)
- “Re-Enfranchisement! A Guide for Individual Restoration of Voting Rights” Advancement Project (2002)
- “Codification or Castration – the Applicability of the International Race Convention to the US Criminal Justice System,” Howard Law Journal (1997)
- “Cracked Justice: A Critical Examination of Cocaine Sentencing,” Univ. of West Los Angeles Law Review (1996)
- “Civil Forfeiture vs. Civil Liberties,” New York Law School Law Review (1994)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Legal Advisory Team, Legacy of GU272 Alliance, 2016 – present
- National African American Reparations Commission, 2016 - present
- Board of Directors, Clemency Resource Center, 2015-2016
- Commissioner & Chair, DC Commission on Human Rights, 2007-2014
- Honorary Board, Washington Council of Lawyers 2013-present
- Advisory Panel Member, Leadership Institute Fellowship Program, Center for American Progress (2012-present)
- Board of Advisors – Institute of the Black World 21st Century (2009-2011)
- Advisory Board Member, American Bar Association Racial Justice Improvement Project (2010-present)
- Founder and President, Legacy Empowerment Center, (2010-present)
- Founder and CEO, SCHOLARgifts, LLC (2013-present)
- Producer and Host, Legacy Justice Radio Show (2010-2011); & Spotlight on Justice (2014)
- Co-Founder, Solace for Sistas, (2008- present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Bureau of Rehabilitation, Inc. (1999-2004)
- Founding Member and Chair of Legislative Commission, National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (1999-2004)
- Member, Board of Directors, American Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area (1998-2004)
- Chair, D.C. Chapter, National Conference of Black Lawyers (1990-1995)
- Member, D.C. Bar Public Service Activities Corporation (early 1990's)
- Member, Board of Directors, DC Prisoners' Legal Services, Inc. (1995-2001)
- Member, Advisory Board, Kwanzaa Children's Committee, (1980 – present)
- Founder and Director, Saturday School for youth, (1972-1984)

NKECHI TAIFA RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS – scroll for answers after each question:

Dear Ms. Taifa,

Congratulations on being nominated for reappointment to the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council Governing Board (“Board”). As you know, the appointment is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public roundtable on your nomination for **Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom Video Conference Broadcast**. Enclosed is a copy of the roundtable notice.

It is standard for the Council to submit questions to nominees. I request your response to the following questions no later than close of business Friday, April 23, 2021.

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 TO 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 \$1,000, including publicly traded stock.

I HAVE A SINGLE FAMILY HOME RENTAL PROPERTY IN DC WITH DCRA

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.

I HAVE A SINGLE FAMILY HOME RENTAL PROPERTY IN DC WITH DCHA

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.

NOT APPLICABLE – NO SUCH SERVICE

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 – NO LENDER OR LIABILITY

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.

[REDACTED], WASHINGTON, DC 20015

[REDACTED], WASHINGTON, DC 20011

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR LICENSE

BASIC BUSINESS LICENSE – DCRA HOUSING: RESIDENTIAL RENTAL

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BAR

NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON BAR ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS

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.

CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL - 2019 – present

DC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – 2007 - 2014

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

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN REPARATIONS COMMISSION

WE GOT US NOW

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 OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES

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 Board?

NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY

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 all campaign contributions to a D.C. candidate or political committee.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CAMPAIGN OF RENEE BOWSER FOR CITY COUNCIL – AMOUNTS WITHIN STATUTORY LIMITS

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

NOT APPLICABLE – NO LOBBY REGISTRATIONS

15. Why have you agreed to serve another term and how do you plan to continue to help the Board fulfill its role and mission during your time on the Board?

I HAVE AGREED TO SERVE ANOTHER TERM WITH THE CIC BECAUSE I WANT TO HELP FURTHER ITS CRITICAL OVERSIGHT MISSION TO INSPECT, MONITOR AND REPORT ON THE CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES INCARCERATING DC RESIDENTS. OUR IN-PERSON SITE VISITS HAVE BEEN ON HOLD FOR A YEAR DURING THE COVID-19 PENDENCY, OTHER THAN A DECEMBER SITE VISIT TO THE DOC'S CENTRAL DETENTION FACILITY. I PLAN TO JOIN FUTURE CIC SITE VISIT TEAMS AS FACILITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY HOUSING DC RESIDENTS OPEN UP, INCLUDING MONITORING OF THE NEW HALF-WAY HOUSE BEING CONSTRUCTED IN DC. IN MY PERSONAL CAPACITY, I WILL CONTINUE POLICY ADVOCACY TO INSURE MORE DC CONTROL OVER OUR INCARCERATED POPULATION, SO THEY CAN BE CLOSER TO HOME AND FOR THE DISTRICT TO HAVE PAROLE AND CLEMENCY AUTHORITY OVER OUR POPULATION. SUCH PERSONAL ADVOCACY WILL SERVE TO ENHANCE THE STATUTORY OVERSIGHT AND REPORTING MANDATES OF MY CIC DUTIES.

16. Given that you have previously served on the Board, what challenges do you believe the Board has experienced during your time on the Board, and how do you believe these challenges should be addressed moving forward?

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE HAS BEEN THE RESTRICTIONS OCCASIONED BY THE COVID-19. HOPEFULLY THAT CHALLENGE WILL END THIS YEAR, AND WE WILL BE ABLE TO SAFELY RESUME SITE VISITS. ANOTHER CHALLENGE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN ACCESS BY THE BUREAU OF PRISONS TO SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, AND A HINDRANCE TO OUR DUTY TO INSPECT, MONITOR AND REPORT. A MOU WAS RECENTLY SIGNED, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE MOU CAN BE MODIFIED SHOULD A CHANGE IN BOP LEADERSHIP OCCUR.

At the April 26th roundtable, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving as a member of the 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 (202-724-8196) 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 Blaine Stum on my staff at 202-724-8092.

1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 May 4, 2021
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5
6 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**
7

8 24-90
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10 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
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12

13 To reappoint Ms. Nkechi Taifa to the Corrections Information Council Governing Board.
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15 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** That this
16 resolution may be cited as the “Corrections Information Council Governing Board Nkechi Taifa
17 Appointment Resolution of 2021”.
18

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

21 Ms. Nkechi Taifa
22 27th Street, N.W.
23 Washington, D.C. 20015
24 (Ward 4)
25

26 as a member of the Corrections Information Council Governing Board, established by section
27 11201a(b) of the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of
28 1997, effective October 2, 2010 (D.C. Law 18-233; D.C. Official Code § 24-101.01(b)), for a
29 term to end 2 years after the effective date of this resolution.

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

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