



OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
2016 SEP 20 PM 4:46

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR
SEP 20 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 24-1302; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01), section 3 of the Office on ex-Offender Affairs and Commission on Re-Entry and Ex-Offender Affairs Establishment Act of 2006, effective March 8, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-243; D.C. Official Code § 24-1302), which established the Office of Returning Citizen Affairs, and Mayor's Order 2012-31, which re-designated the Office on Ex-Offender Affairs as the Office on Returning Citizen Affairs, I am pleased to nominate the following person:

Mr. Brian Ferguson
1323 Hemlock Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012
(Ward 4)

for appointment as Director to the Commission on Re-Entry and Returning Citizens Affairs, to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Enclosed, you will find biographical information and a 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser".

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. Brian Ferguson as Director of the Office of Returning
Citizens Affairs.

RESOLVED, BY COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution
may be cited as the "Director of the Office of Returning Citizens Affairs Brian Ferguson
Confirmation Resolution of 2016".

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

Mr. Brian Ferguson
1323 Hemlock Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012
(Ward 4)

as Director of the Office of Returning Citizens Affairs, established by section 3 of the Office on
ex-Offender Affairs and Commission on Re-Entry and Ex-Offender Affairs Establishment Act of
2006, effective March 8, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-243; D.C. Official Code § 24-1302), 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), to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

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.

Brian B. Ferguson

EXPERIENCE

****Voices for a Second Chance***

September 2015- Present

Founded in 1969, Voices for a Second Chance (VSC) is a non-profit organization that bridges the gap from incarceration to community for tens of thousands of men and women in the DC area.

- Elected to VSC's Board of Directors

****DC Office of Human Rights***

January 2015- Present

DC Office of Human Rights enforces Civil Rights laws in DC for those who live in, work in, and/or visit, the District of Columbia.

- Human Rights Officer/ Investigator; whose responsibilities include:
 - Investigating and Processing all Fair Criminal Record Screening Amendment Act (FCRSA) Charges filed with DCOHR;
 - Organizing and Conducting the Outreach events to educate the public (including Retuning Citizens and DC Employers) about the rights and responsibilities created by FCRSA ("Ban the Box");
 - > Trainings and Speaking Engagements include: Bread for the City, Hope Village, Project Empowerment (DOES), Hazelton Prison (WV), Coffeewood Correctional Center (VA), Human Rights Liaison and Small Business Group Conferences, SOME (So Others Might Eat), etc.
 - Creating and maintaining the information for DCOHR about the efficacy and numbers associated with FCRSA for the Mayor's office and DC City Council;
 - Investigating general Employment Discrimination Claims in DC;

****Startline***

November 2014- Present

Startline is a non-profit online platform that assists returning citizens with identifying and locating all available resources and services in their areas, in order to create the best possible opportunities and network for all those seeking successful reentry into society .

- Founder/ CEO

****Impact HUB DC***

June 2014- January 2015

Impact Hub DC provides space and a supportive community for people working on solutions to our social and environmental challenges.

- Advise Impact HUB DC co-founders on developing outreach strategies to engage reentering citizens a part of their membership;
- Provide strategic direction and insight to Impact HUB DC co-founder team as they developed partnerships and launch DC Hackathon Nov. 7 focused on applying technological solutions and apps to prison reentry challenges;
- Applied for and awarded Halloran Foundation grant for \$25,000 to research reentry gaps and build solutions.

****Interfaith Works, Community Vision Dec 2013-June 2014***

Silver Spring, MD

Interfaith Works is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency and a non-sectarian interfaith coalition of more than 165 affiliated congregations of diverse faiths, working together to meet the needs of the poor and homeless in Montgomery County, Maryland.

- Volunteered at Homeless Resource Center;
- Led initial client contact, helping homeless clients navigate computer skills training and job search websites.

****Mount Olive Correctional Complex 2002-2013***

Mt. Olive, WV

Prior to having my wrongful conviction overturned and being released after 11 years, I was incarcerated at this West Virginia prison. While there, I:

- Individually tutored over 20 inmates until they obtained their GEDs and while they pursued college degrees;
- Served for 10 years as a Teacher's Assistant to full classes of inmates seeking GEDs
- Worked for 8 years in the Mentorship Program as a mentor for younger inmates
- Participated for 8 years as a speaker in the prison's troubled youth outreach program
- Worked for 5 years in the prison Law Library assisting inmates with understanding and applying relevant case-law to their cases;
- Served for 10 years a Legal Representative to prisoners facing disciplinary action in the facility's Magistrate Court;
- Co-founded and served on a 5 person inmate rights board, which negotiated with the prison administration, and whose sole purpose was to ensure that all fundamental rights of the prison population were observed pursuant to the law;
- Organized and led a successful letter-writing and civil disobedience campaign in which inmates refused to report to their jobs in a successful effort to overturn a policy banning the receipt of books in the facility.

****Arnold & Porter, LLC 2000-2002***

Washington, DC

Arnold & Porter LLP is a law firm focusing on the intersection of business, law, and public policy with nearly 800 lawyers working in nine offices across the US and Europe.

- Interned for this prestigious law firm every summer and winter as a Legal Assistant performing research assignments, crafting summary reports, and motion filings for partners and Case Teams.

****Potomac Electric Power Company (PEPCO) Summers 1998-1999 Washington, DC***

Pepco, a subsidiary of Pepco Holdings, Inc., delivers electric service to more than 800,000 customers throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia.

- Interned for Director of Public Affairs;
- Conducted forums and gave speeches to elementary and junior high school students at schools and community centers;
- Assisted in organizing the Director's outreach schedule.

EDUCATION

West Virginia State University (all available classes) 2003-2013 Mt. Olive Correctional Complex

West Virginia University

Summer 2000- 2002... Morgantown, WV

Major: Political Science (Law Track)

GPA: 4.0

Coursework: Included...

- Philosophy of Law
- International Law
- Advanced Composition & Rhetoric
- Interpersonal Communication 1-4
- Law & the Legal System

Achievements

- Featured in 2015 Article in Entrepreneur Magazine (September 2015 Issue; “Laser-Focused Launch Pads”)
- Featured in 2015 Article in Next City Magazine <http://nextcity.org/daily/entry/crowdsourcing-angels-list-life-after-prison-jobs-housing>
- Featured in 2015 Article in Entrepreneur.com Online Magazine <http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/243164>
- Featured in 2015 Article in Tehnical.ly Online Magazine <https://technical.ly/dc/2015/03/31/brian-ferguson-start-line-yelp-returning-citizens/>
- Featured on 2015 Episode of CUNY TV, Interview with Brian Lehrer <http://www.cuny.tv/show/brianlehrer/PR2003849>
- Winner of the 2015 Village Capital FinTech (Financial Technology) Forum Pitchfest, Oakland, CA Entrepreneur-Choice Award and Audience Award (Re: Startline)
- Winner of the 2015 Village Capital FinTech (Financial Technology) Forum Pitchfest, New York, NY Venture Capitalists Choice Award (Re: Startline)
- 2014 Halcyon Foundation Fellowship Awardee (for Program Assisting Returning Citizens Identify and Locate Available Resources and Services).
- 2014 Recipient of a Halloran Foundation Grant (for Work with Returning Citizens in DC)
- (WVU) President’s award for 4.0 GPA, Fall 2000- Spring 2001
- (WVU) Eberly College, Arts & Sciences Certificate of Achievement for Academic Excellence, 2002
- (WVU) Inducted into the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, 2001
- (WVU) Inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 2002
- (WVU) Mary McLeod Bethune Awards for top 10 GPA in 2000 and 2001.



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

Brian Ferguson



Brian Ferguson recently served as a Human Rights Officer/Investigator within the DC Office of Human Rights, where he led public outreach in accordance with the District's new Fair Criminal Record Screening Amendment Act and investigated general employment discrimination claims.

Mr. Ferguson's personal experience has given him firsthand knowledge of the importance of engaging the returning citizen community. While attending West Virginia University as an undergraduate, Mr. Ferguson's law school plans were derailed when he was wrongfully convicted of a homicide and sentenced to life in prison. His conviction was eventually overturned, and he was released. He returned home driven by a new purpose of service to the community and has received a number of awards and features that highlight his commitment and work to the successful reentry of returning citizens.

Mr. Ferguson strives to create meaningful opportunities and networks for all returning citizens seeking successful reentry into society through community engagement. In 2014, he founded Startline, a non-profit online platform that is designed to assist returning citizens with identifying and locating available resources and services in the areas where they reside. In 2015, Mr. Ferguson was elected to the Board of Directors for Voices for a Second Chance, an organization that seeks to bridge the gap between incarceration and the community.

A Ward 4 Resident, Brian Ferguson attended West Virginia University majoring in Political Science.



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



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Lauren C. Vaughan; Steven Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: September 6, 2016
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Mayor's Order appointing Brian Ferguson as Director, Office of Returning Citizen Affairs

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced mayor's order and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call Alana Intrieri, Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor, at 202-724-1303, or me at 202-724-7681.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'.

Elizabeth Cavendish