

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: December 20, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-971 “Child Fatality Review Committee Shalonda Cawthon Appointment Resolution of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-971, the “Child Fatality Review Committee Shalonda Cawthon Appointment Resolution of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	6
III.	Position of The Executive.....	6
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.....	6
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
VI.	Impact on Existing Law.....	6
VII.	Fiscal Impact.....	6
VIII.	Section-By-Section Analysis.....	7
IX.	Committee Action.....	7
X.	Attachments.....	7

I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On October 3, 2022, PR 24-971, the “Child Fatality Review Committee Shalonda Cawthon Appointment Resolution of 2022” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson. The purpose of PR 24-971 is to appoint Ms. Shalonda Cawthon as a member of the Child Fatality Review Committee from the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children on an at-will basis.

Ms. Cawthon is a Ward 5 resident. She received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Murray State University, and a Master of Science in Criminology from Indiana State University. Ms. Cawthon currently serves as the District of Columbia Ombudsperson for Children, assuming that role after her appointment by the Council in July 2022. Prior to that she served as the Regional Program Manager (Region 4) for the Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families in Atlanta, Georgia. In that role, she was responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction to Children’s Bureau in the Atlanta Regional Office. Ms. Cawthon also provided programmatic oversight, monitoring and technical assistance to the 8

states and tribes within the southeast region for all child welfare programs including the Federal Foster Care program (Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act) and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The Child Fatality Review Committee was established in 2001 and operates under the oversight of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME). The CFRC is composed of a minimum of 13 representatives from public agencies along with members from federal, judicial and private agencies, and 8 community representatives. The community representatives are meant to represent all District of Columbia wards. Each member should have specialized knowledge in child development, maternal and child health, child abuse and neglect, prevention, intervention, treatment, or research. Due consideration must be given to representation of ethnic or racial minorities.

Pursuant to D.C. Code § 4-1371.03, the CFRC’s duties are to:

- (1) Identify and characterize the scope and nature of all child deaths in the District, particularly those that are violent, accidental, unexpected, or unexplained;
- (2) In an effort to reduce the number of preventable child fatalities, examine past events and circumstances surrounding child deaths in the District by reviewing the records, files, and other pertinent documents of public and private agencies responsible for serving families and children, investigating deaths, or treating children, giving special attention to child deaths that may have been caused by abuse, negligence, or other forms of maltreatment;
- (3) Develop and revise, as necessary, operating rules and procedures for the review of child deaths, including identification of cases to be reviewed, coordination among the agencies and professionals involved, and improvement of the identification, data collection, and record keeping of the causes of child death;
- (4) Recommend specific and systemic improvements to promote improved and integrated public and private systems serving families and children;
- (5) Recommend components for prevention and education programs; and
- (6) Recommend training to improve the investigation of child deaths.

Table 1: Membership of the Child Fatality Review Committee

Resolution	Position	Appointing Authority	Appointee	Term Expiring	Residency
PR 24-971	Representative – Office of the Ombudsperson for Children	Council	Shalonda Cawthon	At-Will	Ward 5
N/A	Representative – Department of Huma Services (DHS)	Mayor	Theresa Early	At-Will	

Resolution	Position	Appointing Authority	Appointee	Term Expiring	Residency
N/A	Representative – Department of Health (DOH)	Mayor	Dr. Erica McClaskey	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)	Mayor	Dr. K.W. Giese	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Officer of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)	Mayor	Dr. Francisco Diaz	New Appointment	
N/A	Representative – Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)	Mayor	Elizabeth Muffoletto	New Appointment	
N/A	Representative – Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)	Mayor	Dr. Dawn Sherman	New Appointment	
N/A	Representative – Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)	Mayor	Cmdr. Leslie Parsons	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)	Mayor	Sgt. Richard Rice	New Appointment	
N/A	Representative – Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS)	Mayor	Aleazor Taylor	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS)	Mayor	Chief Mitchell Kannry	New Appointment	
N/A	Representative – District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)	Mayor	Andrea Allen	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA)	Mayor	Diane Oliver	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Office of the Attorney General (OAG)	Mayor	Elizabeth Wieser	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Office of the Attorney General (OAG)	Mayor	Erin Cullen	January 2, 2023	

Resolution	Position	Appointing Authority	Appointee	Term Expiring	Residency
N/A	Representative – Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)	Mayor	Debbie Allen	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF)	Mayor	Colleen Sonofsky	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)	Mayor	Adina Levi	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)	Mayor	Dr. Khandra Tyler-Beynum	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)	Mayor	Alison Losey	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – Public Charter School Board (PCSB)	Mayor	Vacant		
N/A	Representative - Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP)	Mayor	Dr. Amy Mack	At-Will	
N/A	Representative - Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP)	Mayor	Linda Harlee Harper	New Appointment	
N/A	Chairperson – Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary	Council	Antonio Nunes (Charles Allen designee)	At-Will	
N/A	Chairperson – Committee on Human Services	Council	Brianne Nadeau	At-Will	Ward 1
N/A	Representative – Superior Court of the District of Columbia	Mayor	Hon. Jennifer Ditoro	At-Will	
N/A	Representative – Superior Court of the District of Columbia	Mayor	Terri Odom	At-Will	
N/A	Representative – Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia	Mayor	David Gorman	At-Will	

Resolution	Position	Appointing Authority	Appointee	Term Expiring	Residency
N/A	Representative – Office of the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia	Mayor	Lindsey Merikas	At-Will	
N/A	Representative – DC Hospitals where children are born or treated	Mayor	Dr. Eric Rosenthal (Children’s National)	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – DC Hospitals where children are born or treated	Mayor	Dr. Inez Reeves (Howard University Hospital)	January 2, 2023	
N/A	Representative – College/University Schools of Social Work	Mayor	Jacqueline Smith (Howard University)	July 16, 2022	
N/A	Center for the Study of Social Policy	Per Order of the U.S. District Court	Judith Meltzer	At-Will	
N/A	Center for the Study of Social Policy	Per Order of the U.S. District Court	Rachel Paletta	At-Will	
N/A	Representative – Mayor’s Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect (MCAN)	Mayor	Janel Daniel	New Appointment	
N/A	Community Representative	Mayor	Dr. Cheryl Williams	Reappointment in progress as of 2/2022; status unknown	Ward 6
PR 23-345	Community Representative	Mayor	Marie Cohen	July 16, 2022	Ward 6
PR 23-347	Community Representative	Mayor	Dr. Jacqueline Frances	July 16, 2022	Ward 6
N/A	Community Representative	Mayor	Vacant		
N/A	Community Representative	Mayor	Vacant		
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Section 4604(c-1) of the Child Fatality Review Committee Establishment Act of 2001, effective October 3, 2001 (D.C. Law 14-28; D.C. Official Code § 4-1371.04) requires the Council to “appoint a minimum of one representative from the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children.” Ms. Cawthon’s appointment, as head of the office, would satisfy this statutory requirement.

Based on her position, credentials and her child welfare expertise, the Committee recommends the appointment of Ms. Cawthon to serve on Child Fatality Review Committee as the representative from the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children. Moreover, the Committee believes Ms. Cawthon meets the requirements to serve on the Board pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 4-1371.04(c-1). For the reasons stated above, the Committee recommends adoption of PR 24-971.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- October 3, 2022 PR 24-971, the “Child Fatality Review Committee Shalonda Cawthon Appointment Resolution of 2022” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
- October 4, 2022 PR 24-971 is “read” at a Regular Legislative Meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
- October 7, 2022 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-971 is published in the *District of Columbia Register*.
- December 20, 2022 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 24-971.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Cawthon is a Council appointee to the Child Fatality Review Committee. The Executive did not submit comments with respect to the appointee.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 24-971.

V. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

The member of the Child Fatality Review Committee representing the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children is appointed by the Council pursuant to section 4604(c-1) of the Child Fatality Review Committee Establishment Act of 2001, effective October 3, 2001 (D.C. Law 14-28; D.C. Official Code § 4-1371.04).

VI. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 24-971 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Members of the Child Fatality Review Committee are not entitled to compensation.

VII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of PR 24-971.
- Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Shalonda Cawthon as a member of the Child Fatality Review Committee from the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children to serve on an at-will basis.
- Section 3 Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the appointee and to the Office of the Mayor.
- Section 4 Provides that PR 24-971 shall take effect immediately.

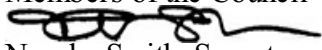
VIII. COMMITTEE ACTION

IX. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-971 as introduced.
2. Legal sufficiency determination.
3. Committee Print for PR 24-971.

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, October 3, 2022
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, October 03, 2022. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Child Fatality Review Committee Shalonda Cawthon Appointment Resolution of 2022", PR24-0971

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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7 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
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11 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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16 To approve the appointment of Ms. Shalonda Cawthon as a member of the Child Fatality Review
17 Committee.

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19 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
20 resolution may be cited as the "Child Fatality Review Committee Shalonda Cawthon
21 Appointment Resolution of 2022".

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

23 Ms. Shalonda Cawthon
24 Newton Street, N.E.
25 Washington, DC 20017
26 (Ward 5)
27

28 as a member of the Child Fatality Review Committee from the Office of the Ombudsperson for
29 Children, pursuant to section 4604(c-1) of the Child Fatality Review Committee Establishment
30 Act of 2001, effective October 3, 2001 (D.C. Law 14-28; D.C. Official Code § 4-1371.04(c-1))
31 on an at-will basis.

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

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

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 December 20, 2022

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10 24-971

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