

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

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

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**TO:** All Councilmembers

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

**DATE:** September 19, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Report on PR 25-295, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Lamont Akins Confirmation Resolution of 2023”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 25-295, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Lamont Akins Confirmation Resolution of 2023” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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**I. BACKGROUND AND NEED**

Proposed Resolution 25-295, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Lamont Akins Confirmation Resolution of 2023,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor on June 20, 2023 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. The purpose of PR 25-295 is to confirm the Mayor’s nomination of Lamont Akins for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia (Board), replacing Dr. Anthony Tardd, for a five-year term to end May 15, 2028.

The University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is both a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and an urban land-grant institution. Formed in 1975 from the merger of the District of Columbia Teachers’ College, the Washington Technical Institute, and Federal City College, UDC serves as the District’s only public university.<sup>1</sup> UDC’s mission is to provide an

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<sup>1</sup> This college was formed from the merger of Miners Teacher College and Wilson Teachers College. See UDC’s History, University of the District of Columbia, <https://www.udc.edu/about/history-mission/>; D.C. Law 1-36 (effective Nov. 1, 1975).

affordable, post-secondary education to District residents and to “prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce, the next level of education, specialized employment opportunities or lifelong learning.”<sup>2</sup>

The Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia was established by the U.S. Congress as a body of the District of Columbia government in 1974.<sup>3</sup> The Board has the authority to independently issue regulations governing the University, own and manage the property of the University, and represent the University in legal proceedings. The Board is also responsible for hiring the President of the University System.

Trustees are charged with establishing and ensuring accreditation of each component of the University System. This includes a liberal arts component, a vocational and technical component, and a school of law. The Trustees approve all programs and majors and set academic policies, such as degree requirements and tuition. In addition, Trustees are responsible for setting the University’s budget in conjunction with the Mayor and City Council.

The Board is comprised of fifteen members.<sup>4</sup> Of the fifteen, eleven are appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, three are alumni from either the University or one of its predecessor institutions, and one is a full-time student elected by the UDC student body.<sup>5</sup> Each Trustee, except for the student trustee, serves a five year term, and each non-student Trustee may serve two consecutive full terms.<sup>6</sup> The following tables depict the current make-up of the UDC Board of Trustees:

**Table A: Elected Alumni and Student Representative to the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees**

Elected Trustee	Role	Commencement Date	Term End Date
Travis Henderson	Student	August 21, 2023	May 11, 2024
Dr. Mildred Musgrove	Alumni	May 15, 2020	May 15, 2025
Barrington Scott	Alumni	May 15, 2015	May 15, 2025
Anntoinette White-Richardson	Alumni	May 15, 2020	May 15, 2025

<sup>2</sup> UDC Mission, University of the District of Columbia, <https://www.udc.edu/about/history-mission/>.

<sup>3</sup> Pub. L. 93-198, Dec. 24, 1973.

<sup>4</sup> D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.05 (see a list of the duties of the UDC Trustees).

<sup>5</sup> D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01(c) (2001 ed.). Of the eleven appointed by the Mayor, seven must reside in the District at the time of their Council confirmation. *Id.* at 38-1202.01(c-1).

<sup>6</sup> D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01(f). After the completion of the member’s second consecutive term, he or she must wait five years from the end of his or her second term before being reappointed or reelected to the Board of Trustees. Legislation has recently been adopted by the Council to change this (see D.C. Act 23-326, the “Coronavirus Support Emergency Amendment Act of 2020,” and Bill 23-817, the “UDC Board of Trustees Term Limit Amendment Act of 2020.”) Going forward, Trustees may serve up to three consecutive terms but not more than 15 consecutive years.

**Table B: Mayoral Appointments to the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees**

Mayoral Appointee	Resolution Number	Date of Council Approval	Term End Date
Warner Session	PR 25-282	Pending	May 15, 2028
Dr. Carolyn Rudd	PR 25-283	Pending	May 15, 2028
Ken Grossinger	PR 25-284	Pending	May 15, 2028
<b>Lamont Akins</b>	<b>PR 25-295</b>	<b>Pending</b>	<b>May 15, 2028</b>
Christopher Bell	R. 23-554	October 20, 2020	May 15, 2025
Mignon Clyburn	R. 23-555	October 20, 2020	May 15, 2024
Dr. Esther Barazzone	R. 23-316	January 21, 2020	May 15, 2024
Jerome Shelton	R. 23-317	January 21, 2020	May 15, 2024
Vacant*			
Vacant*			
Vacant*			

\*These three seats were last filled by Reginald Felton, whose term expired May 2019, Erol Schwartz, whose term expired May 2023, and Charlene Drew Jarvis, whose term expired May 2023.

Mr. Akins earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and his Master of Science in Community Development from Delta State University. He is a Ward 4 resident.

Mr. Akins is the Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives and External Engagement at Pepco and possesses over 18 years of experience managing multi-million-dollar budgets, sizeable staffs, and public outreach programs. Prior to his current role, he served as Director in Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Office of Community Affairs. As a key mayoral advisor, Mr. Akins increased resident trust and engagement with the D.C. government. Mr. Akins also served as Director of Constituent Services and Community Outreach for D.C. Councilmember Anita Bonds.

The University has made great strides over the last decade, despite the COVID-19 pandemic; however, more needs to be done. Moving forward, and during Mr. Akins’ time on the Board, the Committee will be paying particular attention to the two following issues.

**Enrollment:** Over the past decade, UDC has struggled to increase enrollment. The struggle was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic when the University saw another decline in enrollment. A key to a successful education system in the District is a thriving public university, and instrumental to having a thriving public university is its enrollment. Thus, as the District’s only public institution of higher education, it is essential that UDC’s enrollment not only remain steady, but also grow. Given this, the Committee has monitored the University’s enrollment over the years. A part of this monitoring involves not just watching UDC’s overall enrollment, but also looking at the enrollment of UDC’s four-year institution, Community College (UDC-CC), and law school. Since UDC-CC was formed in 2009, the Committee has focused on UDC’s enrollment data. However, the University has made increasing enrollment a priority. For example, the

University now automatically re-enrolls all Community College students, the University has recently on boarded a new Vice President of Enrollment Management, and the University will begin the initial implantation of its Customer Relationship Management (CRM). This tool is a set of integrated, data-driven software solutions that help manage, track, and store information. This will be critical in better understanding and managing enrollment data. The table below shows UDC’s enrollment, broken down by undergraduate, graduate, law school, and community college, from academic year 2012-2013 through its most recent academic year, 2022-2023.

**Table GF-B: University of the District of Columbia;  
Enrollment Academic Years 2012-2022**

Students	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	Fall 2020	Fall 2021	Fall 2022
Undergraduate	2,019	2,026	1,959	2,124	2,051	2,009	1,957	1,938	1,791	1,603	1,440
Graduate	253	299	312	320	368	388	377	371	340	289	290
Law School	380	344	315	313	286	280	256	257	228	240	230
UDC-CC	2,838	2,686	2,532	2,361	1,899	1,850	1,910	1,890	1,594	1,344	1,617
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,490</b>	<b>5,355</b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>5,118</b>	<b>4,604</b>	<b>4,527</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,456</b>	<b>3,953</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>3,577</b>

*Source: UDC’s FY2022-2023 Performance Oversight Responses, Q. 37.*

**Private Fundraising:** Beginning in fiscal year 2014, the Council has set aside funds for the University as part of a fundraising match. Originally as a means of supporting UDC’s accreditation efforts, the Council set aside a million dollars in matching funds.<sup>7</sup> For every dollar UDC raised in private donations, the District matched those donations dollar for dollar up to a maximum of a million dollars. A District match has continued since 2014. Although the original impetus for the match was to provide additional support for UDC’s accreditation activities, secondary reasons for the match have been to incentivize the University to increase its private fundraising capability and to encourage the UDC Foundation to take a more active role in raising private funds. As discussed in Committee budget reports, UDC has to fight year after year for its subsidy, as well as for capital funds from the District government. The University should continue to increase its private fundraising, even though the Committee believes wholeheartedly that the District should support UDC financially.

Based on his commitment to the mission of the University, his educational leadership, and his dedication to improving equitable outcomes, the Committee recommends the appointment of Mr. Akins to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. The Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of PR 25-295.

## II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

June 15, 2023 PR 25-295, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Lamont Akins Confirmation Resolution of 2023” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor.

<sup>7</sup> 5 See Title X, Sec. 10002 of D.C. Law 20-61, the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Support Act of 2013.

June 20, 2023 PR 25-295 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 21, 2023, PR 25-295 will be deemed approved.

June 22, 2023 Notice of the public hearing is in the Office of Secretary.

June 30, 2023 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 25-295 is published in the *D.C. Register*.

June 30, 2023 Notice of Roundtable Published in the District of Columbia Register.

July 12, 2023 The Committee of the Whole convenes a public roundtable on PR 25-295.

September 19, 2023 The Committee of the Whole marks up PR 25-295.

### III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

Mr. Akins is the Mayor’s nominee for appointment to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia.

### IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission on PR 25-295.

### V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public roundtable on four Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia nominations, including PR 25-295, on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing, pertaining to Mr. Akins. Submitted copies of testimony are attached to this report.

*Lamont Akins, Appointee*, testified and answered questions from Chairman Mendelson regarding his background and experience as it pertains to the Board and his interest in serving on the Board. Mr. Akins explained that the University plays a crucial role in promoting educational equity and opportunity. He gained a firsthand experience as a graduate from a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) that equips him to advocate for the importance and the unique value of the University brings to higher education. By serving on the board, he wishes to be an advocate for increased support, resources, and recognition for the University.

## VI. IMPACT OF EXISTING LAW

This confirmation is consistent with existing law. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01, the Board shall be comprised of fifteen members – of whom eleven members are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. Of the eleven members, seven must be District residents at the time of their confirmation. Additionally, each member, except for the student trustee, may serve three, five-year terms or a total of 15 consecutive years.<sup>8</sup> Mr. Akins is a Mayoral appointee, is a resident of the District, and is nominated for his first term.

## VII. FISCAL IMPACT

PR 25-295 will have no fiscal impact on the District of Columbia budget or financial plan. Pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.04, trustees receive no compensation for their service on the Board.<sup>9</sup> However, each trustee is entitled to be reimbursed up to \$4,000 annually for any “actual and necessary expenses incurred while actually engaged in service as a Trustee.”<sup>10</sup> Such expenses are included as part of the University’s annual budget.

## VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

<u>Section 1</u>	States the short title of PR 25-295.
<u>Section 2</u>	Confirms the appointment of Lamont Akins to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia to serve a term of five years. <sup>11</sup>
<u>Section 3</u>	Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the nominee and to the Mayor.
<u>Section 4</u>	Provides that PR 25-295 shall take effect immediately.

## IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

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<sup>8</sup> § 38–1202.01.

<sup>9</sup> § 38–1202.04.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</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).

## **X. ATTACHMENTS**

1. PR 25-295 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 25-295.



MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

June 20, 2023

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 201 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1424; Pub. L. 93-471; D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

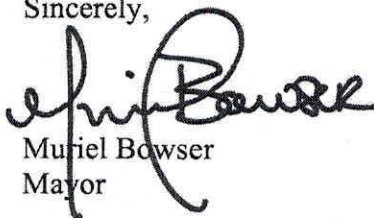
Lamont Akins  
Longfellow Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(Ward 4)

for appointment as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, replacing Dr. Anthony Tardd, for a term to end May 15, 2028.


Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with 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  
Mayor



  
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 Lamont Akins to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Lamont Akins Confirmation Resolution of 2023".

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

Lamont Akins  
Longfellow Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011  
(Ward 4)

as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, pursuant to section 201 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1424; Pub. L. 93-471; D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01), replacing Dr. Anthony Tardd, for a term to end May 15, 2028.

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.

**OVERVIEW**

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Versatile, skilled strategic manager with significant history of collaborative, multi-level engagement to form partnerships that achieve organizational objectives. Directs, manages, and coordinates the broadest range of efforts, from neighborhood to national, civic to corporate, to expertly and directly liaise among diverse constituent levels—internally and externally—public to private, government to nonprofit.

In increasingly major, public-facing, authoritative roles, accrued over 18 years' experience managing multi-million-dollar budgets, sizeable staffs, and public outreach programs with thoughtful leadership, firm integrity, and embraced diversity to deliver high-standard performance and organizational goals.

**EXPERIENCE**

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**Senior Manager, Strategic Initiatives and External Engagement—Pepco, An Exelon Company, Washington, DC / February 2021–Present**

- Directs and manages the creation and execution of campaigns, developing strategies and techniques to increase engagement opportunities and proactively position the Pepco companies.
- Directs and manages strategic projects and serves as the primary resource to other areas throughout the Pepco organization: coordinating and strategizing on policy of the company's position, participating/presenting in briefings with stakeholders, and coordinating and aligning with other business units to anticipate, develop, monitor, and evaluate engagement strategies to ensure their support of overall business goals and objectives.
- Builds awareness and visibility of Pepco's community activities internally and externally.
- Serves on the Pepco Holdings Corporate Social Responsibility working group to increase engagement of Pepco's lines of business, support Diversity & Inclusion, and to proactively address issues raised by community partners
- Represents community engagement priorities and strategies in key internal discussions and decision points to external stakeholders.
- Manages community engagement consultants and serves as contact point for social and political events in the Pepco region, working extended hours when needed.

**Director, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs / Mayor Muriel Bowser—Government of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC / August 2018–January 2021****Interim Director / July 2018–August 2018**

- Managed 15 constituent services/community engagement offices in the Mayor's Community Affairs cluster, and an annual budget of \$15 million.
- Managed a diverse staff of 120+ in a collaborative, high-productivity environment that fostered professional growth and development while achieving mayoral goals.
- As the Mayor's Representative on the Special Events Task Group in the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, interacted with the FBI, The White House, National Park Police, and a range of public and private national organizations to successfully manage major national/area events, involving thousands of attendees, multiple vendors, major media, and high-profile/high-security luminaries, responding

swiftly and authoritatively to establish and maintain clear communication, collaborative interaction, and smooth logistics to help deliver successful events in the nation's capital.

- As a key decision-maker, regularly met with key government officials, internal colleagues, high-level representatives of external organizations including major local, state, and national groups from Major League Baseball to national political parties to obtain information and discuss critical issues.
- Interacted directly with full city leadership as part of Mayor's Senior Leadership Team, strategizing every week with senior managers of every city department.
- Directed the Mayor's outreach and engagement strategy encompassing 700,000+ DC residents and businesses across 8 Wards.
- Managed and planned Mayor's external engagement events from receptions and summits to concerts and sports events, frequently contributing and responding on extended hours, given the demanding, high-profile national nature of the nation's capital events.
- Served as key mayoral advisor, providing perspective and insight on pertinent community issues and concerns to the Mayor.

**Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs / Mayor Muriel Bowser—  
Government of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC / January 2016–July 2018**

- Oversaw operations of the day-to-day activities in the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs, a +100-member diverse team in a collaborative, productive environment that fostered professional growth and development while achieving mayoral goals.
- Directing City-wide outreach and engagement strategy, regularly interfaced with internal departments and units, DC residents, non-profit community organizations, business owners, and corporate executives
- Developed and managed the Mayor's special events and activities.

**Special Assistant, Mayor's Office of Community Affairs / Mayor Muriel Bowser—  
Government of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC / January 2015–December 2015**

- Authoritatively responded to a variety of inquiries received from D.C. government officials, the public, and numerous external organizations including private sector and neighboring city and state governments regarding the purpose and intent of the District government agencies, programs, and services.
- To support mayoral outreach, worked to build positive interactions and strong relationships with community, corporate leaders, and government officials.
- On behalf of the Mayor, conducted discreet communications regarding the disposition, conduct, or resolution of sensitive issues and personal matters regarding confidentiality with an awareness of the long-range objectives.
- Regularly briefed the Mayor on a range of city-related issues: accomplishments, problems and proposed solutions, innovative ideas for improvements, and other similar matters.

**Director of Constituent Services, Office of At-Large DC Councilmember Anita Bonds—  
Government of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC / Feb. 2013–December 2014**

- Managed the Councilmember's outreach and engagement strategy District-wide.

- Managed the Councilmember's Constituent Services Fund including recording and collecting receipts and disbursements, and compliance with applicable federal and local laws.
- Managed office operations that help residents with issues/concerns regarding government service delivery, government programs, neighborhood-related issues, and other quality of life issues.
- Coordinated and met with government departments/agencies, community stakeholders, neighborhood groups, advocacy organizations to obtain information and to address/resolve residents' issues and concerns.
- Developed and managed external community relations activities and develop communications plan for events and oversee their execution.

**Program Manager, Department of Employment Services—Government of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC / May 2009–September 2011**

- Managed quality control for the Year-Round Youth Employment Program serving more than 500 youth.
- Worked with the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), serving more than 21,000 youths.
- Monitored program efficiency for all assigned worksites from public/private/CBO sectors; ensured compliance with all programmatic and District of Columbia requirements, policies, and procedures regarding youth programming, and prepared and presented reports on program activities.
- Conducted mass recruitment and certification events to certify eligible youth for summer and year-round employment and training activities.

**Project Manager, Livable Communities—AARP, Washington, DC / Aug. 2007–Mar 2009**

- Tracked and developed best practices among AARP's 53 state offices and maintained broad knowledge about current trends, emerging issues, policy interventions, and innovations in the Livable Communities field to enhance the effectiveness of program strategy and advocacy.
- Managed and developed relationships with key national partners and influential organizations: National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB), National Association of Realtors (NAR), Easy Living Home, and the National Organization of Minority Architects.
- Developed, monitored, managed, and evaluated ongoing initiatives, including creating program concepts, marketing plans, budgets, events and briefing materials, and reported results to staff, senior managers, and external colleagues.
- Represented AARP at external events and assisted in external communications: developed website content, drafted and delivered public presentations, blogged, tweeted, and communicated through other social media and networks, participated in partner outreach, and wrote articles for publication.

**Assistant Executive Director, Community Action Agency, Department of Health and Human Services—County of Montgomery, Silver Spring, MD / July 2006–August 2007**

- Provided supervisory guidance for 10 staff members and programs under Agency jurisdiction.

- Prepared the agency's annual report and other reports required by federal, state, and local governments.
- Coordinated and managed activities of the Community Action Board (CAB) including researching/preparing testimony, position papers, and correspondence on behalf of Board members.
- Assisted the CAB executive committee with development, planning, and evaluating issues relevant to the indigent and low-income communities.
- Oversaw management and operations of two Department of Health and Human Services facilities: East County Regional Office and Colesville Center.
- Oversaw planning and implementation of community outreach and service strategies at the East County Regional Office to meet the needs of the community.

**Housing and Community Developer III, Department of Housing and Community Development—County of Fairfax, Fairfax, VA / November 2004–July 2006**

- Managed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investments Partnerships federal funds to community nonprofit organizations for program implementation, construction/acquisition/rehabilitation of low- to moderate-income housing and economic development projects. Managed and monitored the County's Economic Development Initiative (EDI) federal grants; funding exceeded \$2.5 million.
- Directed contract administration, planning, and implementation of comprehensive development projects and programs in identified communities and for target populations; prepared related reports; budget of over \$9 million.
- Researched and wrote the County's Five-Year Consolidated and Annual Action Strategic Plans for CDBG, HOME, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), and Housing Opportunities for People with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) programs.

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**EDUCATION**

**Master of Science Degree, Community Development**

Delta State University, Cleveland, MS

**Bachelor of Arts Degree, Political Science**

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, AR

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**PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC INVOLVEMENT**

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.**

Convention Liaison, National Headquarters / 2012–Present

Director of Conventions & Events, Eastern Region / 2013–2017

**StepAfrika!**

Board of Directors / 2019–present

**District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D**

Commissioner 4D01, Chairman / 2009–2011, 2013–2015

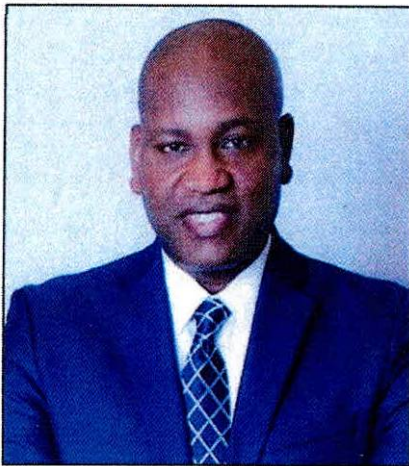
**District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights**

Commissioner / 2009–2011



Executive Office of the Mayor – Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

### Lamont Akins



Lamont Akins is the Senior Manager of Strategic Initiatives and External Engagement at Pepco.

Mr. Akins possesses over 18 years of experience managing multi-million-dollar budgets, sizeable staffs, and public outreach programs.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Akins served as Director in Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Office of Community Affairs. As a key mayoral advisor, Mr. Akins increased resident trust and engagement with the D.C. government and managed 15 constituent and community engagement offices with a \$15 million annual budget. Mr. Akins also served as Director of Constituent Services and Community Outreach for D.C. Councilmember Anita Bonds.

Mr. Akins is a member and National Headquarters Convention Liaison of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and serves on the StepAfrika! Board of Directors.

A Ward 4 resident, Mr. Akins earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and his Master of Science in Community Development from Delta State University.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Tommy Wells, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** June 15, 2023  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Resolution nominating Lamont Akins as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia

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**This is to Certify** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced resolution and found it 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 black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

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Elizabeth A. (Betsy) Cavendish



Executive Office of the Mayor – Mayor’s Office of Talent and Appointments  
John A. Wilson Building | 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20004

**Lamont Akins Council Questionnaire**  
**Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia**

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.
  - a. I have not filed a Financial Disclosure 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.
  - a. I do not have any business entity that does business with the District Government.
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.
  - a. I do not have any business entity or immediate family that does business or received any income for services with the District Government.
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.
  - a. I do not have any business entity or immediate family that does business or received any income for services with the District Government.
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.
  - a. I do not have any business entity or immediate family that does business or received any income for services with the District Government.
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.
  - a. My primary residence at 738 Longfellow St NW, Unit 105, Washington, DC 20011.





7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.
  - a. I do not have any professional or occupational licenses.
8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.
  - a. I am a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE).
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.
  - a. I served on the Commission of Human Rights, 2009 – 2010.
10. Please list any other boards ( e.g., Board of Directors of a non-profit) on which you are currently a member.
  - a. I currently serve on the Board of Directors for StepAfrika.
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.
  - a. I do not have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or local governments.
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 of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia?
  - a. Neither I nor any member of my family has any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly pose a conflict of interest for me in performance of my duties as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia.
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.
  - a. I have served as a campaign volunteer for Mayor Muriel Bowser and Councilmember Brandon Todd. I have given contributions to Mayor Muriel Bowser, Councilmember Brandon Todd, Councilmember Anita Bonds, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, State Board of Education Candidate Rhonda Henderson, Attorney General Candidate Ryan Jones, Councilmember Candidate Phil Thomas, Councilmember Candidate Salah Czapary, Councilmember Candidate Faith Gibson Hubbard, and Councilmember Candidate Monte Monesh.
14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.
  - a. I am not registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby.



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

- a. I have agreed to serve on the Board of Trustees for the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) because I am an alumnus of a Historical Black College and University (HBCU). As a proud graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), I know the importance of HBCU's in our country and the importance that UDC has on the District of Columbia. I would like to contribute to the continuous success of UDC.

My goal is to be a Board member that is actively engaged in board meetings, discussions, and activities, contributing my insights, expertise, and perspectives. I would work collaboratively with other board members, fostering a constructive and inclusive environment that encourages open dialogue and collective decision-making. Also, I act as an advocate for UDC, promoting its mission and values, and contributing to fundraising efforts when necessary.



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COULMBIA**



**Public Roundtable on**

**PR 25-0295, the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of  
Columbia Lamont Akins Confirmation Resolution of 2023”**

**Testimony of**

**Lamont Akins**

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

**JULY 12, 2023**

**11:00 AM**

**The John A. Wilson Building Room 412  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004**

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Committee of the Whole. I am Lamont Akins, and it is my pleasure to receive your consideration for my nomination to serve on the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. I am deeply grateful to Mayor Muriel E. Bowser for nominating me and honored to have this opportunity to serve the residents of our District.

I have been a District resident for 18 years in the Brightwood Park neighborhood of Ward 4. In that time, I have had the pleasure of serving my community as an ANC Commissioner, a member of the DC Human Rights Commission, and a member of the Kennedy Street Revitalization Advisory Board. These opportunities afforded me the experience to engage with my fellow District residents about how to improve and grow our great neighborhoods. I always enjoyed speaking to neighbors on how to revitalize our community; making it a better place that was open to new businesses, new buildings (housing or businesses), and new neighbors.

I currently work with Pepco as a Senior Manager for Strategic Initiatives and External Engagement. In my role at Pepco, I have two key functions. I create and execute awareness campaigns to increase our engagement opportunities in the community and I build awareness of our community activities to external stakeholders. This position affords me the opportunity to engage with residents across all eight wards in the District.

Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to serve in different positions in local government throughout the region. I served as a District Government employee for 10 years in various capacities, including in an agency, in a Councilmember's Office and in the Mayor's Office. In my last role with the District Government, I served as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs. In that role, I created connection opportunities between District residents and the Mayor, I established partnerships with communities, and I worked with community organizations, civic groups, and the ANCs on matters that were important to their communities.

In my spare time, I serve on the Board of Directors for StepAfrika! StepAfrika! is a renowned dance company dedicated to promoting African and African American culture through the art of stepping. By serving on the board, I have the opportunity to contribute to the preservation and

promotion of this important cultural heritage. For the past 5 years, serving on the Board of Directors of StepAfrika! has been a rewarding and impactful experience.

Today I come before the Council for your consideration on my nomination to serve on the Board of Trustees for the University of the District of Columbia. It would be a privilege to serve on the Board of Trustees because I am a proud graduate and product of another historically black college and university (HBCU), the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). Just like UDC, UAPB has a rich history and played a significant role in providing a quality education to underrepresented communities.

As an HBCU graduate, I will bring a unique perspective and experience to the table. Graduating from an HBCU demonstrates my commitment to diversity and inclusion in education. HBCUs have a long-standing tradition of nurturing and supporting minority students, and my presence on the board will bring a valuable perspective on the importance of diverse voices and experiences.

As I matriculated at an HBCU, I was exposed to the challenges and barriers faced by underrepresented communities in accessing higher education. This understanding will contribute to my informed decision-making processes that address the specific needs of minority students and ensure their success.

UDC plays a crucial role in promoting educational equity and opportunity. I gained have firsthand experience from a HBCU that equips me to advocate for the importance of UDC and the unique value UDC brings to higher education. By serving on the board, I can be an advocate for increased support, resources, and recognition for UDC.

As the University of the District continues to move forward under the new leadership of the incoming 10<sup>th</sup> University President, Dr. Maurice Edington, I look forward to working with him to foster a relationship of collaboration. Under Dr. Edington's leadership, I would contribute to the development and improvement of higher education in the District of Columbia. I would advocate for equitable access to quality education, particularly for underrepresented and marginalized communities by working closely with university administrators and fellow board members to help ensure that UDC remains inclusive and affordable. I would actively engage with the community, understand its needs, and contribute to the university's efforts in addressing those needs. This involvement could have a positive impact on the lives of students, faculty, staff, and the

surrounding community. And I would engage with UDC alumni to foster a strong network of support for the university. With this involvement on the board, I can help strengthen alumni relations, encourage financial contributions, and support initiatives that benefit current and future UDC students.

In closing, it would be an honor for me to serve on the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia and to have the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the development of future generations.

Thank you, Chairman Mendelson, for the opportunity to testify before this committee. I would be happy to respond to questions from you and the members of the committee.



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:** August 2, 2023

**RE:** Legal sufficiency determination for the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia Lamont Akins Confirmation Resolution of 2023, PR 25-295.

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The measure is legally and technically sufficient for Council consideration.

The proposed resolution would confirm the appointment of Mr. Lamont Akins as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, established by section 201 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1424; D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01), for a term to end on May 15, 2028.

I am available if you have any questions.

1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**  
2 Committee of the Whole  
3 September 19, 2023  
4  
5  
6

7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

8  
9 25-295

10  
11 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
12  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14  
15

16 To confirm the appointment of Lamont Akins to the Board of Trustees of the University of the  
17 District of Columbia.

18  
19 **RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,** That this  
20 resolution may be cited as the “Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia  
21 Lamont Akins Confirmation Resolution of 2023”.

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

24  
25 Lamont Akins  
26 Longfellow Street, NW  
27 Washington, DC 20011  
28 (Ward 4)  
29

30 as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, established  
31 by section 201 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act,  
32 approved October 26, 1974 (88 Stat. 1424; Pub. L. 93-471; D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.01),  
33 for a term to end May 15, 2028.

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

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