



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

DEC 17 775

The Honorable Phil Mendelson Chairman Council of the District of Columbia John A. Wilson Building 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., 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, and pursuant to D.C. Official Code §47-2853.06(g), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

Ms. Kiara Pesante Haughton 834 Xenia Street SE Washington, DC 20032 (Ward 8)

for appointment as a consumer member of the Board of Real Estate Appraisers, replacing Marguerite Allen, for a term to end June 26, 2020, and for a new term to end June 26, 2023.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing Ms. Pesante Haughton's experience, 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,

Chairman Phil Mendelson

at the request of the Mayor

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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 Ms. Kiara Pesante Haughton to the Board of Real Estate Appraisers.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Board of Real Estate Appraisers Kiara Pesante Haughton Confirmation Resolution of 2019".

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

Ms. Kiara Pesante Haughton 834 Xenia Street, SE Washington, DC 20032 (Ward 8)

- as a consumer member of the Board of Real Estate Appraisers, pursuant to D.C. Official Code §
- 32 47-2853.06(g), replacing Marguerite Allen, for a term to end June 26, 2020, and for a new term
- 33 to end June 26, 2023.
- 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.

### KIARA PESANTE HAUGHTON

#### RECENT EXPERIENCE

## Civil Rights Corps – Washington, D.C.

December 2017 - present

#### Communications Director

- Senior communications and brand strategist for this young civil rights organization, tasked with designing the Communications Department as the inaugural leader of a new team;
- Leads communications campaigns around ground-breaking litigation to #endmoneybail and pretrial detention systems across the country, hold prosecutors accountable for misconduct, strengthen the indigent defense system, and stop the criminalization of poverty;
- Recruits, supervises, evaluates and develops a small team of communicators;
- Secures and manages multiple contractors, including a list-building and distribution service, a social justice-focused public relations firm, a web developer, and a graphic designer, among others;
- Creates programming and partnerships with institutions, brands and influencers to amplify CRC's reach and highlight the nexus between art, culture and the American legal system;
- Assists the CEO and Executive Director with reporting on program impact for stakeholders, including the board and funders;
- Has earned approximately 25 million online impressions through pitched articles and op-ed placement; and
- Reset organizational relationships with regional and state-based grassroots partners to support community outreach, public education, media strategy and special events around our practice areas.

### U.S. House of Representatives - Washington, D.C.

February 2015 – December 2017

### Committee on Education and the Workforce; Communications Director

- Served as the top spokesperson and communications strategist for the 17 Democrats on the committee, working with the Ranking Member on reputation management and executive visibility to the Capitol Hill press corps and national media;
- Recruited, supervises, evaluates and develops a team of four communicators;
- Orchestrated media relations, issue advocacy, social media and digital strategy, materials production, and public engagement plans around policy that creates opportunity for all Americans, including efforts to expand Pre-K, increasing equity in education, reforming the juvenile justice system, increasing access to Pell Grants, tackling student loan debt, enforcing and strengthening civil rights laws, protecting workers, strengthening access to affordable health care and more;
- Advanced communications strategy around The Working Families Agenda by leading coordination with key national stakeholders, unions, and grassroots leaders on child care, paid sick and family leave, minimum wage, equal pay and more;
- Advanced communications strategy around the passage and implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act by leading messaging coordination with Congressional offices, key school leadership stakeholders, teachers unions, and more;
- Oversaw the budget and redesign for democrats-edworkforce.house.gov, and approves content on all site pages; and
- Executed committee hearing and issue offensive strategy, including over 100 press conferences and events, 25 media roundtables and over 200 interviews in the 114th and 115th Congresses through curated reporter and blogger relationships.

### Democratic National Committee – Washington, D.C.

July 2013 – January 2015

### Southern Regional Press Secretary and National Director of African American Media

- An official spokesperson for the DNC to national and state-based outlets, including placements in The New York Times, USA Today, Ebony, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Tampa Bay Times, The New Orleans Times-Picayune and more;
- Served as the DNC's media point-of-contact on the 2014 voter protection and expansion program;
- Partnered with state Democratic parties to lead the Party's messaging and traditional and social media outreach in 11 states;
- Directly advised over 40 senatorial, congressional, gubernatorial, and legislative candidates and campaigns on general market media strategy and outreach to African American communities;
- Advanced and managed several high-security major principal media and rally events in Georgia and Florida with Vice President Joe Biden, First Lady Michelle Obama, and President Bill Clinton;
- Managed teams ranging in size from 2 to 10 for on-site bracketing operations throughout Southern states;
- Provided state party officials with media training, talking points, op-eds, videos, graphics, and other tools around key issues;
- Worked with nationally syndicated radio, TV, news sites, and dailies that target African American audiences to generate over 300 stories on Democratic candidates, Administration accomplishments, and policy positions during the 2014 cycle.

### KIARA PESANTE HAUGHTON

#### District of Columbia Government - Washington, D.C.

September 2011 – June 2013

#### Councilmember Mary M. Cheh (Chair Pro Tempore); Communications Director

- Managed and directed all public engagement activities for the Councilmember and the Committee on Transportation and the Environment as the only official spokesperson and one of three senior advisers;
- Spoke on-the-record for wires, major local and national dailies, digital outlets, national cable and DMA no. 8 television network affiliates on policy, legislative procedure, and programming, including *The Washington Post, Washington Business Journal*, U.S. News & World Report, WTTG-TV, WJLA-TV, WUSA-TV, and CNN;
- Planned, coordinated, and executed press conferences, media salons, special events, community festivities, and parades;
- Advanced 12-month communications strategy and awareness campaign to support the Healthy Schools Act, the national model for public and charter schools' efforts to increase the use of fresh produce in all student meals;
- Created and directed an 8-month communications plan to support the passage and enactment of historic taxicab regulatory reform and modernization legislation; and
- Strategically guided the entire Council through a legislative and media reputation crisis following the resignation of the Chairman and federal investigation of senior officials in the executive branch.

# Edelman Public Relations – Washington, D.C. Multicultural Practice

July 2011 - September 2011

- Identified African American and Latino-targeted media opportunities for primary accounts, including the world's largest retailer and other Fortune 500 companies;
- Prepared roll out and media event advance materials for major nationwide campaign to address food deserts, including three briefing memos for senior executives, five press releases and more than 20 fact sheets for local community and ally groups;
- Advised a client account on crisis management following a racially-insensitive advertisement decision;
- Completed digital reputation management through online news and social network monitoring of more than 25 accounts; and
- Worked directly with Senior Vice President and team daily to develop messaging strategy for clients.

### United States Congress – Washington, D.C.

December 2010 - June 2011

### Congressional Black Caucus; Press Assistant

- Coordinated with press secretaries and national multiplatform media to arrange interviews and press conferences for 42 Members;
- Led the digital rebranding of the CBC by establishing the Caucus' social media presence and serving as content manager for those channels and thecongressionalblackcaucus.com.
- Created the official Twitter account for the Caucus and gained over 800 authentic followers within three weeks; and
- Increased Facebook fans (now 'likes') by 2,000 within first month through daily engagement.

### U.S. House of Representatives – Washington, D.C.

October 2009 - April 2010

#### The Office of Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton; Press Aide

- Produced and managed content for all of the Congresswoman's official social media channels;
- Wrote speeches, tracked daily coverage and worked directly with Capitol Hill press corps on corrections and background information.

**EDUCATION** 

Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.

Master's in Public Administration, May 2011

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism, May 2009

**TRAINING** 

Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

The Women's Campaign School, 2012

LANGUAGE & DIGITAL SKILLS

- Spanish proficient written and spoken translation ability; AP Style writing and editing; Mac and PC;
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, Canva, basic HTML, WordPress and Amend CMS.



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

### **Kiara Pesante Haughton**



Kiara Pesante Haughton is a political communications and public relations strategist, public speaker, and event manager with nearly a decade of experience specializing in messaging to targeted constituencies, influence campaigns, brand development, and special event design and execution.

Ms. Pesante Haughton recently joined the innovative non-profit Civil Rights Corps as its first-ever Director of Communications. She is leading the organization's branding, public engagement and strategic partnerships around its groundbreaking litigation to dismantle money bail systems, hold prosecutors accountable, and end the criminalization of poverty through exorbitant fines and fees.

Previously, she was the Communications Director for the Democrats on the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and the Workforce, where she was one of the youngest senior staffers in the chamber's Democratic leadership. While there, she led the Democratic Caucus' communications strategy around the Working Families Agenda and the passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act, while also promoting policies to close the achievement gaps in PK-12 education, reform school discipline practices, modernize the juvenile justice system, expand access to Pell Grants and make college more affordable, raise the minimum wage, provide paid sick and family leave for all workers, and more. She was also part of the battleground states press operation for the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Before that, Pesante Haughton served as the Southern Regional Press Secretary and National Director of African American Media for the Democratic National Committee during the 2014 election cycle. While there, she led the party's media outreach and messaging efforts in 11 Southern states and in diverse communities across the nation, working with state parties and more than 40 campaigns and embedding in three on-the-ground.

Ms. Pesante Haughton was a battleground states radio and TV booker for the 2012 Democratic National Convention, and was previously Communications Director for D.C. Councilmember Mary Cheh and the District's Committee on Transportation and the Environment. While there, Ms. Pesante Haughton played an integral role in the expansion of Uber, Lyft, Car2Go, the Circulator east of the river, and other innovations to the city and regional transportation network. She has also served in various roles with Edelman Public Relations, the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute and WSB-TV in Atlanta.

A Ward 8 resident, Ms. Pesante Haughton earned her bachelor's degree in Journalism from Auburn University and a Master's in Public Administration from Howard University, where she was a Trustee Scholar. She lives with her husband and baby girl.



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



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To:

Gianelle Rivera, Steve Walker

From:

Betsy Cavendish

Date:

November 23, 2019

Subject:

Legal sufficiency review of Resolutions nominating Kiara Pesante Haughton,

Margot Wilson, Tamora Papas, and Todd Canterbury as members of the Board of

Real Estate Appraisers

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This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation and found it to be legally unobjectionable. If you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to call me at 202-724-7681.

Elizabeth Cavendish