

# OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY 2016 APR 26 AMII: 14

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

APR 26 2016

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 (2014 suppl.)), and pursuant to section 4(a) of the Food Policy Council and Director Establishment Act of 2014, effective March 10, 2015 (D.C. Law 20-191; D.C. Official Code § 48-313), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

Ms. Alexandra Ashbrook 2925 39<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20016 (Ward 3)

for appointment as a voting member of the Food Policy Council("Council"), for a term to end March 1, 2017;

Mr. Christopher Bradshaw 1436 W Street, NW Apartment 103 Washington, DC 20009 (Ward 1)

for appointment as a voting member of the Council for a term to end March 1, 2017;

Mr. Eric Kessler 3775 Oliver Street, NW Washington, DC 20015 (Ward 3) for appointment as a voting member of the Council for a term to end March 1, 2017;

Mr. Caesar Layton 1425 Euclid St. NW Apt. 12 Washington, DC 20009 (Ward 1)

for appointment as a voting member of the Council for a term to end March 1, 2017;

Mr. Alexander Moore 425 Second Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 (Ward 6)

for appointment as a voting member of the Council, for a term to end March 1, 2018;

Ms. Paula Reichel 4900 Puerto Rico Ave, NE Washington, DC 20017 (Ward 6)

for appointment as a voting member of the Council, for a term to end March 1, 2018;

Ms. Joelle Robinson 3353 Alden Pl, NE Washington, DC 200019 (Ward 7)

for appointment as a voting member of the Council, and to serve for a term to end March 1, 2018;

Ms. Tambra Raye Stevenson 2609 Douglass Rd. SE Apt. 302 Washington, DC 200020 (Ward 8)

for appointment as a voting member of the Council, and to serve for a term to end March 1, 2017.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the abovementioned nominees, together with proposed resolutions 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

Chairman Phil Mendelson at the request of the Mayor A PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on To confirm the appointment of Mr. Eric Kessler as a member of the Food Policy Council. RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Food Policy Council Eric Kessler Confirmation Resolution of 2016". Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the appointment of: Mr. Eric Kessler 3775 Oliver Street, NW Washington, DC 20015 (Ward 3) as a voting member, in accordance with section 4(a) of the Food Policy Council and Director Establishment Act of 2014, effective March 10, 2015 (D.C. Law 20-191; D.C. Official Code § 48-313), and pursuant to section 2 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), for a term to end March 1, 2017. Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, each to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor. Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately. 

### ERIC J. KESSLER

3775 Oliver Street NW | Washington, DC 2015 | 202-460-4257 | eric@arabellaadvisors.com

#### **EXPERIENCE**

# ARABELLA PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT ADVISORS Founder, Head of Good Food Practice

Washington, DC 2005

- Founded firm and built start-up client base of private family foundations coast-to-coast, institutional
  donors including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
  and corporate clients including the Motley Fool and Microsoft.
- Provides commentary on effective philanthropy for National Public Radio, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Business Week online and other leading media.
- Speaks before major donor and investor audiences organized by private wealth management firms, family business consultant networks and industry leaders
- Leads the firm's Good Food practice, providing grant making strategy and investment services to a wide range of institutional

# NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS Senior Program Manager, Middle East Region

**Washington, DC** 2001-2005

- Directed the Congress of Democrats from the Islamic World, a first-of-its kind gathering of senior reformminded political leaders from 13 nations in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.
- Oversaw program design and operations in Kuwait, Bahrain, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.
- Program accomplishments included advising on successful strategy to secure universal suffrage in Kuwait, negotiating a multi-party resolution during election conflict in Yemen and serving as the international liaison to the Israeli Defense Forces during the 2005 Palestinian Presidential Elections on behalf of President Jimmy Carter, Prime Minister Carl Bildt and the international election monitoring community.

#### Resident Country Director, Cambodia

2000-2001

- Reinvigorated lapsed country program, securing \$1.5 million resource base, building strategic partnerships and managing landmark democracy promotion programs.
- Program accomplishments included training programs for political parties and civic advocacy campaigns
  and designing first-ever nonviolent electoral candidate debates heralded by the diplomatic community as
  one of the major democratic achievements since the fall of the Khmer Rouge.

#### Resident Country Director, Kazakhstan

1999-2000

 Opened and managed country office, designing the region's largest domestic election monitoring strategy and advising the country's first-ever public citizen advocacy campaign.

# THE PRESIDENTIAL ADMINSTRATION OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON Senior Political Aide, US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Washington, DC** 1998-1999

Served at the pleasure of the President, overseeing staff of 8,000 career biologists on sensitive regulations
including the management of federal wildlife refuges, the implementation of the Endangered Species Act and
numerous international treaties and negotiations.

#### Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior

1996-1998

- Served as traveling staff and scheduler for the Secretary.
- Negotiated complex on-the-ground relationships with department employees, external stakeholders and intergovernmental agencies as the Secretary sought to build support for critical policy initiatives and regulatory mandates.\

LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS & THE LCV EDUCATION FUND National Field Director

**Washington, DC** 1993-1996

- Designed groundbreaking voter profile project for the conservation community, building the first national database of pro-environment voters.
- Built the 501(c)3 arm of this organization to a multi-million dollar operation, opening it's first field offices and
  creating partnerships with existing and newly-created state organizations.

#### **EDUCATION**

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY Washington, DC

Master of Business Administration

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO Boulder, CO Bachelor of Arts, Geography

### **ADDITIONAL INVOLVEMENTS:**

Trustee, James Beard Foundation Trustee, Relations Foundation Founder, Chef Action Network Investor, numerous food system businesses

### **LANGUAGES**

English, Spanish, Russian, Kazakh, Khmer



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

## Eric Kessler



Eric Kessler is the founder of Arabella Philanthropic Investment Advisors and acts as Head of Good Food Practice.

Mr. Kessler is focuses his energy on advising clients who are working to improve our food system through policies and business investments that promote nutritious, sustainable, and affordable food. He chairs the committee at the James Beard Foundation that oversees efforts to engage the culinary community in advocacy on food policy, and he created the foundation's Chefs Boot Camp for Policy and Change. Mr. Kessler also co-founded the Chef Action Network and has a personal private equity portfolio invested in businesses at the forefront of improving our food system.

A Ward 3 resident, Mr. Kessler received his Master's in Business Administration from Georgetown University.

### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser** 



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To:

Lolita Alston, Steve Walker

From:

Betsy Cavendish April 15, 2016

Elijabett A. Cavendish

Date: Subject:

Legal sufficiency resolutions appointing Food Policy Council members:

Ashbrook, Bradshaw, Kessler, Layton, Moore, Reichel, Robinson, and Stevenson

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY** that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislative packet and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Rob Hawkins, Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor, at 202-724-1303, or me at 202-724-7681.

Elizabeth Cavendish