

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

TO: All Councilmembers
FROM: Councilmember Elissa Silverman,
Chairperson, Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
DATE: December 18, 2017
SUBJECT: Report on PR 22-0528, the “Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation Resolution of 2017”

The Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, to which PR 22-0528, the “Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation Resolution of 2017,” was referred, reports favorably and recommends approval by the Council of the District of Columbia.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On October 4, 2017, Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced PR 22-0528, the “Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation Resolution of 2017,” which would reappoint Barbara Somson as a member of the Public Employee Relations Board. Ms. Somson is a resident of Ward 3 in the District of Columbia.

Ms. Somson has decades of experience in labor relations. After graduating from the Columbus School of Law at The Catholic University of America, Ms. Somson worked as a Field Attorney with the National Labor Relations Board. In 1976 she began working as an Associate at a labor oriented law firm. In 1979, she was appointed Associate General Counsel for the International Union of Electrical, Radio, & Machine Workers in Washington D.C. She served in that capacity until she became counsel to the Committee on Government Operations of the DC Council. As counsel to the committee, she drafted the Omnibus Personnel Reform Amendment Act of 1998 and played a crucial role in bringing the executive and public unions together on a

large scale restructuring of the District personnel management system. In 1999 she went to work for the United Auto Workers Union, where she remained until her retirement in 2012.

The Public Employee Relations Board adjudicates disputes between the District Government and public employee unions in the District. Specifically, it addresses:

- Determining appropriate compensation and non-compensation bargaining units;
- Certifying and decertifying labor organizations as exclusive bargaining representatives;
- Adjudicating unfair labor practice complaints;
- Considering appeals of grievance arbitration awards;
- Investigating standards of conduct complaints;
- Determining whether a particular subject or proposal is within the scope of bargaining;
- Facilitating the resolution of impasses in contract negotiations; and
- Adopting rules and regulations for conducting the business of the Board.

Members of the Public Employee Relations Board are selected for their expert knowledge in the field of labor relations, their integrity, and their impartiality. It is the judgment of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development that Ms. Somson is an excellent fit for the position, as an expert in the field with a lifelong dedication to public service and a long career of demonstrated integrity and impartiality. The Public Employee Relations Board is composed of five members. Of those members, three are “neutral” seats, and the remaining two are composed of one member with a labor perspective and one with a management perspective. Ms. Somson has been renominated to serve as the member with a labor perspective. Her long experience working for both unions and a labor side law firm make her well qualified for this position.

Ms. Somson was initially appointed to the Public Employee Relations Board on April 19, 2016, replacing Donald S. Wasserman, for a term to expire on December 12, 2017. If confirmed, her new term will expire on December 12, 2020.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee recommends the passage of PR 22-0528, the “Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation Resolution of 2017,” because Ms. Somson is eminently qualified to serve for the position for which she has been nominated.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

| | |
|------------------|---|
| October 4, 2017 | PR22-0528 Introduced by Chairman Mendelson at the request of the Mayor at the Office of the Secretary |
| October 13, 2017 | Notice of Intent to Act on PR22-0528 Published in the District of Columbia Register |
| October 17, 2017 | Referred to the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development |

October 27, 2017 Notice of Public Hearing Published in the District of Columbia Register

November 13, 2017 Public Hearing on PR22-0528

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee did not receive any additional comments from the Executive.

IV. ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION

The Committee did not receive comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee on Labor and Workforce Development held a public hearing on November 13, 2017 at 1 p.m. Committee Chair Elissa Silverman made an opening statement:

Good morning. I am At-Large Councilmember Elissa Silverman, Chair of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. Today is Monday, November 13, 2017, and the time is 1:02 p.m. and we are in room 123 of the John A. Wilson Building. I'm calling to order this meeting of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development. Today we are holding a hearing on the following measure:

The Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation Resolution of 2017
(PR 22-0528)

The Public Employee Relations Board, otherwise affectionately known as PERB, is responsible for ensuring that the District abides by its labor contracts. Nominees are selected for their expert knowledge in the field of labor relations and their integrity and impartiality. The board has five members, one with expertise from a management perspective, one with expertise from a labor perspective, and three neutral members. Ms. Somson has been re-nominated to the seat reserved for a member with expertise from a labor perspective. Ms. Somson was previously appointed in April 2015 to a term scheduled to end on December 12, 2017.

Ms. Somson has decades of experience working in labor relations, beginning as a Field Attorney with the National Labor Relations Board, where she served in a capacity very similar to the role she plays on PERB. She went on to work for a labor oriented law firm, the International Union of Electrical Workers, and then returned to government service as Counsel for the DC Council Committee on Government Operations. While serving in that capacity, she was responsible for drafting the Omnibus Personnel Reform Amendment Act of 1998, and worked with the Executive and public unions to arrive at an amicable agreement in a large scale restructuring of District personnel policy. In 1999 she went to work for the United Auto Workers Union, where she remained until her retirement in 2012.

Throughout her career, Ms. Somson has shown a dedication to public service and has emphasized the importance of working to improve labor-management relations and reach an outcome that benefits all parties. She is a resident of Ward 3.

No public witnesses testified at the public roundtable regarding PR22-0528.

Nominee's Testimony

Ms. Somson testified that she has lived in the District continuously since 1979 and that she enjoyed serving on the Public Employee Relations Board as a continuation of a career devoted to improving labor management relations. She provided a summary of her professional history and explained how those experiences had served her well on the Public Employee Relations Board. She testified that she found her time on the Public Employee Relations Board enlightening and rewarding, and explained the important role that the agency serves in maintaining smooth and orderly labor-management relationships in the District.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

This confirmation does not alter existing law.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

On (date) the Chief Financial Officer indicated that funds are sufficient in the FY2018 budget and the proposed FY2019 through FY2022 budget and financial plan to implement this measure.

VIII. SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1 provides the long and short title of the legislation.

Section 2 confirms the reappointment of Barbara Somson to the Public Employee Relations Board labor seat.

Section 3 provides that the Council will, upon approving the resolution, transmit it to the Office of the Mayor and the nominee.

Section 4 effective date.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

The Committee on Labor and Workforce Development convened at time on date, to consider and vote on bill. Chairperson Silverman recognized the presence of a quorum, consisting of herself and Councilmembers _____.

Chairperson Silverman moved the bill, and opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion having ended, Chairperson Silverman then moved the proposed committee print and report for resolution bill, with leave for the Committee staff to make technical and conforming amendments. The Members present voted _____ to approve the committee print and report for resolution bill.

The committee meeting adjourned at time TK.

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR22-0528 as introduced
2. Pre-roundtable written questionnaire.
3. Notice of Intent to Act.
4. Public hearing notice for PR22-0528.
5. Witness list and copies of testimony from the November 13, 2017 public hearing.
6. Legal sufficiency determination.
7. Committee Print of PR22-0528.

ATTACHMENT 1

PR 22-528 as introduced.



2017 OCT -4 PM 12:17
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

OCT 4 2017

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 501 of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-605.01), which established the Public Employee Relations Board, I am pleased to nominate the following person:

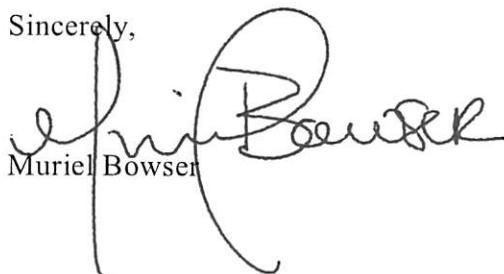
Ms. Barbara Somson
3915 McKinley Street NW
Washington, DC 20015
(Ward 3)

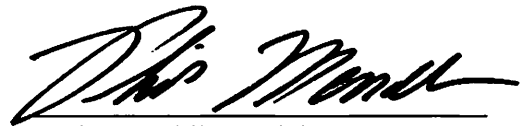
for reappointment as a labor organization member of the Public Employee Relations Board, for a term to end December 12, 2020.

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

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chairman Phil Mendelson, at the request of the Mayor, introduced the following resolution,
which was referred to the Committee on _____.

To confirm the reappointment of Ms. Barbara Somson to the Public Employee Relations Board.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
resolution may be cited as the "Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation
Resolution of 2017".

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

Ms. Barbara Somson
3915 McKinley Street NW
Washington, DC 20015
(Ward 3)

as a labor organization member of the Public Employee Relations Board, established by section
501 of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3,
1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-605.01), and 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), for a term to end December 12, 2020.

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.

Barbara C. Somson
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]**EDUCATION:**

B.A. in Political Science - Boston University

J.D. - Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America

EMPLOYMENT:

1974 to 1976 - Field Attorney, National Labor Relations Board Region 7, Detroit, Michigan. Investigated complaints, conducted representation elections, conducted hearings in representation cases, and prosecuted complaints.

1976 to 1979 - Associate, law office of Miller, Klimist, Cohen, Martens & Sugarman, Detroit, Michigan. Represented construction, service sector, and manufacturing local and international unions in NLRB matters, arbitrations, jurisdictional disputes, and cases brought in Federal District Courts.

1979 to 1985 - Associate General Counsel, International Union of Electrical, Radio, & Machine Workers (IUE), Washington, DC. Handled NLRB matters, arbitrations, and U.S. Courts of Appeals cases for the IUE and its locals.

1997 to 1999 - Counsel to the Committee on Government Operations, District of Columbia Council. Handled legislation related to personnel, labor relations, labor-management cooperation, job training, unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation.

1999 to 2010 - Deputy Legislative Director, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Workers of America (UAW), Washington, DC. Represented the UAW before the U.S. Congress and the executive branch on matters relating to international trade, the automotive industry, energy and the environment, the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, unemployment insurance, and the Legal Services Corporation.

2010 to 2012 - Legislative Director, UAW, in charge of representing the International union on all legislative and regulatory issues and managing the staff of the Washington Office.

Member of the District of Columbia Bar

Member of the board of the 21st Century School Fund

Member of the board of Farmworker Justice



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

Barbara Somson



Barbara Somson, a current member of the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) retired as the Legislative Director from the United Auto Workers (UAW) union.

During her career as federal lobbyist she worked on employment and labor issues, including the National Labor Relations Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, unemployment insurance; and matters related to the UAW's public employee members in Puerto Rico and in the field of higher education.

Prior to this, Ms. Somson was appointed to the D.C. Council Committee on Government Operations in January 1997. In that position, she was responsible for the Omnibus Personnel Reform Amendment Act of 1998 (D.C. Law 12-24), working extensively with representatives of both labor and management to fashion legislation that significantly modernized the District's personnel system. In addition to other legislative responsibilities, she led the Committee's work with the Barry administration, the U.S. Department of Labor, and District public employee labor unions to establish the D.C. Labor-Management Partnership Council as a forum to facilitate communication between high-level labor and management representatives in order to improve service delivery by District agencies.

A Ward 3 resident, Ms. Somson received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University and a Juris Doctorate from Catholic University.



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



Office of the General Counsel to the Mayor

To: Alana Intrieri, Steve Walker
From: Betsy Cavendish
Date: September 21, 2017
Subject: Legal sufficiency review of Resolution re-nominating Barbara Somson as a labor organization member of the Public Employee Relations Board

This is to Certify that this office has reviewed the above-referenced legislation 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.

Elizabeth Cavendish

ATTACHMENT 2

Pre-roundtable written questionnaire

INFORMATION REQUESTED OF NOMINEES

PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. **Barbara C. Somson**
2. I do not know the date of my nomination.
3. 3915 McKinley Street, NW, DC 20015
4. Amityville, New York - January 20, 1948

EXPERIENCE

5. B.A. Boston University – May 1969; J.D. Columbus School of Law of The Catholic University of American – May 1974
6. a. Legislative secretary in Office of U.S. Senator Hugh Scott, 1969 – 1970;
Office manager, Referendum '70, Washington, D.C., 1970;
Legal secretary, Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, 1970 – 1971;
Field Attorney, Region 7 of National Labor Relations Board, Detroit, Michigan, 1974 - 1976;
Associate, law firm of Miller, Klimist, Cohen, Martens & Sugarman, Detroit, Michigan, 1976-1979;
Associate General Counsel, International Union of Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers, (IUE), Washington, D.C., 1979-1985;
Counsel, D.C. Council Committee on Government Affairs, 1997-1999;
Deputy and subsequently Legislative Director, United Auto Workers (UAW), Washington, D.C. – 1999 –2012
I received no monetary compensation for the work I performed as a mother and a community volunteer from 1985 to 1997.
6. b. None other than pensions.
6. c. I left all employment positions voluntarily and never under any unfavorable circumstances.
7. I served on the District's School-to-Work Opportunities committee, appointed by Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly in 1994.

8. I am licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia.
9. I have published nothing that was not on behalf of an employer.

INTEREST IN POSITION OF APPOINTMENT

10. I am interested in continuing my service on PERB in order to share my career-long experience and expertise in labor-management relations, to help the District maintain stable labor relations, and to make a personal contribution to the District of Columbia.
11. I believe I have included the background and experiences that qualify me for reappointment to PERB in my testimony. I would be happy to respond to any additional questions.

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

12. I have never been a candidate for public office. I served as a Ward 3 Democratic precinct delegate in the 1990's and as campaign manager in Kathy Patterson's 1994 campaign for Ward 3 Councilmember.
13. Other than performing volunteer work, such as signage and leafleting, for the committee to elect Elissa Silverman in 2014, all services I have rendered to political parties, party conventions, or candidates for elected office in the last ten years were in my capacity as Deputy Legislative Director or Legislative Director of the UAW.
14. I donated \$100 in 2013 and \$200 in 2014 to committees to elect Elissa Silverman. In 2013 I donated \$100 to the committee to elect Andy Shallal. Additionally, I made contributions to several losing Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate in the 2016 election.
15. My husband and I co-hosted a meet-and-greet for Elissa Silverman in our home during the summer of 2014.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND LEGAL MATTERS

16. a. I serve on the board of directors of the 21st Century School Fund (21CSF), a national non-profit organization registered in and in good standing with the D.C. government. 21CSF is located at 1816 12th St NW, Washington, DC 20009. It occasionally does work under contract with the District of Columbia, most recently for policy and data research and analysis in connection with future infrastructure needs for the District's public schools.
16. b. None.
16. c. None.

16. d. No.

17. Since April 2015, I have been a member of the Public Employee Relations Board; my current term expires in December 2017.

18. I have a long-standing personal friendship with former Councilmember Kathy Patterson, who has served as D.C. Auditor since December 2014. We have exchanged numerous gifts and meals over 25 years, including birthdays, holidays, and other occasions. Please let me know if you would like me to attempt to catalog those. Aside from that, I have never given anything of value to any District employee nor have I received anything of value as a member of PERB.

19. No.

LEGAL MATTERS

20. a. No.

20. b. No.

20. c. No.

20. d. No.

LOBBYING

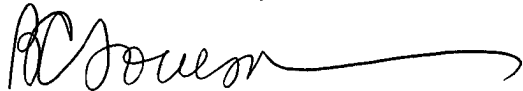
21. No.

22. I have no information in connection with my nomination that has not been included in answers to this questionnaire or in my written testimony.

OATH

I, Barbara C. Somson, attest and affirm under penalty of perjury that the answers and materials provided to the Committee in response to this questionnaire are, to the best of my knowledge, true, accurate, and complete. I understand that if I knowingly or willfully make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation, such statement and/or representation could subject me to civil and/or criminal penalties.

Executed this 3rd day of November of 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Somson', followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right.

Barbara C. Somson

ATTACHMENT 3

Notice of Intent to Act.

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004**

**CHAIRPERSON ELISSA SILVERMAN
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON

**PR 22-0528, "Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation Resolution
of 2017"**

**Monday, November 13, 2017, 1pm
Hearing Room 123, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004**

Councilmember Elissa Silverman, Chairperson of the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, announces a public hearing before the Committee on PR 22-528, the "Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation Resolution of 2017." The hearing will be held at 1p.m. on Monday, November 13, 2017, in Room 123 of the John A. Wilson Building.

The purpose of PR 22-0528 is to confirm the appointment of Ms. Barbara Samson as a member of the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB). PERB is an impartial, quasi-judicial, independent agency that resolves labor-management disputes between agencies of the District government and labor organizations representing agency employees. The purpose of this hearing is to receive public testimony on this nominee's appointment as a board member.

Those who wish to testify before the Committee are asked to contact Mr. Charnisa Royster at labor@dccouncil.us or (202) 724-7772 by close of business Thursday, November 9, 2017, to provide their name, address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and title (if any), as well as the language of oral interpretation, if any, they require. Those wishing to testify are encouraged, but not required, to submit 15 copies of written testimony. Those representing organizations will have five minutes to present their testimony, and other individuals will have three minutes to present their testimony; less time will be allowed if there are a large number of witnesses.

If a witness is unable to testify at the roundtable, written statements will be made a part of the official record. Written statements should be submitted by email to Ms. Royster at labor@dccouncil.us or mailed to the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, Council of the District of Columbia, Suite 115 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017.

ATTACHMENT 4

Public Hearing Notice for PR 22-0528.

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

**CHAIRPERSON ELISSA SILVERMAN
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

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ATTACHMENT 5

Witness List and Copies of Testimony from the November 13, 2017 Public Hearing.

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
PUBLIC HEARING: AGENDA AND WITNESS LIST**
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

**CHAIRPERSON ELISSA SILVERMAN
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC HEARING ON

**B22-528, THE “PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RELATIONS BOARD BARBARA SOMSON
CONFIRMATION RESOLUTION OF 2017”**

**Monday, November 13, 2017, 1:00 p.m.
Hearing Room 123, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004**

AGENDA AND WITNESS LIST

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. OPENING REMARKS**
- III. WITNESSES**

Nominee

1. Barbara Somson, Nominee to the Public Employee Relations Board

TESTIMONY of
BARBARA SOMSON
Before the
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL
Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation
Resolution of 2017
B22-0528
November 13, 2017

Good afternoon, Chairperson Silverman, Committee members and staff. I would first like to thank Mayor Bowser for the nomination to continue serving on the Public Employee Relations Board with a three-year term. I would also like to thank you for this opportunity to testify on my nomination.

I am proud to be a long-time resident of the District of Columbia. I moved here in 1969, graduated law school at The Catholic University in 1974 and, after five years working in Detroit, returned to the District in

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1979. I have lived here continuously since then, marrying and raising two children who attended D.C. Public Schools.

My legal career was devoted to labor-management relations, and I have very much enjoyed performing a different aspect of that work while serving on PERB since April 2016.

I began my legal career as a Field Attorney with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in the Detroit regional office. The representation and unfair labor practice cases I handled as an NLRB attorney were very similar to such matters before PERB, except they were in the private sector rather than the public sector.

After two years with the NLRB, I joined a Detroit union-side labor law firm where I handled a variety of legal matters for the firm's many clients in the manufacturing, construction, and service industries, including cases before the NLRB, jurisdictional disputes between building trades unions, and labor-related disputes in the federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

I returned to the District in 1979 to serve as associate general counsel of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE). My job duties there

-3-

included providing advice to IUE local unions to assure they were acting in compliance with the standards of conduct established for unions by federal law.

These federal standards of conduct are very similar to those enforced by PERB with respect to the District's public employee unions. I also handled grievance arbitration cases and represented the union in the litigation of NLRB and federal appellate court matters. In addition, I advised on and participated in collective bargaining negotiations with employers, such as General Electric.

In January 1997, I was appointed counsel to the D.C. Council's Committee on Government Operations by then-Chair Kathy Patterson. I was the committee staffer responsible for drafting the Omnibus Personnel Reform Amendment Act of 1998

(D.C. Law 12-24), a major update of the District's personnel law. I mediated negotiations between the District's personnel office and representatives of the District's largest unions. That process, which significantly altered and modernized the District's personnel law, took many months, involved many compromises by the parties, and resulted in a statute that was satisfactory to both management and labor.

-4-

While at the Council I also worked with the Mayor's office and the District's public employee unions - with help from the U.S. Department of Labor - to establish the District's Labor-Management Partnership

Council. The Labor-Management Partnership Council was designed as a forum to facilitate communication and problem-solving between high-level labor and management representatives, with the goal of improving service delivery to District residents and businesses.

From 1999 to my retirement in 2012, I worked in the Washington office of the United Auto Workers union (UAW), first as Deputy Legislative Director and later as Legislative Director. I advocated for the UAW's positions both in Congress and before the Executive branch.

On a few very significant matters, I worked closely with management representatives of the Detroit auto companies -- General Motors, Ford Motor Company, and Chrysler Corporation. One such instance was advocating before Congress and the Bush and Obama administrations for the federal bridge loans that

enabled the companies and their supply chain to avoid going out of business during the financial catastrophe of 2008.

-5-

These experiences have informed my work as a member of the Public Employee Relations Board. I have found my work as a member of PERB both enlightening and rewarding, and I look forward to continuing my work there. The agency serves a vital function in maintaining smooth and orderly labor-management relationships between the District's agencies and the unions that represent District employees to the ultimate benefit of all D.C. residents.

Thank you again for this opportunity to discuss my qualifications. I am happy to answer any questions you may have concerning my service as the labor organization member of the Public Employee Relations Board.

###

ATTACHMENT 6

Legal Sufficiency Determination

ATTACHMENT 7

Committee Print of PR 22-0528.

1 **COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
3 **DECEMBER 18, 2017**
4

5 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
6

7 22-528
8
9 _____

10 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
11
12 _____
13

14 To confirm the reappointment of Ms. Barbara Somson to the Public Employee Relations Board.
15

16 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
17 resolution may be cited as the “Public Employee Relations Board Barbara Somson Confirmation
18 Resolution of 2017”.
19

20 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia confirms the reappointment of:
21

22 Ms. Barbara Somson
23 3915 McKinley Street, N.W.
24 Washington, D.C. 20015
25 (Ward 3)
26

27 as a labor organization member of the Public Employee Relations Board, established by section
28 501 of the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978, effective March 3,
29 1979 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-605.01), for a term to end December 12, 2020.

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

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