

5 December 2022

The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Council of the District of Columbia,

Tomorrow, Tuesday, 6 December 2022, the Council of the District of Columbia is scheduled to consider the nomination of Ms. Karima Holmes to serve as Director, Office of Unified Communications (OUC) via a disapproval resolution. Ms. Holmes currently serves as Acting Director. As a resident of Ward 5 and as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner – ANC5E08, I urge the Council to approve the nomination resolution of Ms. Holmes as permanent Director. For the record, I note Ms. Holmes and I attend the same church.

While I am familiar with the DC Auditor's report concerning the OUC's operations and certain statements from a high profile media public safety advocate, it is my view Director Holmes' stewardship is being unfairly tainted. Moreover, I feel Director Holmes and the public have not been afforded the customary public hearing on her nomination. There is not a direct public testimony record on bill PR 24-924. Ironically, there is not a public notice nor a legislative bill of disapproval which has been introduced to disapprove the nomination of Director Holmes. Accordingly, any claims the public has spoken on PR 24-924, the nomination of Director Holmes cannot be sustained as credible. Director Holmes deserved a hearing in her own right for her own nomination. If the Council's nomination process is to be fair, open, transparent, equitable, and "progressive", the public should have an opportunity to address Director Holmes' nomination directly and specifically.

It also concerns me, the legislative public notice announcing the proposed Council action/vote does not clearly state the action is a vote of disapproval. Additionally, the legislative public notice cites Rule 429(6) as governing. However, this specific Council Rule does not exist as its proper authority. I would request a determination for its legal sufficiency, to include appropriate and timely public notice.

## **VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Request pursuant to Rule 429(6) to consider PR 24-924  
Director of the Office of Unified Communications Karima  
Holmes Confirmation Resolution of 2022

**Councilmember Allen**

Director of the Office of Unified Communications Karima  
Holmes Confirmation Resolution of 2022  
[\(PR 24-924\)](#)

**Committee on Judiciary and  
Public Safety  
Chairperson Allen**

#### 429. NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS.

Except as provided in these Rules, a Councilmember shall file a notice of intent by noon on the third business day before a legislative meeting, to make any of the following motions:

- (1) A motion to reconsider a measure that was considered at a prior legislative meeting;
- (2) A motion to take from the table a measure that was laid on the table at a prior legislative meeting;
- (3) A motion to discharge;
- (4) A point of personal privilege; or
- (5) Any other motion that brings new business before the Council.

Chairman Mendelson, members of the Council, I will take a back seat to no one in demanding excellence in government service for citizens of the District of Columbia. I acknowledge there are significant operational improvements needed at the District's OUC. And those needed improvements must prove themselves at the earliest.

This present proposed consideration of a resolution of disapproval is an not example of bold leadership designed to advance the public good. This is an effort of political appeasement not in the public's interest. This backdoor vote is disrespectful to Director Holmes and should be exposed and opposed because it is unfair and intellectually dishonest. Those who seek to oppose or support the nomination of Director Holmes are free to express their disapproval or approval in an direct public forum. Director Holmes deserves better, the public expects better, and the Council of the District of Columbia can do better.

I believe Director Holmes, *Karima*, is capable of accomplishing OUC's mission and serving the people of the District of Columbia.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Robert Vinson Brannum - 5E08