



MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

October 7, 2021

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:

Pursuant to section 102(b) of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services Establishment Act of 2004, effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-335; D.C. Official Code § 2-1515.02(b)), and in accordance with section 2(a) of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code § 1-523.01(a)), I am pleased to nominate the following person:

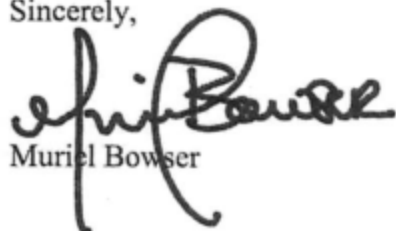
Ms. Hilary Cairns  
Idaho Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
(Ward 3)

for appointment as Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Enclosed you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with 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,

  
Muriel Bowser

  
Chairman Phil Mendelson  
at the request of the Mayor

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6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION  
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9 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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16 To confirm the Mayoral appointment of Ms. Hilary Cairns as Director of the Department of  
17 Youth Rehabilitation Services.

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19 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
20 resolution may be cited as the "Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services  
21 Hilary Cairns Resolution of 2021".

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

24  
25 Ms. Hilary Cairns  
26 Idaho Avenue, NW  
27 Washington, DC 20016  
28 (Ward 3)  
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31 as Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, in accordance with section 2(a)  
32 of the Confirmation Act of 1978, effective March 3, 1979 (D.C. Law 2-142; D.C. Official Code  
33 § 1-523.01) and in accordance with section 102(b) of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation  
34 Services Establishment Act of 2004, effective April 12, 2005 (D.C. Law 15-335; D.C. Official  
35 Code § 2-1515.02(b)), to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

36 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit a copy of this resolution,  
37 upon its adoption, to the nominee and to the Office of the Mayor.

38 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.



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

### Hilary Cairns



Hilary Cairns is the Acting Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. Prior to being appointed to this role by Mayor Bowser, Ms. Cairns served as the Deputy Administrator of the Youth Services Division for the District of Columbia's Department of Human Services (DHS). There, she oversaw all of DHS's youth programs, including ACE, PASS, STEP, TPAP—prevention and intervention initiatives to decrease juvenile justice and child welfare involvement—and DHS' efforts to prevent and reduce youth homelessness. Ms. Cairns has dedicated her career to public service specifically related to Washington, DC, where she has lived for the past 28 years.

Immediately prior to joining DHS in 2010, Ms. Cairns was a parent's attorney and a Guardian ad Litem in child abuse and neglect cases. Ms. Cairns also created the now long-standing Mayor's Capital City Fellows Program that attracts young professionals to work for the city. Ms. Cairns serves as president of the board of Run Hope Work, a program for DC youth ages 18-24 that combines physical activity, mindfulness, and job training.

A Ward 3 resident, Ms. Cairns holds a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center, a master's in public policy from Georgetown Public Policy Institute, and a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College.



## HILARY CAIRNS



### WORK EXPERIENCE: WASHINGTON, DC

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES • DC GOVERNMENT • PROGRAM MANAGER • 2010-2015 • DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR • 2015-PRESENT**

Established a system of services and supports for DC's youth and families, starting with building a single program of 5 staff and a \$570,000 budget in 2010 to today's multi-program Youth Services Division (YSD) of 92 staff, a network of community-based providers, and a budget of more than \$28 million. The system includes early intervention programs to divert youth and young parents from juvenile justice and child welfare involvement, reengage young people in school and community-building, support family well-being, and assist youth and young adults at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

- Created the **Parent and Adolescent Support Services (PASS) Program**, DC's early intervention and prevention program available to youth with behavioral challenges including truancy and running away, and families in need of stabilization services
- Established the **Alternatives to the Court Experience (ACE) Diversion Program**, DC's sole juvenile justice diversion program, a model inter-agency initiative that provides services and supports to youth referred by DC's juvenile justice entities in place of court involvement
- Developed the **Strengthening Teens Enriching Parents (STEP) Program**, DC's response to the uptick in young people being reported missing to police, offering case management and services to youth and families to address the reasons young people run away from home
- Implemented an **innovative in-house system of supports** for youth and families in YSD programs, including spearheading DC's only evidence-based Functional Family Therapy (FFT) team, a crisis intervention team, and specialized youth and parent groups
- Oversaw DC's work to **prevent and reduce youth homelessness**, including annually implementing more than \$18 million in grants to community-based providers for street outreach, youth drop-in centers, and housing programs; and, partnering on inter-agency efforts to coordinate intake and assessment for young people up to age 24 in need of support
- Earned a **Cafritz** individual finalist award in 2015 and Cafritz team award for ACE in 2016; supported DC's work that in 2021 earned the highest score in the country on the **State Index on Youth Homelessness** for efforts to prevent and end youth homelessness

**DC COUNSEL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT • ATTORNEY • 2006-2010**

Served as court-appointed Guardian *ad Litem* and attorney for parents and caretakers involved in child abuse and neglect cases; worked with the Child and Family Services Agency, juvenile justice entities, contract agencies, drug treatment programs, housing programs, and schools, among others, to support and advocate for children and parents as they worked toward reunification or alternate permanency goals such as adoption and guardianship.

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL • DC GOVERNMENT • PROGRAM MANAGER • 2000-2001**

Created the now long-standing Mayor's Capital City Fellows Program (CCFP), an initiative to attract recent graduates of master's degree programs to work for the city; developed and implemented all aspects of the program, from recruitment and selection to placement and evaluation; worked with city agencies to establish professional development programs for the CCFP Fellows; prepared reports for the Mayor and the Director of the Office of Personnel regarding programmatic issues such as budgeting and performance management; earned performance-based bonus.

**OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR • DC GOVERNMENT • SPECIAL ASSISTANT • 1999**

Served as the City Administrator's special assistant in charge of office management, staff recruitment, and internal performance management; worked with the Mayor's office to develop and implement the City Administrator's budget; prepared testimony for City Council appearances by the City Administrator and the Mayor; supervised the administrative staff.

**OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT • DC GOVERNMENT • SPECIAL ASSISTANT • 1998-1999**

Prepared testimony for the OGM Director's appearances in front of City Council; developed and implemented the Office's budget; authored the Grants Manual for the District Government.

**GEORGETOWN PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE • FELLOW • 1996-1998**

Prepared policy briefing papers for DC community, business and governmental leaders on topics including governmental reform, fiscal policy, and municipal management; authored policy paper "Washington, DC in Transition: Reinventing the Nation's Capital" published in April of 1997; made presentation to the Control Board on foreign capitals and co-authored *Washington Post* "Outlook" section article.

**EDUCATION**

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER • WASHINGTON, DC**  
J.D., 2004; licensed to practice law in DC.

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY • GEORGETOWN PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE • WASHINGTON, DC**  
M.P.P., 1998; academic scholarship recipient; ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in class; awarded the National Academy of Public Administration's Herbert Roback Scholarship for commitment to public service; solicited and received grants to conduct research analyzing why people bought homes in DC and completed master's thesis based on the study.

**WELLESLEY COLLEGE • WELLESLEY, MA**

B.A. in American Studies, 1993; *Phi Beta Kappa*; awarded Ralph H. Bollard Prize in American History; House President; profiled on CNBC TV's "College Guide: 1992-93."

**WILLIAMS COLLEGE • WILLIAMSTOWN, MA**

Dean's List; Track and Field All-American; Varsity tennis.

**LEADERSHIP AND NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE**

- Board Member and President, Run Hope Work (Member: 2015-2018; President: 2018-present)

- Mayor-appointed Board Member, Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (2011-2019)
- Mayor-appointed Board Member, DC Office of Employee Appeals (2009-2010)
- Advisory Board Member, Back On My Feet DC (2009-2012)
- Volunteer Coach, Girls on the Run (2009-2010)
- Board Member, Cheverly Swim and Racquet Club (2007-2010)
- Volunteer, Samaritan Inns (1996-2010)
- Board Member, DC Road Runners' Club (1996-1999)

## **PERSONAL**

- Along with husband, Malcolm Lester, parent to three teenaged/college-aged children
- All-American, nationally-ranked triathlete; formerly sponsored by Snapple, Pacers Running, and Georgetown Running Company

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



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

**To:** Kimberly Bassett, Steve Walker  
**From:** Betsy Cavendish  
**Date:** August 13, 2021  
**Subject:** Legal sufficiency review of Mayor's Order appointing Hilary Cairns as the Acting Director of the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services

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**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 me at 202-724-7681.

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

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Elizabeth Cavendish