

# **Allegheny County Council**

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



## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017**

**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 5:04 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:** 3 - Ed Kress, Sue Means and Sam DeMarco

**Members Absent:** 11 - Cindy Kirk, John Palmiere, Nick Futules, Chuck Martoni, Bob Macey, DeWitt Walton, Paul Klein, Jim Ellenbogen, Denise Ranalli-Russell, John DeFazio and Patrick Catena

**Members Phone:** 1 - Tom Baker

**III. Approval of Minutes**

[10069-17](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Appointment Review Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on March 15, 2017.

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

**IV. Agenda Items****Appointments**

[10024-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Austin A. Davis to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Housing Authority Board of Directors for a term to expire on December 31, 2021.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Mr. Davis discussed the Authority's concerns over the proposed federal funding cuts of \$6 billion to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget. Council Member DeMarco commented on former President Obama's failure to pass a budget and suggested that the proposed cuts may not take place. Mr. Davis noted that the former president made requests for budget increases to HUD, although HUD has experienced funding cuts for the past six years. Mr. Davis stated that the Authority may move its headquarters from downtown in order to save costs. In response to a question from Council Member Means, Mr. Davis stated that he would like to see the removal of restrictions on funds and no additional funding cuts. In response to a question from Chairman Kress, Mr. Davis described the police force led by Chief Mike Vogel, and the maintenance operations under the leadership of Jim Bull, and their efforts to provide a safe and healthy living environment for tenants. In response to a question from Council Member DeMarco, Mr. Davis explained that landlords are responsible for verifying that a tenant has been approved to occupy the property under the Housing Choice Voucher Program, also known as Section 8 Public Housing.*

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

[10025-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Abass Kamara to serve as a member of the Minority Business Enterprise Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[10026-17](#) Approving the reappointment of Jessica McCurdy to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Human Relations Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2020.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. McCurdy reported that the Commission hears approximately 10 to 12 cases a year. She explained to members that the Law Department assists the Commission and the majority of cases involve employment matters. In response to a question from Council Member Baker, Ms. McCurdy replied that the Commission recently established an awards program for high school students.*

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

[10027-17](#) Approving the appointment of Rachel Filippini to serve as a member of the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee for a term to expire on December 31, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Filippini commented on the importance of collaboration and noted that the Clean Indoor Act has created jobs and saved lives. In response to Chairman Kress' question regarding air quality, Ms. Filippini reported that it's still appropriate to be concerned about fine particulate matter in Allegheny County. In response to a question from Council Member Means, Ms. Filippini stated that GASP is involved in the EPA School Flag Program, afterschool programming and they have added a summer camp. Council Member DeMarco referenced a report naming the 50 worst U.S. cities for air quality, which included six in Pennsylvania. Mr. DeMarco made an inquiry regarding technology and our topography. Ms. Filippini explained that technology has helped improve air quality, for example, the installation of diesel filters on vehicles made in 2007 or later. Ms. Filippini stated that inversion does exist because of the river valley. She added that two-thirds of the pollution is created in southwestern Pennsylvania and one-third of the pollution is coming into Pennsylvania from other states. In response to a question from Council Member DeMarco, Ms. Filippini stated that an organization must obtain an installation permit from the Health Department if they plan to add an air cleaning device, such as a scrubber.*

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

[10028-17](#) Approving the appointment of GERALYN A. DUGAN to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

**Held in Committee**

[10029-17](#) Approving the appointment of Christine Michaels to serve as a member of the Allegheny County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability Advisory Board for a term to expire on December 31, 2019.

**Sponsors:** Chief Executive

*Ms. Michaels described her role as the Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Southwestern Pennsylvania. She discussed the early intervention programs for First Episode Psychosis (FEP), a new approach which is being called a 'game changer.' She reported that NAMI is advocating for the development of Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) teams, which is a collaborative, recovery-oriented approach to individuals with FEP. Council Member Means made an inquiry regarding Ms. Michaels success with employee retention in Westmoreland County, and Ms. Michaels noted that a quality improvement program and recognizing employees for their efforts helped with retention.*

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

**V. Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.*