

**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: February 2, 2016

SUBJECT: Report on PR 21-466, the “Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect Marie Cohen Appointment Resolution of 2016”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 21-466, the “Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect Marie Cohen Appointment Resolution of 2016” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

Proposed Resolution 21-466, the “Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect Marie Cohen Appointment Resolution of 2016,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson on December 10, 2015 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of PR 21-466 is to confirm the Council’s nomination of Marie Cohen for appointment as a member of the Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect as a Council appointee for a three-year term.

The Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect (“Panel”) was established by the Child in Need of Protection Amendment Act of 2004 “to serve as an external, independent oversight body for the District’s child welfare system, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the District government agencies involved in child protection as well as neighborhood-based

services provided by vendors.”¹ In addition to Council appointees, members of the Panel include mayoral appointees.² The Panel’s chairperson is to be appointed by the Mayor, and the vice-chairperson appointed by the Council.³

Ms. Cohen is currently a Ward 6 resident and is currently a blogger, writing about child welfare policy. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Social work, where she earned a Master of Social Work. She also holds a Master of Public Affairs from Princeton University. Ms. Cohen also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Radcliffe College. Ms. Cohen has previously worked as a social worker in the District of Columbia. In addition, she has participated in an informal capacity with the Panel during the past year. This experience should equip her to contribute successfully to the Panel’s work going forward.

The Committee of the Whole recommends her appointment.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- December 10, 2015 PR 21-466, the “Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect Marie Cohen Appointment Resolution of 2015” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
- December 15, 2015 PR 21-466 is “read” at the December 15, 2015 Additional Legislative Meeting.
- December 18, 2015 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 21-466 is published in the *DC Register*.
- February 2, 2016 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 21-466.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee received no comments from the Executive.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

¹ D.C. Law 15-341, Child in Need of Protection Amendment Act of 2004 (eff. Apr. 12, 2005).

² See id.

³ See id.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

Pursuant to Council Rule 275, the Chairman nominates individuals for appointment to other bodies, and pursuant to the Child in Need of Protection Amendment Act of 2004, the Council must act by resolution on nominations to the Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect. Pursuant to Council Rule 501, a hearing or roundtable is not required on a proposed resolution.

The Committee received no testimony or comments on PR 21-466.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

Members of the Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect are appointed pursuant to section 351 of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-341; 52 DCR 2315), which established the Panel.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

The approval of PR 21-466 will have no fiscal impact. Members are not compensated by the District government and the operations of the Citizen Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect are not funded through the District government.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 21-466.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Marie Cohen.
<u>Section 3</u>	Directs the Council to transmit a copy of this resolution to the nominee and the Office of the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 21-466 shall take effect immediately upon publication in the <i>DC Register</i> .

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

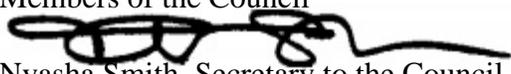
1. PR 21-466 as introduced.
2. Nominee's resume and responses to Committee questions.

3. Legal Sufficiency Determination for PR 21-466.
4. Committee Print for PR 21-466.

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 : December 14, 2015

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Thursday, December 10, 2015. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect Marie Cohen Appointment Resolution of 2015", PR21-0466

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the 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. Marie Cohen to the Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect Marie Cohen Appointment Resolution of 2015".

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

Ms. Marie Cohen
330 9th Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
(Ward 6)

to the Citizens Review Panel on Child Abuse and Neglect, established pursuant to section 351 of the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-341; 52 DCR 2315), for a 3-year term.

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

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

1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 February 2, 2016
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8 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

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10 21-466

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12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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21 Appointment Resolution of 2016”.

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25 330 9th Street, S.E.
26 Washington, D.C. 20003
27 (Ward 6)
28

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30 the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977, effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-
31 341; 52 DCR 2315), for a 3-year term.

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33 this resolution, upon its adoption, to the appointee, the chairperson of the Panel, and the Office of
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36 the District of Columbia Register.