

DC Chamber of Commerce Statement on the Appointment of Newly Appointed Councilmember Doni Crawford

The DC Chamber of Commerce congratulates Chairman Phil Mendelson and the Council of the District of Columbia on its appointment today of Councilmember Doni Crawford to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of At-Large Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie. This decision reflects the kind of thoughtful appointment that we urged last week when we offered suggested criteria for the Council to consider, a rigorous approach to ensuring strong, ethical, and effective leadership for District residents and the business community.

Councilmember Crawford brings a significant record of engagement with the District's business sector, highlighted by her service as Committee Director of the Council's Committee on Business and Economic Development under former Councilmember McDuffie. In that role, she developed expertise in the forces buffeting the District's economy—from shifting market conditions and regulatory pressures to workforce dynamics, small-business vulnerabilities, and the federal and regional trends that shape local growth. Equally important, she understands the arrows in the quiver—the policy tools, incentives, and strategic levers available to strengthen the District's business ecosystem and support long-term economic vitality.

Councilmember Crawford's extensive legislative experience, committee management, and direct engagement with Council operations directly aligns with the qualifications we identified as essential for this interim appointment. Her firsthand knowledge of the District's budget process, agency oversight, and fiscal operations ensures she can contribute meaningfully to budget deliberations from day one.

She also brings a strong grasp of Home Rule authority, statutory responsibilities, and the District's unique governance structure, grounding her work in the principles of good government and interagency coordination. Additionally, her years of DC residency and longstanding relationships with community leaders reflect a genuine connection with the neighborhoods she will now represent at the Council.

Councilmember Crawford has demonstrated a clear commitment to nonpartisan, community-focused public service, reflecting the values of transparency, ethical conduct, and public trust District residents deserve and she is prepared to assume the responsibilities of office immediately, ensuring continuity of service and stability during a critical period for the District.

The DC Chamber of Commerce looks forward to continuing to work with Councilmember Crawford as she steps into this crucial role. Her experience and deep understanding of the District's economic landscape position her well to serve DC residents and the business community with distinction.