

Bill No. 3982-08

APPOINTMENT

Approving the reappointment of Laura Richeson Zinski to serve as a member of the Community Services Advisory Council for a term to expire on December 31, 2009.

In Council June 17, 2008.

Read and approved by Motion of Council.



Rich Fitzgerald
President of Council

Attest: John Mascio
John Mascio
Chief Clerk of Council

3982-08



DAN ONORATO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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April 29, 2008

ALLEGHENY COUNTY COUNCIL

Honorable President and Members
Allegheny County Council
119 Courthouse
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

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Dear Council Members:

Please find the attached resume of Laura Richeson Zinski, whom I am recommending for reappointment to the Community Services Advisory Council.

The purpose of the Community Services Advisory Council is to advise allocation of resources, determine priorities, goals, plans, means for supporting local community action committees and other such organizations with shared and common goals. I am recommending that Ms. Zinski serve a term to expire on December 31, 2009.

Ms. Zinski currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Mon Valley Initiative, a position she has held since July 2001. Ms. Zinski has also served as the Manager of Housing and Human Services in Allegheny County's Department of Economic Development.

I appreciate your consideration, and ask you to act on this appointment as quickly as possible. Ms. Zinski will make herself available for review before the appropriate committee if members of Council wish to speak with her.

Sincerely,



Dan Onorato
Allegheny County Executive

LAURA RICHESON ZINSKI

448 Second Street
Braddock, PA 15104
(412) 351-4014

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Public Management and Policy, May 1994

Carnegie Mellon University H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management; Pittsburgh, PA

Bachelor of Arts in History, cum laude with Department Honors, May 1992

Wheaton College; Wheaton, Illinois

EXPERIENCE

Chief Executive Officer

July 2001-Present

Mon Valley Initiative (MVI)

Homestead, PA

- Implementing the policies, programs and projects of MVI as set Committee and the Board of Delegates forth by the Executive
- Establishing and maintaining good working relationships with civic organizations, governmental bodies, economic development agencies, and community-based organizations in the region in order to build support for the activities of the Mon Valley Initiative by reaching consensus on issues of importance to MVI
- Managing the resources of the corporation, including 21 staff, finances, and capital in order to meet organizational goals
- Preparing budgets, identifying funding sources, devising and implementing fundraising strategies
- Managing the day-to-day operations of the corporation through the program management team
- Providing staff support to the Board of Delegates, Executive Committee, and other standing and ad hoc committees of the Mon Valley Initiative
- Providing staff support to the MVI Community Investment Fund – includes real estate development investments and small business lending
- Communicating the mission, goals and objectives of the Mon Valley Initiative

Project Manager

Jan. 2001 – June 2001

The Mosites Company

Pittsburgh, PA

- Assisted with a variety of real estate development projects utilizing both public and private funds
 - Coordination of site acquisition and due diligence obligations
 - Budget preparation and feasibility analysis for potential projects
- Developed work plans and proposals to assist community development corporations and private businesses needing real estate development expertise

Manager, Housing & Human Services Division

Aug. 1998 - Nov. 2000

Allegheny County Department of Economic Development

Pittsburgh, PA

- Managed and implemented federally and locally funded housing programs for Allegheny County utilizing approximately \$9 million annually in Community Development Block Grant funds, Home Investment Partnership Program funds, Emergency Shelter Grant funds, and Affordable Housing Trust Funds
 - Revised and updated a comprehensive proposal process for developers seeking assistance for affordable housing developments, both rental and home ownership
 - Reviewed projects/proposals and made recommendations to the Director regarding selection and funding awards
 - Developed annual and multi-year budgets for effective use of funds

- Consolidated and streamlined a home improvement loan program for low-income home owners
- Oversaw and assisted in the creation of policy and procedures manuals for each Division program
- Managed the development of the Division's contributions to the Five and One Year Consolidated Plans for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- Managed the housing functions of the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
- Supervised a staff of fourteen diverse project managers
- Increased formal collaboration between ACDQED and other key county agencies to improve the coordination of housing provision in the county
- Secured additional funding for housing programs in the Division from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA/DCED)

Real Estate Development Specialist

May 1994-Aug. 1998

Mon Valley Initiative (MVI)

Homestead, PA

- Managed and operated the "Rehab for Resale" Housing Program
- Expanded the program from Allegheny County to include Washington and Westmoreland Counties
- Managed new construction housing projects as assigned
- Obtained grants and loan funds for MVI and MVI member community development corporations (CDCs)
- Assisted with hiring and supervision of housing interns
- Developed budgets and feasibility information on projects to be renovated / built
- Facilitated meetings between MVI CDCs, lenders, contractors, and other project stakeholders
- Developed marketing materials for "Rehab for Resale" and new construction projects
- Guided potential buyers through the qualification process to purchase a home through MVI CDCs
- Organized training workshops for MVI CDCs' housing committees

AFFILIATIONS & HONORS

- Allegheny County Department of Human Services Community Advisory Committee Member
- Braddock Planning Commissioner
- Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh Board Member
- Mon Valley Providers Council Steering Committee Member
- Robert Morris University's Bayer Center for Non-Profit Management Advisory Board Member
- Sustainable Pittsburgh Board Member
- Sponsored by The Forbes Funds to attend the Harvard Business School Executive Education Course, *"Performance Measurement for Effective Management of Non-Profit Organizations,"* June 2005
- "40 Under 40" designee for November 2002 issue of Pittsburgh Magazine
- Recipient of Braddock Rotary Community Volunteer of the Year Award for 1999

COMPUTER SKILLS

Windows Based Applications: Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, Powerpoint