


COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

ROBERT C. WHITE, JR., CHAIR
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman Phil Mendelson
FROM: Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr. 
Chair, Committee on Housing
DATE: November 16, 2023
RE: Requests for November 21, 2023, Legislative Meeting

I request that the following legislation be placed on the agenda for the additional legislative meeting of the Council on November 21, 2023:

Proposed Resolutions

- **PR25-0448, the “Chief Tenant Advocate of the Office of the Tenant Advocate Johanna Shreve Confirmation Resolution of 2023”**

Chairman Mendelson introduced PR25-0448, the “Chief Tenant Advocate of the Office of the Tenant Advocate Johanna Shreve Confirmation Resolution of 2023,” at the request of the Mayor on September 29, 2023, and referred the legislation to the Committee on Housing on October 3, 2023. This resolution would confirm the reappointment of Johanna Shreve for an additional term to end June 3, 2026.

The Chief Tenant Advocate is responsible for the administration and implementation of the duties of the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA). OTA’s mission it is to provide legal and technical advice and other legal services to tenants regarding disputes with landlords; advocate for the rights and interests of District renters in the legislative, regulatory, and judicial contexts; and educate and inform the tenant community of their rights as renters. The Chief Tenant Advocate must be a District resident.

Johanna Shreve is a Ward 4 resident and a long-term champion for tenants in the District. Ms. Shreve began her career with the National Corporation for Housing Partnership in 1978 and has worked at DC Public Housing, the National Association of Home Builders, and her own consulting firm on housing policy. Ms. Shreve founded the Office of the Tenant Advocate as a temporary division within the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs in 2006. She led the Office to become an independent agency in 2007 and has served as the Chief Tenant Advocate since that time. Her experiences with OTA include creating a Tenant Bill of Rights, lease reform, supporting elderly tenants and tenants with disabilities, and safeguarding tenants through the pandemic.

The Mayor has appointed, and the Council has confirmed, Ms. Shreve as Chief Tenant Advocate repeatedly since 2006. Her current term expired on June 3, 2023; she has been serving since that time in a hold-over capacity. The Committee on Housing held a roundtable with this nominee on November 2, 2023, and marked up the confirmation resolution on November 9, 2023. The Committee’s report and attachments, including a legal sufficiency memorandum have been filed and are attached. The OTA has requested prompt Council consideration of this resolution due to the upcoming expiration of Ms. Shreve’s holdover period.

- **PR25-0449, the “Rent Administrator Lauren Pair Confirmation Resolution of 2023”**

Chairman Mendelson introduced PR25-0449, the “Rent Administrator Lauren Pair Confirmation Resolution of 2023” at the request of the Mayor on September 29, 2023, and referred the legislation to the Committee on Housing on October 3, 2023. This resolution would confirm the reappointment of Lauren Pair for an additional term to end June 27, 2026.

The District’s Rent Administrator serves as the head of the Rental Accommodations Division (RAD) within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). RAD is responsible for administering the Rental Housing Act of 1985 and carries out the District’s rent stabilization program, also known as rent control. The Rent Administrator must be a District resident admitted to practice law before the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and must possess skills and expertise relevant to rental housing, preferably in rent stabilization.

Lauren Pair is a 46-year District resident who currently lives in Ward 4 and is admitted to the practice law in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and at the U.S. Supreme Court. Since the beginning of her career, Ms. Pair has demonstrated a commitment to public service and to housing regulation. Before her appointment as Rent Administrator, Ms. Pair served as the Rental Conversion and Sale Administrator at DHCD for 11 years and had a one-year term as the Interim Inclusionary Zoning Program Manager. Her experiences with the agency include investigating claims and disputes, initiating enforcement actions, testifying in front of the Zoning Commission, and engaging with several sister agencies, including the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Tenant Advocate, the Rental Housing Commission, and the D.C. Superior Court.

The Mayor appointed, and the Council confirmed, Ms. Pair as Rent Administrator on June 27, 2017 for a three-year term. Ms. Pair was reappointed for a subsequent three-year term in 2020, which expired on June 27, 2023. She has been serving since that time in a hold-over capacity. Absent Council action, this resolution would be deemed disapproved on January 11, 2024. The Committee on Housing held a roundtable with this nominee on November 2, 2023, and marked up the confirmation resolution on November 9, 2023. The Committee’s report and attachments, including a legal sufficiency memorandum have been filed and are attached.