

Allegheny County Council

*119 Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

5:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Appointment Review

*Ed Kress, Chair
Committee of the Whole*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Invited Guests:

Invited Guests Present: Austin Davis, Executive Assistant, County Executive's Office

Council Staff Present: Stephanie Buka

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Ed Kress, Michael Finnerty, Sue Means and Sam DeMarco

Members Absent: 10 - Cindy Kirk, John Palmiere, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Paul Klein, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell and John DeFazio

Members Phone: 1 - Tom Baker

III. Approval of Minutes

[9906-16](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on November 2, 2016.

A motion was made by DeMarco , seconded by Finnerty, that this matter be Passed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

IV. Agenda Items**Appointments**

[9856-16](#)

Approving the reappointment of Sally Cimini to serve as a member of the Personnel Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

Ms. Cimini described her background in employment and labor law and reported that she serves as a mediator in Federal court cases. She stated that serving on this board is a great opportunity to serve the community. In response to a question from Councilman DeMarco, Ms. Cimini discussed employment at-will in Pennsylvania and the various exceptions. Councilwoman Means inquired about resources and Ms. Cimini replied that the members of the board feel supported.

A motion was made by DeMarco , seconded by Means, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9904-16](#)

Approving the appointment of Jesse A. Torisky, Esq., to serve as a member of the Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission for a term to begin January 11, 2017 and expire on January 11, 2022.

Sponsors: Council Member Baker

Mr. Torisky described his background in civil litigation, his Orphan's Court work, and 10 years as a prosecutor with the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. He discussed his service as a legal advisor for the Autism Society of Pittsburgh and the new apartments in Heidelberg where adults with autism can live independently, and where half of their neighbors will be people who do not have autism. He added that he is helping with the interpretation of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) new rule.

A motion was made by Finnerty, seconded by DeMarco , that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

[9905-16](#)

Approving the appointment of William F. Ward, Esq., former Judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, to serve as a member of the Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission for a term to expire on December 3, 2017.

Sponsors: Council Member Baker

Mr. Ward described his background and qualifications, including his time spent as a judge for the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Councilwoman Means asked Mr. Ward to describe the purpose of the Autism Society of Pittsburgh, Autism Connection of Pennsylvania, and ACHIEVA. He described the organizations' and stated that he adopted a child with autism and would like to see his son move into one of the new apartments in Heidelberg. Councilman Baker noted that Mr. Ward has served on the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh Youth Outcomes Advisory Board and all members agreed that Mr. Ward will be an asset to the commission.

A motion was made by Means, seconded by DeMarco , that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.