

AGENDA ITEM # 1C
June 9, 2015

Interview

MEMORANDUM

June 4, 2015

TO: County Council
FROM: Linda M. Lauer, Clerk 
SUBJECT: Interview - Director, Office of Procurement: Cherri Branson

The Council will interview Cherri Branson, who is the County Executive's appointee for the position of Director of Office of Procurement.

The interview will be held in the 3rd Floor Conference Room at 9:00 a.m. Ms. Branson's resume is attached.

This packet contains:

Circle #:

County Executive's transmittal memo	A-B
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Attachments

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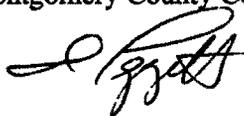
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

RECEIVED
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

May 14, 2015

TO: George Leventhal, President, Montgomery County Council
FROM: Isiah Leggett, County Executive 
SUBJECT: Appointment of Director, Office of Procurement

I am transmitting the appointment of Ms. Cherri Branson for the position of Director, Office of Procurement. Ms. Branson is being appointed at a salary of \$185,000. Her appointment will be effective upon confirmation by the County Council.

IL:rsd

Attachments



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

APPOINTMENT

PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY VESTED TO ME UNDER SECTION 215 OF
THE CHARTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND, I HEREBY
APPOINT

Cherri Branson

TO SERVE AS Director, Office of Procurement

THIS APPOINTMENT SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UPON CONFIRMATION BY THE
COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND.


ISIAH LEGGETT
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 14, 2015
DATE

Resolution No.: _____
Introduced: _____
Adopted: _____

COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: County Council

SUBJECT: County Executive's Appointment of Director, Office of Procurement

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The County Executive's appointment of Director, Office of Procurement

Cherri Branson

The appointment of Ms. Branson is confirmed by the County Council.

This is a correct copy of Council action:

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council

CHERRI L. BRANSON

EDUCATION

Emory University School of Law, LL.M.

Indiana University School of Law, J.D

Vassar College, B.A.

Security Clearance Status: TS/Active

EXPERIENCE

Member, Montgomery County Council, Rockville, Maryland., January 2014 to December 2014.

Appointed through a competitive process to represent Montgomery County Council District 5, a racially, economically and geographically diverse district of over 200,000 people. Served on the Education Committee, the Government and Fiscal Operations Committee and the Audit Committee. Advanced legislative initiatives, conducted oversight of county agencies, and participated in budget, appropriations and land use decisions. In addition to council sessions, public hearing and committee meetings, attended over 60 community meetings and outreach events to elicit constituent concerns on pending legislation, budget priorities and community issues. Ensured staff provided effective constituent service and casework.

Chief Counsel for Oversight, Committee on Homeland Security, Rep. Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 2007 to January 2014.

Developed and executed the oversight and investigative agenda of the Committee Minority. As part of a three person management team, worked collaboratively with the Staff Director and Chief Legislative Counsel to formulate and execute the Committee's long-term strategic objectives. Directly supervised staff members in reviews of fraud, waste, and abuse allegations involving the activities, programs and policies of the Department of Homeland Security. Managed development and execution of all oversight and investigative reports, letters, and other written products. Additionally, served as primary point of contact for all external oversight entities, including the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Inspectors General of all Federal agencies, and non-governmental "watchdog" groups and worked with these external entities to develop specific and long-term investigative reports for Committee use. Spearheaded all legislative and policy initiatives for Committee action designed to increase participation of small, minority and women-owned businesses in Federal contracting opportunities as well as initiatives to increase employment diversity within the Federal government. Served as the Democratic staff Ethics Officer.

Senior Investigative Counsel, Committee on Homeland Security, Rep. Bennie Thompson, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., May 2005 to January 2007.

Senior investigator on fraud, waste, and abuse within the Department of Homeland Security. Conducted several major investigations into contracting and procurement problems in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Served as the primary point of contact on issues relating to legislative and policy measures designed to spur recovery in the region affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Spearheaded all legislative and

policy initiatives for Committee action to increase in small, minority and women-owned business participation and employment diversity within the Federal government.

Counsel, Office of Rep. Ed Towns, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., March 2003 to May 2005. Senior legislative and political advisor to the Member on several issues including government management and oversight; the federal budget and the appropriations process; civil rights and civil liberties; and women and children's health.

Legislative Director, Office of Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 2001 to April 2002. Chief legislative advisor to the Member, providing counsel on local, national, political and legal ramifications of legislative and policy matters. Managed the legislative and support staff, set the legislative agenda, tracked legislation, monitored floor activity, and supervised the constituent mail program. Served as the Member's counsel during the Congressional redistricting process. Additionally, because of the Member's role as Congressional Black Caucus Chair, I provided legislative guidance to the Congressional Black Caucus' policy development in the key areas of election reform and campaign finance reform.

Legislative Officer, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C., June 2000 to January 2001. Presidential Appointment. Designed, implemented and managed strategies for Departmental response to complex and controversial congressional inquiries and oversight requests. Conducted negotiations with Congressional staff to resolve ambiguities and address concerns involving the nature and scope of each inquiry. Also, at the Secretary's request, I interceded with Members of Congress in sensitive, complex or controversial issues. Served as the principal liaison between the Department and the Congressional Black Caucus.

Minority Counsel, Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., January 1997 to June 2000. Authored briefing and background materials analyzing policy and political issues concerning domestic and international ramifications of laws affecting illegal drugs; the criminal justice system, and public health delivery. Briefed Members and staff prior to hearings, mark up sessions, and in consideration of floor action. Conducted oversight investigations. **Major Accomplishments:**

- Conducted an investigation of clinical drug trials involving children which resulted in the Department of Health and Human Services' formation of the National Advisory Council on Human Research Protections to review policies, practices, set standards and strengthened protections for children involved in human subject clinical research.
- Wrote the statutory language contained in the Omnibus Consolidation and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1999, October 1998, which eliminated the government's reliance on the Statute of Limitations defense in a discrimination lawsuit involving African American farmers (*Pigford v. Glickman*) and resulted in the largest settlement for plaintiffs in a discrimination class action suit involving the federal government.
- Initiated a review of Energy Department's medical testing policy for employees which resulted in the elimination of unnecessary medical tests and changed contract review and personnel procedures.
- Authored *Additional Views* to an investigative report entitled "VA, DOD Continue to Resist Strong Evidence Linking Toxic Causes to Chronic Health Effects," which permitted bipartisan agreement to the report findings linking Persian Gulf War service to subsequent illnesses among veterans.

Professional Staff Member, Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice, U.S. House of Representatives, February 1995 to December 1996. Authored briefing and background materials analyzing policy and political issues concerning drug policy, criminal justice and national security topics. **Major Accomplishments:**

- Key Government Reform Committee staffer responsible for formulating Democratic positions, presenting witnesses, and managing the compilation of Member briefing books for a ten-day joint Government Reform/Judiciary Committee hearing on the "Matter of the Branch Davidians at Waco, Texas." Following the conclusion of the hearing, authored *Dissenting Views* to an investigative report entitled "Investigation into Activities of Federal Law Enforcement Agencies Toward the Branch Davidians."
- Authored "*Additional Views*" to an investigative report entitled "National Drug Policy: A Review of the Status of the Drug War;" which set forth the Democratic position in the national drug policy debate and urged the expansion of substance abuse treatment funding.
- Authored the *Dissenting Views* to an investigative report entitled "A Two Year Review of the White House Communications Agency Reveals Major Mismanagement, Lack of Accountability and Significant Mission Creep" challenging the report's findings and offered recommendations for the agency's improvement.

Associate Counsel, Subcommittee on Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations, Committee on Government Operations, U.S. House of Representatives, May 1993 to January 1995. Advised on legal, ethical and personnel matters relating to the administration of the subcommittee and wrote standard operating procedures manual which governed personnel matters. Conducted oversight investigations of federal contracting practices, administrative regulations, management standards, and operating procedures within the Departments of Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, and Education. **Major Accomplishments:**

- Conducted an investigation which revealed an ad hoc system of waivers to programmatic guidelines affecting state participation in a federal entitlement program. Immediately following a hearing which revealed the findings of the investigation, President Clinton issued an Executive Order which promulgated new guidelines and criteria to administer waiver programs in several federal departments.
- Drafted clarifying and expanding amendments to a bill which provided uniform Federal treatment of benefits received by Holocaust survivors. The bill and amendments were passed by both legislative bodies and signed into law by the President (PL-103-286).

MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Member, Montgomery County Charter Review Commission, October 2012-January 2014.
Member, Montgomery County Commission on Redistricting, January 2011-September 2011.
President, St. Michael the Archangel School, Home and School Association
Founding Member, St. Michael the Archangel School, Advisory Board
President, African American Democratic Club of Montgomery County
Member, Vassar Club of Washington, D.C.

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



OFFICES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Timothy L. Firestine
Chief Administrative Officer

MEMORANDUM

May 26, 2015

TO: George Leventhal, President, Montgomery County Council

FROM: Timothy L. Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer *Timothy L. Firestine*

SUBJECT: Due Diligence on Non-Merit Appointment – Cherri Branson

The purpose of this memo is to confirm that in making appointments for non-merit positions, our selection process utilizes thorough reference checks, criminal history, background checks, checks for warrants and warrants, credit history and other inquiries appropriate to the position being filled.

Please be assured that due diligence was exercised in determining the suitability of Ms. Branson for appointment as the Director, Office of Procurement. In addition, Ms. Branson has filed her Financial Disclosure Statement.

TLF:rsd

