

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

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

**DATE:** May 3, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 24-648, “District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Lauren Orzechowski Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-648, “District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Lauren Orzechowski Confirmation Resolution of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

On March 21, 2022, Proposed Resolution 24-648, the “District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Lauren Orzechowski Confirmation Resolution of 2022,” was introduced by Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of the Mayor. PR 26-648 would confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Ms. Lauren Orzechowski for appointment as a member of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission for a term to end November 7, 2025.

Ms. Lauren Orzechowski is a resident of Ward 4. She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Art History and English from St. Mary’s College of Maryland and her Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary English Education from American University in 2005. Ms. Orzechowski was a District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) middle school reading and writing teacher from 2005 to 2010. There, she worked with DC SCORES as both a soccer and writing coach. Since 2011, Ms. Orzechowski has been a teacher at DC Preparatory Academy Public Charter School where she

serves as the Department Chair for English Language Arts (ELA), Lead 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA teacher, and as an ELA Special Education teacher.

The District of Columbia State Athletics Commission (DCSAC) was established as an independent agency (D.C. Official Code § 38-2661.11 *et seq.*) in 2016. The DCSAC oversees the function and operations of the District of Columbia's State Athletics Association (DCSAA); recommends changes to and annually approves the DCSAA handbook; establishes athletic appeals panels to hear appeals from LEA decisions related to participant eligibility and decisions of the DCSAA and issue final decisions of such panels; advises the Mayor, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), and the Council on matters related to interscholastic athletics in the District and recommends rules to regulate interscholastic athletics programs and competitions.

The Commission is tasked with appointing a Chairperson annually from its members and must meet at least quarterly. The Commission consists of 9 voting members who must be residents of the Districts and are appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council and 6 *ex-officio* non-voting members. Further, at least one of each of the voting members the Commission must be:

- A parent of a student enrolled in a member public charter school located in the District;
- A parent of a student enrolled in a DCPS school;
- A parent of a student enrolled at a private or parochial member school located in the District;
- A member of the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association, or its successor; and
- A member of the Public Charter Interscholastic Athletic Association, or its successor, if a majority of public charter schools that offer interscholastic athletics programs are members of the DCSAA.

Voting members are to serve a term 4 years and may be reappointed for a single term. *Ex-officio* members of the Commission are:

- The State Superintendent, or their designee;
- The Chancellor of DCPS, or their designee;
- The Chair of the Public Charter School Board, or their designee;
- The Deputy Mayor of Education, or their designee;
- The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or their designee; and
- The Director of the Department of General Services, or their designee.

In the Fiscal Year 2022, the Council approved an operating budget for the DCSAA of \$1,270,000 with 7.0 FTEs.

**Table 1: Membership of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission**

Resolution	Commissioner	Seat Designation	Appointment Date	Term End Date	Ward
PR 23-730	Terrance Lynch	Public Member	4/26/2019	11/16/2022	1
PR 23-731	Larry Carroll	Public Member	5/16/2019	11/16/2022	5
PR 24-216	Kevin Wills	Parent of a student enrolled in a DCPS school	8/6/2017	11/16/2024	7
<b>PR 24-648</b>	<b>Lauren Orzechowski</b>	<b>Parent of a student enrolled in a public charter school located in the District</b>		<b>11/7/2025*</b>	<b>4</b>
PR 24-649	Marcus Turner	Parent of a student enrolled in a private or parochial member school		11/7/2024*	7
PR 24-650	Rosalyn Overstreet Gonzalez	Public Member	8/6/2017	11/16/2025*	1
	Vacant	Public Member			
	Dwayne Foster	Member of the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association	10/11/2018	11/16/2022	4
	Michael Hunter	Public Charter School Interscholastic Athletic Association Member	4/26/2019	11/16/2022	5
	Tia Brumsted	OSSE Designee			
	Donny Gonzalez	DGS Designee			
	VACANT	DME Designee			
	VACANT	DCPS Designee			
	VACANT	DPR Designee			
	VACANT	PCSB Designee			

\* Pending Appointment or Re-appointment by the Council

Ms. Orzechowski is being appointed to the Commission as a voting member as a parent of a student enrolled in a public charter school located in the District. Moreover, she is a qualified teacher and athletic coach dedicated to the mission of the Commission with the time and ability to serve. The Committee has heard no objections to Ms. Orzechowski’s appointment. Therefore, the Committee recommends the adoption of PR 24-648.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- March 21, 2022 PR 24-648, the “District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Lauren Orzechowski Confirmation Resolution of 2022” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of Mayor Bowser.
- April 1, 2022 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-648 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- April 5, 2022 Referred to Committee of the Whole.

April 8, 2022            Notice of Public Hearing Published in the *District of Columbia Register*.

April 25, 2022        The Committee of the Whole holds a Public Hearing on PR 24-648.

May 3, 2022            The Committee of the Whole marks up PR 24-648.

### III.    POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Lauren Orzechowski is the Mayor's nominee for appointment to the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission.

### IV.    COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 24-648.

### V.     SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 24-648 (and two other nominations to the District of Columbia's State Athletic Commission) on Monday, April 25, 2022. The testimony summarized below, and attached, is from the portion of the hearing pertaining to Ms. Orzechowski.

*Lauren Orzechowski, Nominee*, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding her background and experience as it pertains to the District of Columbia's State Athletics Commission and her interest in serving on the Commission.

The Committee received no testimony or comments in opposition to Ms. Orzechowski's appointment.

### VI.    IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the District of Columbia State Athletics Association are appointed pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-2661.11.

### VII.   FISCAL IMPACT

PR 24-648 has no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-2661.12(d), members of the District of Columbia State Athletics Association do not receive compensation.

### VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of Proposed Resolution 24-648.
- Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Lauren Orzechowski as a member of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission for four-year term to end November 7, 2025.
- Section 3 Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee, the Commission, and to the Office of the Mayor.
- Section 4 Provides that the resolution will take effect once approved by the Council.

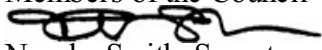
### X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-648 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to Committee pre-hearing questions.
3. Written testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Determination.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-648.

**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 : Wednesday, March 23, 2022  
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, March 21, 2022. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Lauren Orzchowski Confirmation Resolution of 2022", PR24-0648

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson, at the request of Mayor

The Chairman is referring this legislation to Committee of the Whole. This resolution will be deemed approved on Sunday, May 29, 2022 without Council action.

Attachment  
cc: General Counsel  
Budget Director  
Legislative Services



March 21, 2022

**MURIEL BOWSER**

**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 103 of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Establishment and State Athletic Association Reorganization Act of 2016, effective April 7, 2017 (D.C. Law 21-263; D.C. Official Code § 38-2661.11), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

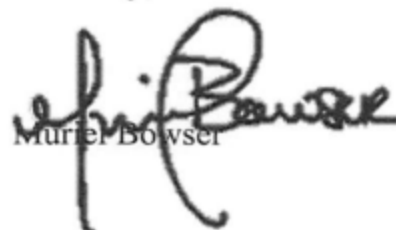
Lauren Orzechowski  
Randolph Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(Ward 4)


for appointment as a voting member of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission who is a parent of a student enrolled in a member public charter school located in the District, filling a vacant seat previously held by Dwight Franklin, for a term to end November 7, 2025.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

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

Sincerely,

  
Muriel Bowser

  
Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the appointment of Ms. Lauren Orzechowski to the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Lauren Orzechowski Confirmation Resolution of 2022".

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

Ms. Lauren Orzechowski  
Randolph Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(Ward 4)

as a voting member of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission who is a parent of a student enrolled in a member public charter school located in the District, pursuant to section 103 of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Establishment and State Athletic Association Reorganization Act of 2016, effective April 7, 2017 (D.C. Law 21-263; D.C. Official Code § 38-2661.11), replacing Dwight Franklin, for a term to end November 7, 2025.

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

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE ATHLETICS COMMISSION**



Public Roundtable  
on  
PR24-0648, the “District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Lauren  
Orzechowski Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

Testimony of  
Lauren Orzechowski

Before the  
Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairperson

April 25, 2022  
1:30 PM  
Virtual Meeting Platform



Good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole. My name is Lauren Orzechowski. I am honored to be before you today as a nominee for a Mayoral appointment to the DC State Athletics Commission. I want to thank Mayor Bowser for nominating me to serve on the Commission and each of you here today for your time and your consideration.

Growing up, I was a student athlete and strongly believe that if it weren't for school sports that I would not have had the positive experiences in middle and high school that I did. For the past 18 years, I have been an educator in the District of Columbia and have seen the positive influence that school sports can have for students, as well as the sometimes-negative impacts when students do not have the option to participate.

After completing my undergraduate degree at St. Mary's College of Maryland, I continued to American University where I received a Master of Arts in teaching for secondary English. After graduation, I began as a 6th and 7th grade teacher in DCPS at Lincoln Middle School. At Lincoln Middle School, I was part of the aftercare program, where I encountered DC Scores. Having been a student athlete myself, I was excited that students would have the opportunity to play a sport that they love in a structured and supported way. I had the opportunity to coach soccer and writing through DC Scores, which was a wonderful experience. As the program began, I immediately saw a positive impact on students. After five years, I transitioned to DC Prep, where I have worked for 12 years. At this school, unfortunately, the opportunity for students to participate in sports has been inconsistent. During my time as an educator, I have raised my own children, who are currently in 4th and 6th grade. The 4th grader is at a DCPS school, Powell Elementary, and my 6th grader is at Basis DC, and both are members of their schools' track and cross-country teams.



I cannot imagine a world without school sports for myself or for my own sons and want to ensure that sports are an option for all DC students, regardless of where they go to school.

I have always been passionate about participating in school sports. School sports not only help students feel connected to their school, but to their community, and encourages leadership and academic achievement. This has been the case for not only the students I have taught, but my own sons as well. One of my sons transferred to DCPS at the beginning of his 3rd grade year, and though he was happy with his new school, he did not feel strongly connected to the community. At the beginning of his 4th grade year, he joined the school cross-country team and his attitude and demeanor towards school changed in a very positive way. He felt that he was part of something, and that he was an important member of his school community. When my husband and I began navigating DC middle schools for our sons, the opportunity to participate in school sports was something that both of us both looked for when making our decision.

I have not only had a view of the positive influence of sports as a parent, but also as a middle school teacher. I have seen how sports engaged students and changed their outlook on school. After DC Scores started at Lincoln Middle School, students began to feel pride in their school. They knew that their coaches believed in them and had high expectations not only on the field but in the classroom as well. I saw students shine on the soccer field who were previously chronically absent, in trouble, or unengaged in the classroom. This built a confidence and leadership that could also be seen in other areas of their lives. Student athletes realize that they are not only accountable to themselves, but to their teams as well, causing them to be more invested in school. In my experience, at schools with more limited athletics opportunities, when sports opportunities have



been available, disciplinary consequences have gone down and student grades have gone up. The student athletes wanted to ensure that they could participate in all practices and games by being eligible. Sports also build school pride as well as camaraderie between peers across grade levels. I have wondered throughout this tough year recovering from the pandemic how our students could have been positively impacted if they had all been offered the opportunity to play school sports. It is for these reasons that I am interested in volunteering my time for the Commission, so that all students can have access to school sports.

With my background as a long-time educator in the District of Columbia, in both charter and DCPS schools, and as a parent of two sons involved in youth sports in the public school system, I have a unique perspective on the importance and impact of sports in schools, which I believe makes me a strong nominee.

As stated before, I have a strong belief that all students should have the opportunity to participate in school sports. For smaller organizations, I would like to work to create a way for students at one school to participate in sports opportunities at another school, much like some DCPS schools have set up with football and other sports.

I would like to continue the momentum of the Commission in serving all schools and all students to ensure that they can participate safely, in a supervised and supported way that will foster student leadership and encourage academic progress.

Thank you for your consideration and I am available to answer any questions you may have.



1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 **Committee of the Whole**  
3 **May 3, 2022**

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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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14 To confirm the appointment of Ms. Lauren Orzechowski to the District of Columbia State  
15 Athletics Commission.

16  
17 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this**  
18 resolution may be cited as the “District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Lauren  
19 Orzechowski Confirmation Resolution of 2022”.

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

21  
22 Ms. Lauren Orzechowski  
23 Randolph Street, NW  
24 Washington, DC 20011  
25 (Ward 4)

26 as a voting member of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission who is a parent of a  
27 student enrolled in a member public charter school located in the District, established by section  
28 103 of the District of Columbia State Athletics Commission Establishment and State Athletic  
29 Association Reorganization Act of 2016, effective April 7, 2017 (D.C. Law 21-263; D.C.  
30 Official Code § 38-2661.11), for a term to end November 7, 2025.

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

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