



**Committee:** Directly to Council  
**Committee Review:** N/A  
**Staff:** Sara Tenenbaum, Clerk of Council  
**Purpose:** To interview  
**Keywords:** #HOC

AGENDA ITEM #19  
June 13, 2023  
**Interview**

## **SUBJECT**

To interview the County Executive's nominee for the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC).

## **EXPECTED ATTENDEES**

Jeffrey Merkowitz, Linda Croom, and Robert (Robin) Salomon.

## **COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Not applicable.

## **DESCRIPTION/ISSUE**

Interview County Executive's nominees for reappointment and appointment to the Housing Opportunities Commission: Jeffrey Merkowitz, Linda Croom, and Robert (Robin) Salomon.

Confirmation is tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2023.

## **SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

Not applicable.

### **This report contains:**

County Executive's appointment papers @ 1-4  
Draft Resolution @ 5

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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich  
County Executive

**APPOINTMENT**

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

**Type of Position: Individual Assisted by HOC**

Linda Croom  
Germantown 8/31/2027  
(Reappointment--Second Term)

**Type of Position: Public**

Robert (Robin) Salomon  
Darnestown 8/31/2025  
(Replaces Jackie Simon's expired term--First Term)

**Type of Position: Public**

Jeffrey Merkowitz  
Kensington 8/31/2026  
(Reappointment – First Full Term)

TO SERVE AS members of the Housing Opportunities Commission

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

June 7, 2023

MARC ELRICH  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE

## **HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION**

- Created -- Maryland Code, Housing & Community Development Article, Sections 16-105 -107.
- Purpose -- The Housing Opportunities Commission is a public corporation chartered under Maryland law. HOC builds, owns, manages and finances housing for people of eligible income. The Commission can issue tax exempt bonds to finance multi-family rental housing and single family mortgages.
- Membership -- Seven members. (A Federal law requires that at least one member of this Commission be a person “who is directly assisted by the public housing agency.”). *Members are required to be sworn in by the Clerk of the Circuit Court before their first meeting.*
- Financial Disclosure --Public disclosure required.
- Terms -- Five-year terms - no compensation.
- Meetings -- First Wednesday evening of each month.
- Staff -- Chelsea Andrews, Executive Director  
Staff: Jocelyn Koon, Special Asst. to the Executive Director  
Phone: 240-627-9425  
Email: [jocelyn.koon@hocmc.org](mailto:jocelyn.koon@hocmc.org)

**MEMBERSHIP**

Type of Position: **Individual Assisted by HOC**

**Linda Croom**, Germantown

Affiliation:

Start Date: 01/16/2018 End Date: **08/31/2022**

First Full Term - Reappointment

**STATUS: ACTIVE**

Type of Position: **Public**

**Pamela Byrd**, Silver Spring

Affiliation:

Start Date: 07/10/2018 End Date: **08/31/2023**

Second Term - Reappointment

**STATUS: ACTIVE**

Type of Position: **Public**

**Frances Kelleher**, Silver Spring

Affiliation:

Start Date: 02/04/2020 End Date: **08/31/2024**

First Full Term - Reappointment

**STATUS: ACTIVE**

Type of Position: **Public**

**Jeffrey Merkowitz**, Kensington

Affiliation:

Start Date: 05/05/2020 End Date: **08/31/2021**

Partial Term - Replace Edgar Rodriguez's unexpired term

**STATUS: ACTIVE**

Type of Position: **Public**

**Richard Nelson**, Wheaton

Affiliation:

Start Date: 07/10/2018 End Date: **08/31/2023**

Second Term - Reappointment

**STATUS: ACTIVE**

Type of Position: **Public**

**Roy Priest**, Silver Spring

Affiliation:

Start Date: 02/04/2020 End Date: **08/31/2024**

First Full Term - Reappointment

**STATUS: ACTIVE**

Type of Position: **Public**

**Jackie Simon**, Montgomery Village

Affiliation: None

Start Date: 12/08/2015 End Date: **08/31/2020**

First Full Term - Reappointment

**STATUS: ACTIVE**

ontact: Beth Gochrach 240-777-2528

For Immediate Release: November 14, 2022

Application Deadline: December 5, 2022

## **Elrich Seeks Applicants for Housing Opportunities Commission**

County Executive Marc Elrich is seeking applicants to fill three vacancies on the Housing Opportunities Commission for two public members and one member who is directly assisted by the Housing Opportunities Commission either as a public housing resident or a recipient of housing assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher program. The incumbents are eligible to apply for reappointment.

The seven-member commission is responsible for building, managing and financing housing for low and moderate income people. Members serve five-year terms without compensation, but are eligible for reimbursement for travel and dependent care for meetings attended.

The Commission meets the first Wednesday of each month at 4:00 PM in Kensington. In addition, members are expected to attend regular committee meetings and property boards of directors to which they are assigned. Additional meetings are scheduled as needed. Members are required to attend at least 75 percent of the scheduled meetings.

**Commissioners are required to file a public financial disclosure statement before County Executive appointment and annually thereafter**, and are required to be sworn in by the Clerk of the Circuit Court before their first meeting.

Applicants of diverse, backgrounds, professions, genders, geography, abilities, ethnicities, and ages are encouraged to apply. Members of County boards, committees and commissions may not serve on more than one such group at a time. Members must complete training on the Maryland Open Meetings Act, Montgomery County Ethics Law, and basic parliamentary procedure. The County Executive's appointments are subject to confirmation by the County Council. Applications will be forwarded to the Council for confirmation. The deadline for application is **December 5, 2022**. To apply please click **Apply for Commission** below to complete the online form and provide a letter of interest and resume.

### **CURRENT POSITION(S) AVAILABLE:**

#### **Public**

#### **Individual Assisted by the Housing Opportunities Commission**

**PLEASE ENTER OR COPY AND PASTE THE POSITION FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING IN THE "SEAT BEING APPLIED FOR" FIELD ON THE APPLICATION FORM .**

Resolution No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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Lead Sponsor: County Council

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**SUBJECT:** County Executive's Appointment to the Housing Opportunities Commission

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

The County Executive's appointment to the Housing Opportunities Commission is confirmed.

**Type of Position: Individual Assisted by HOC**

Linda Croom  
Germantown 8/31/2027  
(Reappointment--Second Term)

**Type of Position: Public**

Robert (Robin) Salomon  
Darnestown 8/31/2025  
(Replaces Jackie Simon's expired term--First Term)

**Type of Position: Public**

Jeffrey Merkowitz  
Kensington 8/31/2026  
(Reappointment – First Full Term)

This is a correct copy of Council action.

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Sara Tenenbaum, Clerk of the Council