




City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: <i>Edlira Kuka</i>		
Board/Commission Name: <i>Seattle Human Rights Commission</i>		Position Title: <i>Member</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment <i>OR</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reappointment		Council Confirmation required? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Appointing Authority: <input type="checkbox"/> Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		Term of Office: <i>Confirmation - 07/22/2017</i>
Residential Neighborhood:	Zip Code: <i>98155</i>	Contact Phone No.:
Legislated Authority: SMC 3.14.920, SMC 3.14.921, SMC 3.51.010, Ordinance 118392, Ordinance 120871, Ordinance 120325		
Background: <p>Edlira would like to serve on the Commission because she is passionate about addressing barriers that communities face with regard to housing and employment rights, wrongfully being denied their basic human rights, specific areas of interest for her are addressing immigrant detention, use of force and youth violence issues, incarceration rates in minority population; use of criminal records and legal financial obligation as areas that impact the possibility of individuals re-entering and contributing to their communities after incarceration. Her interests and experience also include rights of youth in foster care and women rights, as well as addressing local and international human trafficking, including sex trafficking and other forced labor. By serving on the Commission she can offer her combination of experience in both direct service and knowledge of the legislative and policy processes in several human rights topics, to continue working on eliminating barriers faced by members of our community. Overall she hopes to accomplish this by providing a level of support and service to the Commission in responding to public need within the City to address all human rights for Seattle residents. She would also like to learn about focus areas that she may not have a background in, but nonetheless enthusiastic to learn more and become involved, including the possibility of serving on a committee within the Commission, and exploring other areas in which she can serve the Commission and the Seattle residents</p>		
Date of Appointment: <i>10/15/15</i>	Authorizing Signature (original signature): 	Appointing Signatory: <i>Mayor Edward B. Murray</i>

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 CITY OF SEATTLE
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 CITY CLERK

Edlira Kuka, BA

Qualifications Profile

Experienced in: Legislative Advocacy, Public Relations for Non-Profit Agencies, Public Speaking, Working with Elected Officials, Teaching and Leading Workshops, Facilitating Meetings and Community Events, Editing and Technical Writing, Analytical Research, Multi-Cultural Partnerships, Supervising Staff and Volunteers, Report Writing and Data Analysis, Fundraising, Grant Writing and Board Development

Languages Fluent: Albanian, French; Intermediate: Spanish, Italian; Beginner: Mandarin Chinese

Professional Experience

Washington State House of Representatives, July 2014-Present

Legislative Assistant to Representative Gael Tarleton-36th Legislative District

- Provide policy research and analysis, write talking points and briefings on legislative focus areas
- Manage all office operations, scheduling and travel arrangements
- Communicate with constituents, lobbyists and other legislators on behalf of the Representative
- Work to resolve constituent matters regarding legal help and navigating state agencies
- Serve as point-of-contact for media and community relations

Washington State Senate, January 2013-March 2014

Session Legislative Aide to Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles-36th Legislative District

- Serve in public relations capacity and represent Senator at civic and community events
- Participate in panels and public forums on anti-poverty issues, children's rights and human trafficking
- Work as part-time summer staff between sessions serving in community relations role
- Manage daily office operations and meetings with other legislators, caucus staff and community members, and respond to constituents in a timely manner via phone, email and hotline
- Prepare materials and talking points for committee hearings and speaking engagements

Solid Ground, August 2010-July 2014

Housing Counselor, Legislative Advocacy Lead-Homeless Prevention Programs

- Develop community engagement plan in drastically expanding program presence in the community
- Lead the legislative advocacy component of the program and cultivate relations with state legislators and city officials and community partners to pass ordinances and state laws
- Expertise in working with immigrant and refugee communities and minority populations facing barriers
- Conduct presentations and workshops on housing laws with an emphasis on communities most at-risk of homelessness
- Provide in-depth counseling sessions over the phone on housing laws and rights

American Lung Association, May 2009-January 2010

Master Home Environmentalist-AmeriCorps Member

- Build Partnerships with local media agencies to increase program coverage of environmental justice and poverty issues
- Volunteer coordination, supervision, recruitment, interviewing and assisting with training protocol
- Work directly with children and families impacted by childhood asthma in substandard housing
- Write and edit press releases and represent program to donors, stakeholders and government entities
- Perform in-home visits and presentations to the community addressing indoor-air quality issues

Ryther, June 2007-December 2012

Residential Counselor, Visitation Supervisor, Case Aide

- Manage a supportive milieu for children in foster care experiencing severe trauma and neglect
- Provide therapeutic crisis intervention to youth in a fast-paced work environment with a framework of addressing oppression in the foster care system
- Work as a Visitation Supervisor to facilitate court-ordered visits and provide feedback to families
- Assess progress of visits and relationship building skills and communicate effectively with adults and children in crisis in addressing barriers to education, housing and economic success
- Write extensive documentation of daily logs, incident reports, visitation reports and state documents

Academy of Languages, April 2005-Present

Albanian Interpreter-Contract Position

- Provide interpretation services specializing in serving war refugees experiencing trauma
- Interpret and translate complex legal documents for court hearings and briefings
- Specialize in women's health and interpret sensitive materials and information in crisis situations

Formal Education

University of Washington, 2009

BA, International Studies, French Minor

Coursework included a certificate in *European Union Policy*

Boards and Committees

2011-Present	Board Member-Board Development Chair, Safe Futures Youth Center
2011-2014	Committee Member, Public Policy Committee, Washington Housing Alliance
2011-20013	Committee Member, Unreinforced Masonry Policy Committee, City of Seattle
2010-2013	Taskforce Member, Criminal Records Roundtable, City of Seattle Office of Civil Rights
2010-2012	Committee Member, RRI0, City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

Community Engagements

2013-Present	French Language Children's Program Volunteer, Ryther
2012-Present	Member, Statewide Poverty Action Network (SPAN)
2011-Present	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), King County Superior Court
Autumn 2013	Panelist, Anti-Trafficking- <i>Not My Life</i> Film Screening, Seattle International Film Festival
Autumn 2011	Participant of Engage Seattle Organizing Training, Seattle Mayor's Office
Spring 2011	Presenter and Panelist, WSC 21 st Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness
Autumn 2010	Undoing Institutional Racism Training, People's Institute Northwest
Spring 2009	Participant, Regional Environmental Justice Training, Environmental Protection Agency
2006-2009	International Student Area Representative, YFU International
2005-2007	Research Assistant, University of Washington Autism Center
2005-2006	English Language Tutor, St. James ESL Program
2003-2006	Child Life Program Volunteer, Seattle Children's Hospital

Seattle Human Rights Commission August 2015

16 Members: Per SMC 3.14.920, Confirmed by the City Council, Serve a term of 2-years

- 7 City Council-appointed
- 7 Mayor-appointed
- 1 Appointed by Commission
- 1 Member Get Engaged Program Appointed by the Mayor and Confirmed by the City Council

Roster:

*D	**G	Position No.	Position Title	Name	Term Start Date	Term End Date	Term #	Appointed By
1	F	1.	Member	Amy G. Huang	12/15/14	07/22/16	1 st	Mayor
6	F	2.	Member	Sarah Bishop	08/04/14	07/22/16	1 st	Mayor
1	M	3.	Member	Rich Stolz	05/06/14	07/22/16	2 nd	Mayor
1	F	4.	Member	Margaret Babayan	Council Confirmation	07/22/17	2 nd	Mayor
6	F	5.	Member	Ashley Miller	05/26/2015	07/22/16	1 st	Mayor
2	M	6.	Member	Ken Nsimbi	Council Confirmation	07/22/17	2 nd	Mayor
2	F	7.	Member	Edlira Kuka	Council Confirmation	07/22/17	2 nd	Mayor
2		8.	Member	Vacant - Marcel Baugh	Council Confirmation	07/22/16	1 st	City Council
6	M	9.	Member	Alex Becker	02/10/14	07/22/16	2 nd	City Council
6	F	10.	Member	Danielle M. Wallace	12/15/14	07/22/16	1 st	City Council
		11.	Member	Vacant – Julianna Tesfu	Council Confirmation	07/22/17	1 st	City Council
6	F	12.	Member	Sarah Lippek	Council Confirmation	07/22/17	2 nd	City Council
3	F	13.	Member	Alejandra Gonza	Council Confirmation	07/22/17	3 rd	City Council
6	F	14.	Member	Lara C. Diaconu	Council Confirmation	07/22/17	2 nd	City Council
2	M	15.	Member	Jason Poydras	02/10/14	07/22/16	1 st	Commission
2	F	16.	Get Engaged	Oyna Robertson	09/08/15	09/31/16	1 term	Mayor

Diversity Chart:

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)				
	Men	Women	Vacant	Minority	Asian-American	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	American Indian/Alaska Native	***Other	Caucasian/Non-Hispanic	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multiracial
Mayor	2	5	0	5	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Council	1	4	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0
Comm	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GE	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	10	2	9	3	4	1	0	0	5	0	0	0