



December 2, 2022

Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable Phil Mendelson:

I am writing this letter to express my ardent support of Ms. Karima Holmes as the Director of the Office of Unified Communications. Director Holmes is a nationally recognized expert in the field of public safety communications, possessing over 20 years of public safety communications experience. Director Holmes has a B.A. in Criminal Justice and holds a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Homeland Security. She also holds an Emergency Number Professional (ENP) certification from the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and is a Registered Public Safety Leader (RPL) with the Association of Public Safety Communication Officials (APCO). In addition, she participated in the 2019 adjudication of the National Emergency Communications Plan (DHS) and is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security's (CHDS) Executive Leaders Program (2021).

Director Holmes has served on the FirstNet Authority Board where she supported the development and operation of the country's first and only nationwide public safety broadband network dedicated to first responders. Director Holmes chaired the Federal Communications Commission's 911 Fee Diversion Strikeforce subcommittee on the Impacts of 911 Fee Diversion and coauthored the Strikeforce's final report and recommendations on ending the practice of diverting 911 fees for non-911 purposes, which was submitted to Congress. Additionally, Director Holmes serves as the treasurer for the 911der Women Inc. Board, a nonprofit created to ensure that women are empowered to contribute significantly to the public safety industry and overcome roadblocks in pursuit of their goals.

In addition to her impeccable credentials and highly respected experience and background, Director Holmes has proven to be a selfless public servant who served with me on the public safety team that ensured public safety during two presidential inaugurations, the Women's March on Washington, response to the unrest that occurred in the city following the murder of George Floyd, a Washington Capitals World Championship, a Washington Nationals World Championship, a Major League Baseball All Star Game, and numerous other nationally recognized events that occurred in Washington, D.C. Director Holmes personally ensured that our first responders had a resilient and reliable communications system which was absolutely necessary to the operational success of these events. Just as importantly, she was always personally available to the other public safety agencies and her team.

I was honored to be able to work with Director Holmes and consider her to be in the top echelon of public safety communication directors in the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Newsham".

Peter Newsham  
Chief of Police