



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

May 3, 2024

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), and pursuant to section 1 of An Act To regulate the height, area, and use of buildings in the District of Columbia and to create a Zoning Commission, and for other purposes, effective March 1, 1920 (41 Stat. 500; D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01), I am pleased to nominate the following individual:

Ms. Gwen Marcus Wright
34th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
(Ward 3)

for appointment as a member of the Zoning Commission, filling a vacant seat formerly held by Peter Shapiro, for the remainder of an unexpired term to end February 3, 2027.

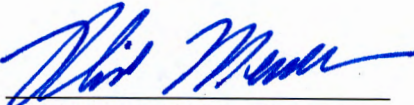
Enclosed, you will find biographical information detailing the experience of the above-mentioned nominee, together with a proposed resolution to assist the Council during the confirmation process.

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,

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

Muriel Bowser
Mayor


Chairman Phil Mendelson
at the request of the Mayor

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To confirm the appointment of Gwen Marcus Wright to the Zoning Commission.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this resolution may be cited as the “Zoning Commission Gwen Marcus Wright Confirmation Resolution of 2024”.

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

Ms. Gwen Marcus Wright
34th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008
(Ward 3)

as a member of the Zoning Commission, established by section 1 of An Act To regulate the height, area, and use of buildings in the District of Columbia and to create a Zoning Commission, and for other purposes, effective March 1, 1920 (41 Stat. 500; D.C. Official Code § 6-621.01), filling a vacant seat formerly held by Peter Shapiro, for the remainder of an unexpired term to end February 3, 2027.

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.

GWEN MARCUS WRIGHT

Professional Experience:

Planning Director
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
Commission 2013 – 2022

Oversaw all planning and development review activities in Montgomery County, the largest jurisdiction in Maryland with over 1 million residents. In this time, the Planning Department completed a major rewrite of the county zoning code, over 24 transformative master plans in communities such as Downtown Bethesda, Downtown Silver Spring, White Oak, Westbard and Grosvenor, and an update to the county's general plan. The Planning Department also implemented a Design Excellence initiative, which led to great improvement in the quality of design for projects throughout the county – including the new M-NCPPC Headquarters in Wheaton. Ms. Wright is a graduate of ULI Washington's Regional Leadership Institute and served on ULI Washington's Advisory Board. She is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the University of Maryland Urban Studies and Planning Program, is a former co-chair of the COG Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee and received the Potomac Valley Chapter of the AIA's Kea Medal for Architectural Advocacy.

Chief, Development Division
Department of Planning and Zoning
City of Alexandria, Virginia
2008 to 2013

Managed the City's regulatory review process for all new projects, including major new mixed-used and transit-oriented developments such as Potomac Yard. Supervised the Development Division and assured that the development process was as effective and efficient as possible.

Acting Director
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
2007 to 2008

Oversaw the Montgomery County Planning Department with responsibility for producing master plans, managing a major regulatory program, undertaking research and demographic studies, and coordinating transportation, environmental and historic preservation activities.

Chief, Countywide Planning Division
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
2006 to 2008

Managed the Countywide Planning Division, which included nearly 50 professionals in the fields of transportation, environmental and historic preservation planning. Provided technical input into master plans and regulatory cases, administered the Forest Conservation Program, administered the Historic Preservation program, and provided support to the Historic Preservation Commission.

Historic Preservation Supervisor
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
1991 to 2006

Administered the historic preservation program for Montgomery County, Maryland's twenty historic districts and 400 individual landmark sites. Provided technical support to the Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Board, and County Council on historic preservation issues; coordinated the evaluation and designation of historic sites and districts, design review of alterations to designated properties, administration of a preservation grant program and a property tax credit program for historic sites, and production of educational materials and events on preservation topics.

Historic Preservation Planner
Montgomery County Planning Department
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Montgomery County, Maryland...1987 to 1991

Provided technical support to the Montgomery County Planning Board on historic preservation issues, including: the evaluation and designation of historic sites and districts; the impact of proposed site plans, subdivisions, and development projects on designated and potential historic resources; the impact of proposed road projects on historic resources; and the development of legislation regarding preservation programs.

Director of Architectural Design and Redevelopment
Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF)
Galveston, Texas...1979 to 1987

Coordinated a vigorous commercial and residential revitalization effort which included managing a Residential Revolving Fund, design review on nearly 40 facade easements and deed restrictions held by GHF, development and implementation of a major proposal to create a locally-zoned historic district in the Strand National Landmark area, supervision of extensive rehab advice and education services, and close coordination with City planning staff on zoning and planning issues.

Education: Yale University, Class of 1979
B.A. in Architecture and Architectural History
Cum Laude and Honors in the Architectural History major



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

Gwen Wright



Ms. Gwen Wright is a longtime District resident and a former Montgomery County Planning Director. She served on the Montgomery County Planning Board for 30 years and is one of the longest tenured directors in the history of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

While Planning Director, she completed a record number of master plans in Bethesda, Silver Spring, Grosvenor, Rock Spring, Montgomery Village, Westbard, Lyttonsville, White Flint II, and Chevy Chase Lake. She was also responsible for or contributed to many of the Commission’s most notable accomplishments during her tenure, including the Legacy Open Space Program, Montgomery County Heritage Tourism Program, Montgomery County’s Historic Preservation Program, acquisition of key historic properties, the 2017 Bethesda Downtown Plan, Thrive Montgomery 2050, the Design Excellence Program, and the initiation of the Commission’s Placemaking Program. In 2017, she was awarded the American Institute of Architects Potomac Valley awarded her the chapter’s highest honor, the Paul H. Kea Medal, in recognition of her advocacy of design in establishing the Design Excellence Program. After her departure, the Montgomery Planning Board named the Montgomery County Award for Design Excellence in her honor.

Ms. Wright previously served as Development Division Chief for the City of Alexandria Department of Planning, as well as Director of Architectural Design and Redevelopment for the Galveston Historical Foundation.

A Ward 3 resident, Ms. Wright earned her Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and Architectural History from Yale University.



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



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Tomas Talamante, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: April 30, 2024
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolution nominating Gwen Marcus Wright as a member of the Zoning Commission

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth A. Cavendish'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth A. (Betsy) Cavendish