

**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:** November 15, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 24-935, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-935, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	4
III.	Position of the Executive.....	4
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.....	4
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	4
VI.	Impact of Existing Law.....	5
VII.	Fiscal Impact.....	5
VIII.	Section-by-Section Analysis.....	5
IX.	Committee Action.....	6
X.	Attachments.....	6

**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

Proposed Resolution 24-935, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor on September 16, 2022 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of PR 24-935 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Kesha Fitzhugh for appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee (Coordinating Committee) to serve a term of four years.<sup>1</sup>

The Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018<sup>2</sup> created the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee (“Coordinating Committee”) which is a public body composed of engaged non-government residents and agency representatives to support planning, policymaking, program development, and budgeting for successful educational

---

<sup>1</sup> § 2-1599.03(b)(2)(B)(*citing* terms for the initial nongovernmental voting members shall begin on the date that a majority of the members are sworn in, which shall become the anniversary date for all subsequent appointments).

<sup>2</sup> § 2-1599.03.

experiences and outcomes for students in the care of D.C. The focus of the Coordinating Committee is on District residents under 25 years of age who are incarcerated or detained by, committed to and under the custody of, or otherwise under the supervision of, the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services; the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency; the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia; the Family Court Social Services Division; the Child and Family Services Agency; the Department of Corrections; or the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The Coordinating Committee develops strategies and policies that guide implementation of the District's policies and programs to improve educational outcomes for students in the care of the District. The Coordinating Committee consists of 25 voting members and 4 non-voting members representing key community stakeholder constituencies and certain District agency heads or their designees. 17 members are agency heads or their designees, 8 are non-governmental members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council, and 3 are other governmental members or their designees invited by the Mayor to participate. The Coordinating Committee is headed by a non-voting Director appointed by the Mayor.

To date, the Mayor has appointed 10 of the governmental voting members and the non-voting Director. If confirmed by the Council, this nomination will be one of the first four non-governmental voting members of the Coordinating Committee since it became effective in 2019.

**Table A: Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Membership**

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Appointee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>
PR 24-933	David Domenici	Non-Government Member	4 years
PR 24-934	Dr. Felecia Hayward	Non-Government Member	4 years
<b>PR 24-935</b>	<b>Kesha Fitzhugh</b>	<b>Non-Government Member</b>	<b>4 years</b>
PR 24-938	Claire Blumenson	Non-Government Member	4 years
	Vacant	Non-Government Member	3 years
	Vacant	Non-Government Member	3 years
	Vacant	Non-Government Member	3 years
	Vacant	Non-Government Member	2 years
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member	2 years
	Yuliana Bruister	Governmental Voting Member (OSSE)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (ReEngagement Center)	N/A
	Adina Levi	Governmental Voting Member (DYRS)	N/A
	Megan Dho	Governmental Voting Member (CFSA)	N/A
	Amy Lopez	Governmental Voting Member (DOC)	N/A
	Sarah Navarro	Governmental Voting Member (DCPS)	N/A
	Theresa Kemp	Governmental Voting Member (PCSB)	N/A

Resolution	Appointee	Position	Term Expiration
	William Hacker	Governmental Voting Member (UDC)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (Family Court)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (Superior Court)	N/A
	Nicole Ukaegbu	Governmental Voting Member (CIC)	N/A
	Barbara Paulson	Governmental Voting Member (DBH)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (OAG)	N/A
	Angela Spinella	Governmental Voting Member (DDS)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (DC Public Defender Services)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member(DME)	N/A
	Vacant	Governmental Voting Member (Ombudsperson for Children)	N/A
	Vacant*	Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency	N/A
	Vacant*	Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia	N/A
	Vacant*	Federal Bureau of Prisons	N/A

\* Nonvoting Member

Ms. Fitzhugh earned a Doctor of Education in 2020 and a Master of Education in 2014 from Bowie State University. Ms. Fitzhugh also earned a Master of Arts in Special Education from Trinity University in 2008 and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Florida A&M University in 2004. She started her career as a special education teacher in a Level 5 special education school and has worked as a classroom teacher for almost 7 years before moving into administration. She currently serves as the both the Supervisor of the Educational Programs at the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services and the Maya Angelou Public Charter School at the DC Jail.

Ms. Fitzhugh is devoted to serving students with disabilities in non-traditional education settings. From her work at High Road to her work at the Maya Angelou Schools, she has developed a wealth of knowledge as an educator and as a school administrator. Her work in the classroom allows her to manage and guide her staff to drive student achievement and development. She has immersed herself in learning about juvenile justice education and adult correctional education as a school leader in a juvenile detention center and through her doctoral work as she successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Why am I here? Why do I stay? An Examination of the Lived Experiences of Special Education Teachers in Juvenile Detention Centers.”

Based on her commitment to the mission of the Committee, educational leadership, and deep understanding of special education, the Committee recommends the appointment of Ms. Fitzhugh to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. The Committee recommends adoption of PR 24-935.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- September 16, 2022 PR 24-935, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.
- September 30, 2022 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-935 is published in the *D.C. Register*.
- October 4, 2022 PR 24-935 is “read” at a Legislative meeting; on this date the referral of the PR to the Committee of the Whole is official and the 45-day period for Council review begins. If the Council does not act by November 18, 2022, PR 24-935 will be deemed approved
- October 7, 2022 Notice of the public hearing is published in the *D.C. Register*.
- November 2, 2022 The Committee of the Whole convenes a public hearing on PR 24-935.
- November 15, 2022 The Committee of the Whole marks up PR 24-935.

## III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Ms. Fitzhugh is the Mayor’s nominee for appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee.

## IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 24-935.

## V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on five Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee nominations, including PR 24-935, on Tuesday, November 2, 2022. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing, pertaining to Ms. Fitzhugh. Submitted copies of testimony are attached to this report.

*Christopher Seymour, Owner/CEO of Nehemiah Construction LLC*, submitted written testimony in support of Ms. Fitzhugh with whom he worked at Covenant Village, a non-profit. Mr. Seymour states that Ms. Fitzhugh deeply cares for her community and more specifically, cares about disadvantaged youth in her community. In fact, many children have come to her looking for resume assistance, direction, and financial assistance and resources. She also personally housed some children in her home. In sum, because of the work Mr. Fitzhugh has demonstrated within her community, Mr. Seymour supports her nomination to the Coordinating Committee.

**Charles King, Public Witness**, submitted written testimony in support of Ms. Fitzhugh who Mr. King shares he was worked with Ms. Fitzhugh over the last several years as a mentor to her son, Corde Fitzhugh. During this time, he watched Ms. Fitzhugh not only earn a degree, but also be a hands-on mother of her children. He wrote that Ms. Fitzhugh is very active with the DYRS parent group and he believes that she is an ideal candidate for the position.

**Kesha Fitzhugh, Appointee**, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding her background and experience as it pertains to the Committee and her interest in serving on the Committee. She shared her personal experience as a parent of a child formerly committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) as in 2016, her son was committed to the agency for juvenile life following an unfortunate situation in the community. Through this process, she became empowered to learn the legal system as it pertained to her child's situation. She states that if confirmed, she would like to spearhead speaking engagements and connection sessions with parents/guardians, children, and in care agencies because too often those who are being cared for have their voices silenced regarding the efficacy of programs or service offerings. Further, she believes she could be instrumental to devising a plan that holds those who oversee children in care accountable to those they serve.

## VI. IMPACT OF EXISTING LAW

The Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee is established pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-1599.03. PR 24-935 is an exercise of the Council's discretion to approve or disapprove Mayoral nominations to Boards and Commissions, pursuant to the Confirmation Act of 1978 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Code § 1-523.01).

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

A Fiscal Impact Statement is not necessary for a confirmation. Committee members are not compensated for their service.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 24-935.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Kesha Fitzhugh to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, as a non-governmental member, to serve a term ending of four years. <sup>3</sup>
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Mayor.

---

<sup>3</sup> § 2-1599.03(b)(2)(B)(*citing* terms for the initial nongovernmental voting members shall begin on the date that a majority of the members are sworn in, which shall become the anniversary date for all subsequent appointments).

Section 4 Provides that PR 24-935 shall take effect immediately.

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

### X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-935 as introduced.
2. Nominee's responses to Committee pre-hearing and post-hearing questions.
3. Written Testimony and Comments.
4. Legal Sufficiency Review.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-935.



**MURIEL BOWSER**  
**MAYOR**

September 19, 2022

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 4 of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, effective April 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-303; D.C. Official Code § 2-1599.03), I am pleased to nominate the following individual:

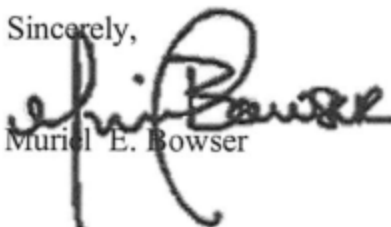
Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh  
Douglas Road, SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
(Ward 8)

for appointment as a parent, guardian or foster parent of a student in the care of D.C. nongovernmental voting member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, for a term to end four years from the date of confirmation.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the above nominee's experience, 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 E. 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. Kesha Fitzhugh to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022".

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

Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh  
Douglas Road, SE  
Washington, DC 20020  
(Ward 2)

as a parent, guardian or foster parent of a student in the care of D.C. nongovernmental voting member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, pursuant to section 3 of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, effective April 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-303; D.C. Official Code § 2-1599.02), for a term to end four years from the date of confirmation.

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

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



# KESHA FITZHUGH

MSFITZHUGH01@GMAIL.COM

## SUMMARY

---

Dedicated and self-directed Administrative Operations Manager with a diverse background, specializing in process and operations management across multiple industries. Offering progressive executive level office management experience with focused abilities in business start-ups and process growth; using proven methods and cutting-edge technology to successfully cut costs, streamline operations, minimize risks and increase productivity. Technically-savvy, exceptional communication and team collaboration skills to deliver quality projects in deadline-driven environments.

## EDUCATION, TRAINING & MEMBERSHIP

---

### **Columbia Southern University, Orange Beach, AL.**

Master of Business Administration/Public Administration, 3.5|4.0 – February 2020

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Cum Laude, 3.67|4.0 – September 2018

### **Center for Nonprofit Advancement, Executive Preparation Institute**

Senior Management Cohort– July 2018

### **National Society of Leadership and Success**

Member – July 2018

### **AmeriCorps/Public Allies**

Alum – June 2011

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

---

**Financial Management & Accounting:** Experienced with budget management, purchasing, inventory, expense management, A/P & A/R (billing/invoicing), account reconciliation, tax filings and compliance.

**Event Planning & Management:** Manage venue sourcing/selection, invitation and RSVP lists, on/off-site logistics, catering, travel, reimbursements, speaker liaison, materials/signage for conferences, meetings and webinars.

**Startup Operations:** Strong business acumen and strategic planning abilities to support start-up business activities, including policy and procedure development and implementation, systems development, technology implementation, office design/layout and scaling operations for growth.

**Human Resources:** Experience with talent acquisition, including writing job descriptions, coordinating, scheduling and conducting interviews and new hire onboarding. Manage employee paperwork and payroll. Skilled in researching benefits packages.

**Office Management:** Manage all aspects of office operations, including communications, IT, office equipment management, ordering/inventory, facility management and security, meeting and event planning, contract management and travel coordination. Proven strengths in organization, time management and process improvement.

**Administrative Support:** Offer exceptional interpersonal skills to support business, from C-Suite/high-level personnel and guests to assisting with operations to managing vendor relationships. Highly skilled in managing complex calendars

# KESHA FITZHUGH

MSFITZHUGH01@GMAIL.COM

and ever-changing schedules, international and domestic travel, communications and desk time management, also serving and the interdepartmental liaison between multiple business units and out-sourced services and contracts.

**Technological Profile:** Proficient with Expense Management software (Expensify, PeopleSoft), Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, SharePoint), Windows and Mac operating systems, database administration, Google Docs, Igloo, QuickBooks, Salesforce, HR/Payroll systems (PaychexFlex, Workday), events and travel software (Cvent, Concur) and meeting platforms (Webex, FreeConferenceCall, Go to meeting, Skype, Teams, Zoom,).

# KESHA FITZHUGH

MSFITZHUGH01@GMAIL.COM

## EXPERIENCE

---

### **The Pew Charitable Trusts**

#### ***Administrative Assistant***

**Feb**

**2019 - July 2020**

- \* Prepare budget estimates for senior management, maintain event/program budget upwards of \$2M.
- \* Event planning – Internal and external coordination of logistics (venue, travel, vendor relations and catering), manage participant RSVPs, legal vetting preparation and certification, pre/post reporting.
- \* Manage vendor contracts, communications and parsing invoices for accuracy.
- \* Coordinate building security, maintenance services, technical and visitor requests
- \* Manage complex and ever-changing calendars for senior and program staff.
- \* Project Management – Devise workplans to track ownership of team/project deliverables, action items and next steps.
- \* Calendar management, credit card reconciliation, travel and expenses.

### **The Center for Election Innovation & Research**

**June**

**2017-Oct 2018**

#### ***Operations Manager***

- \* Implemented cash flow related processes.
- \* Payroll management, time and attendance coordinator, recruitment, onboarding, and benefits administration.
- \* Board of Directors relations – Create meeting timelines, prepare and distribute meeting notifications, correspondence, and agenda materials.
- \* Manage and coordinate all administrative, budgeting, and correspondence activities related to grants and contract services.
- \* Thoroughly parse and pay final invoices and produce final spending reports.
- \* Develop and manage a comprehensive plan for office move to dedicated space.

### **The Pew Charitable Trusts**

**Sep 2014-**

**June 2017**

#### ***Senior Administrative Assistant***

- \* Drafting correspondence; develop and track procurement contracts, proofread and edit team documents for punctuation, grammar, and clarity.
- \* Schedule conference calls and meetings, assemble and disseminate relevant background materials in a timely manner; schedule adequate pre-meeting preparation and travel time; ensure that relevant staff and partners participate and conduct meeting follow-up as necessary.
- \* Prepare staff and third-party travel reimbursements, track service provider invoices, and corporate card reconciliations for processing by payment services.
- \* Organize logistics internal and off-site meetings; coordinate external event production with the conference center and prepare reports for legal review for all events including government officials.

# KESHA FITZHUGH

MSFITZHUGH01@GMAIL.COM

- \* Update, maintain and contribute to the constituent relationship management internal database.
- \* Train new Admin staff and assist with workflow coordination and mentorship.

## CONTRACT EXPERIENCE

(S.O.M.E.)- Center for Employment Training, Career Enrichment Coordinator  
Oct 2010 - Jan 2011

- \* Managed and trained volunteer staff of two: schedules, delegation of duties.

vhavnes@pewtrusts.org

jared@turnout.rocks

jkinn@electioninnovation.org





Executive Office of the Mayor - Office of Talent and Appointments

John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

**Kesha Fitzhugh**



In Kesha Fitzhugh's most recent position, she served as the Senior Administrative Assistant for the Pew Charitable Trusts. Initially recruited to support the efforts of the Election Initiatives, she quickly navigated the organization, broadening her support to a number of projects across the Government Performance portfolio. In recognition of superior core competencies and stellar achievements, she was awarded the Achievement of Consistent Excellence (ACE) Award, in addition to receiving promotion accolades for outstanding performance, placing her in the top 4% of the organization. Her stand-out position was her appointment with the Managing Partner/CNN Contributor of Brunswick Group. There, she was a key player in coordinating the volunteer and pre-registration efforts at the HuffPo Inaugural Ball held at the Newseum, as well as the White House Correspondents Garden Brunch, both held in 2009.

Ms. Fitzhugh has volunteered as a mentor and spoken word facilitator for The HOUSE (Power Moves) in Washington, DC, supporting youth with a host of social and economic disadvantages. An Alum of Public Allies Service Corps, she is excited to continue supporting the efforts in the non-profit work force and fulfill aspirations as a change leader.

A Ward 8 resident, Ms. Fitzhugh holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Master of Business in Business/Public Administration from Columbia Southern University.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Bryan Hum, Steve Walker

**From:** Betsy Cavendish

**Date:** August 3, 2022

**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating Claire Blumenson, David Domenici, Kesha Fitzhugh, Dr. Felecia Hayward, and L. Danielle Robinette as nongovernmental voting members; Yuliana Bruister, Megan Dho, William Hacker, Laura Harding, Theresa Kemp, Adina Levi, Amy Lopez, Sarah Navarro, Barbara Paulson, Angela Spinella, and Nicole Ukaegbu as governmental voting members; and LaShunda Hill as Director of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee

---

**This is to Certify** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced resolutions and found them to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Vanessa Careiro, Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor, at 202-724-1303, or me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

---

Elizabeth Cavendish



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson  
Chairman

Office: (202) 724-8032  
Fax: (202) 724-8085

October 26, 2022

Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh  
[REDACTED] Douglas Road Southeast#101  
Washington, DC 20020

Dear Ms. Fitzhugh:

Congratulations on being considered for appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee for the District of Columbia. As you know, the appointment is subject to confirmation by the Council. The Committee of the Whole has scheduled a public hearing on your nomination for **Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom Video Conference**. Enclosed is a copy of the hearing notice.

It is standard for the Council to submit questions to nominees. I request your response to the Committee to the following questions no later than close of business Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

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 disclosure form, please provide answers to questions no. 2-8 in lieu of that statement.
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. **N/A**
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. **N/A**
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. **N/A**
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. **N/A**
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. **N/A**
7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you. **N/A**

8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member. **The National Society of Leadership & Success & Public Allies**
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. **N/A**
10. Please list any other boards (e.g., Board of Directors for a non-profit) on which you are currently a member. **N/A**
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. **(Please see attached)**
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 on the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee? **N/A**
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 six years, including all campaign contributions to a D.C. candidate or political committee. **N/A**
14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered. **No**
15. Why have you agreed to serve, and how do you plan to help the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee fulfill its role and mission? Include in your answer what you believe should be the priorities for the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee and specific challenges you see for the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. **I have a long-term passion and commitment for ensuring the well-being of students in the care of DC and their families. As a parent representative on the SCDC Coordinating Committee, I will work hard to address the challenges that these students and their families face so that they can be restored and so that they can experience wholeness. As a SCDC Coordinating Committee member, regardless of what the specific issues that we are seeking to solve, the priority is always what is best for the students in the care of DC. I want to see the SCDC Coordinating Committee become the “go to” voice of those who require support and are in the District’s care.**
16. Please include any past and present experiences that you believe are relevant to support your appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. **I am a parent whose child was previously in care of a DC agency. I am still heavily involved with DYRS and the AIS Parent/Guardian Support Group. I am an active and effective parent leader with experience in family organizing and advocacy.**

At the November 2<sup>nd</sup> hearing, you will be asked to make an opening statement indicating your interest in serving on the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. The testimony of persons interested in supporting your nomination is helpful but not necessary. Interested parties should visit <http://www.ChairmanMendelson.com/testify> to register, or, alternatively, may submit written comments to the Committee regarding your nomination via letter mail or e-mail ([COW@dccouncil.gov](mailto:COW@dccouncil.gov)).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me or Raleigh Lancaster on my staff

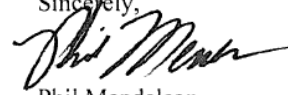


at 202-724-7130, or [rlancaster@dccouncil.gov](mailto:rlancaster@dccouncil.gov).

enc.

PM/rl

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Mendelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Phil Mendelson  
Chairman



## Nehemiah Construction LLC

6000 Merriweather Dr Ste 5087

Columbia, MD 21044

MHIC # 05- 136197

October 31, 2022



nehemiahcnstn@gmail.com 

240-417-1372 or 443-870-5166 

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

My name is Christopher Seymour, owner/CEO of Nehemiah Construction LLC, licensed in DC & MD. I'm writing this letter as a recommendation for Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh's mayoral nomination to the Students in Care of DC Committee.

I've known Ms. Fitzhugh as a friend, working colleague, and assistance for a non-profit where I'm the President of the board (Covenant Village). Kesha's experience is 2-fold: she cares for people in general, specifically giving people information they never knew they had access. Kesha does this to empower the residents in her community. Although Kesha is not an attorney, she does in-depth research to get as much information as possible to help and empower others. I say her experience is 2-fold because she also has a heart for kids more – importantly, disadvantaged children. She has had personal interactions with many disadvantaged children by default. Many children have come to her looking for some sort of life resolution or direction; from job leads/referrals or resume assistance, financial assistance and resources, as well as personally housing some children in her home.

Kesha has shared with my firm many times, if there's an opening at my construction company, to consider hiring some of the children she interacts with in her local community. As a result, we have hired a few people she's recommended. When I informed Kesha that I became President of the non-profit retreat facility, Covenant Village, and wanted her assistance to help me open it up to more non-profit organizations beyond religious organization, Kesha stepped right in to assist with planning, idea generation, and recommendations of nonprofits within her network. She will be assisting me in gathering more children and non-profit organizations to take part of the 400-acre facility.

I couldn't think of a better person for this honorable nomination than Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh.

  
Christopher Seymour  
Managing Member

Date 10/31/2022

Good afternoon.

I'm writing this letter in support of Ms Fitzhugh who is being currently considered for a position and has a hearing coming up before the board. My name is Mr Charles King Jr and I have had the privilege of engaging with Ms Fitzhugh over the last several years as a mentor to her son Corde Fitzhugh. During this time I have watched Ms Fitzhugh not only earn a degree but also be a hands on mother of her children. Ms Fitzhugh is very active with DYRS parents group and I believe that she is an ideal candidate for the position which she is currently seeking. Thank you for allowing my input and I hope that it sheds further light on the person that Ms Fitzhugh is.

- Charles King

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee**



**Public Roundtable on**

**PR24-0935, the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha  
Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022”**

**Testimony of**

**Kesha Fitzhugh**

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

November 2, 2022  
11:00 am  
Virtual Meeting Platform  
The John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson, members of the Committee and staff. My name is Kesha Fitzhugh. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and thank you to Mayor Muriel Bowser for nominating me for this appointment to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee. I am humbly grateful for the opportunity to share my testimony.

When I received the call for the interview for this nomination, I was moved to tears recalling a moment of helplessness when my son was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and I first realized that he was not reading at grade level. For all the phone calls relevant to misbehaving, suspensions, and detentions, there was not one call, letter, or conference about his academics - my baby was just being passed through. I advocated for my child in that situation. I can only imagine what it is like for students in the same kind of situations who do not have anyone to advocate on their behalf.

I decided to apply to be a member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee because I thought – God has finally made room for my passion and my own personal experiences to be in service of the youth in D.C. who need someone to advocate for them the most. As a teen parent who has raised two Black boys and my little sister in the heart of historically under-resourced Ward 8, I feel a collective obligation to the children of our city. Having experienced firsthand what it means to have a child “*in the care of DC*” with my now 21-year-old son, being here, in this moment, is surreal for someone like me. Someone who grew up with parents with substance abuse issues. Someone who was a teen mother who had to choose parenthood over going away to college with a full ride. Someone who despite some painful and traumatizing experiences both in childhood and because of where I could afford to live and raise my family, is present, aware, and willing to fight with and for every child I possibly can, given the adversity I’ve faced.

Despite the hardships I have experienced in my life and all the challenges that my children have faced, I have persevered. And my perseverance paid off for both me and my family. I now hold two degrees from Columbia Southern University, a Bachelor of Business Administration (*Cum Laude*), which led to my being chosen for the nation’s largest leadership honor society, The National Society of Leadership and Success. I also have an MBA with a concentration in Public Administration. As I’ve worked my way through the administrative ranks over the years from the private to nonprofit sector, landing as the first Black Associate Director of Business and Finance for the Leadership Conference of Women Religious since its inception, I stand proudly in my accomplishments. Professionally, I understand how to manage big projects and develop organizational processes. These skills will make me an effective Committee member who not only can contribute ideas but can also help make sure those ideas are implemented into actionable plans.

In addition to my academic and professional accomplishments, I also bring to the Committee my own experiences as a parent of a child formerly committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS). In 2016, my son was committed to the agency for juvenile

life following an unfortunate situation in the community. Prior to that situation, I had some strong biases towards parents/guardians whose children were placed in the care of any agency — until I became one. I was humbled quickly throughout the Anchored in Strength Parent/Guardian Caregiver Group process. I was empowered to learn the legal system as it pertained to my child and his situation. I had to be his voice in the community and at home, on the phone and in writing. The unwavering support I displayed came from that same place of tenacity when faced with adversity as a child and then young adult. I remembered the disadvantages he'd faced when I wasn't as present or invested in his care because I blindly trusted those in positions of influence, power, and teaching to be accountable without question. I refused to allow him to suffer at the hands of my inability to not accept where we were in our journey. I knew I had to be an active participant in advocacy areas where I was distrusting, afraid of the unknown, and feeling judged. There is a certain level of tenacity needed when interacting and advocating on the behalf of children, which I have displayed with assertive and informed grace.

During my time working with DYRS as a parent advocate, I have been recognized as a Parent Leader because of how I show up for the parents whose children are in care of DC and court involved. I share my story with conviction, not condemnation. I speak and share from a place of fact to be used as an accountability and encouragement tool and self-awareness that conveys my commitment to our youth. I have volunteered to assist in making connections through my networking efforts and assist in writing advocacy letters on behalf of parents and children whose needs aren't being met. I am tapped to speak for group sessions, have been approached for a keynote speaking role, and assist with outreach in the family engagement sector. The gratitude I feel from parents as we move the needle forward is what motivates me to remain engaged. My work helps parents and families reclaim the confidence and internal peace often rattled in crisis, and I am so fulfilled by seeing the work I have done ultimately have a positive impact on the children in the care of DC.

If confirmed, I would like to spearhead speaking engagements and connection sessions with parents/guardians, children, and in care agencies. Too often those who are being cared for have their voices silenced regarding the efficacy of programs or service offerings. That needs to change. As a creator of organizational process, I believe I could be instrumental to devising a plan that holds those who oversee children in care accountable to those they serve. Moreover, storytelling is a powerful tool when trying to convey significant points. My relatability, passion for the recreating the narrative, and commitment to being an agent of change is a recipe for everlasting impact. I love and deeply understand D.C. families and youth because I am a proud Washingtonian who has lived experience and a passion for serving my city. If confirmed to serve on the Committee, I will bring that love, understanding and passion to everything I contribute.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions that you may have.

# DMV ticket pay plan info

Started payment plan on 11/1 833.480.8894, opt 3 (Harris & Harris is manager of the payment plans for the District)

Ref# [REDACTED]

\$2106 (Total owed)

25%=\$527 confirmation #011409; Paid 11/1

Bal due \$1579.00

\$175.44 (9 months) on the 1st thereafter



**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 4  
Washington, DC 20004  
(202) 724-8026

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson**

**FROM: Nicole L. Streeter, General Counsel *NLS***

**DATE: November 7, 2022**

**RE: Legal Sufficiency Determination for Students in the  
Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha  
Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022, PR24-  
935**

---

The measure is legally and technically sufficient for Council consideration.

The proposed resolution would confirm the appointment of Kesha Fitzhugh, to the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, established by section 3 of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, effective April 11, 2019 (D.C. Law 22-303; D.C. Official Code § 2-1599.02), as a parent, guardian, or foster parent of a student in the care of D.C. nongovernmental voting member for a term of 4 years.

I am available if you have any questions.



1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 Committee of the Whole  
3 November 15, 2022

4  
5  
6  
7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

8  
9 24-935

10  
11 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
12  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14

15  
16 To confirm the appointment of Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh to the Students in the Care of D.C.  
17 Coordinating Committee.

18  
19 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this**  
20 resolution may be cited as the “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Kesha  
21 Fitzhugh Confirmation Resolution of 2022”.

22  
23 **Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of:**  
24

25 Ms. Kesha Fitzhugh  
26 Douglas Road, SE  
27 Washington, DC 20020  
28 (Ward 2)  
29

30 as a parent, guardian or foster parent of a student in the care of D.C. nongovernmental voting  
31 member of the Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee, pursuant to section 3 of the  
32 Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018, effective April 11, 2019  
33 (D.C. Law 22-303; D.C. Official Code § 2-1599.02), for a term of four years.

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

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