

# OVERVIEW OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia was established by the US Congress in 1913 as an independent District Government agency to regulate the electric, natural gas and telephone companies serving the District.





# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIRMAN



**Willie L. Phillips**  
**Chairman**

Willie L. Phillips was appointed to the Commission by Mayor Vincent Gray in 2014, and reappointed by Mayor Bowser to serve as Chairman in 2018.

Chairman Phillips is an experienced regulatory attorney combining over a decade of legal expertise in private practice and as in-house counsel. He has an extensive background in the areas of public utility regulation, bulk power system reliability, and corporate governance. Chairman Phillips has represented the District of Columbia in national and international energy policy discussions, including dialogues at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), U.S. Congress, and U.S. Department of State. He has also led efforts to influence PSC communications and to update public-facing platforms.

Prior to coming to the PSC, Chairman Phillips served as Assistant General Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), a not-for-profit international regulatory authority, in Washington, D.C.; he also worked for a Washington, D.C. law firm, Van Ness Feldman LLP, where he advised clients on regulatory compliance and policy matters and assisted on litigation and administrative proceedings on the Federal and State level.

Chairman Phillips is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), serving on the Committee on Electricity, and Second Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (MACRUC). He is also a member of the Advisory Council to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Harvard Electricity Policy Group, Keystone Policy Center Energy Board, Energy Bar Association, Dentons Smart Cities & Communities Think Tank, and the American Association of Blacks in Energy. And he serves on the Board of Directors of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) and the Living Classrooms Foundation of the National Capital Region.

Chairman Phillips has a Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Montevallo. He is also a member of the District of Columbia Bar and Alabama State Bar Association.



# PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION COMMISSIONER



**Richard A. Beverly**  
**Commissioner**

Richard A. Beverly was nominated by Mayor Muriel Bowser and confirmed as a DCPSC Commissioner by the D.C. Council effective December 20, 2016, for a term ending June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Beverly has a long and distinguished record. He served as a Clinton Appointee to the U.S. Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board and has served as General Counsel for both the DCPSC and the Office of Employee Appeals for a total of over 30 years.

A Ward 1 resident, Mr. Beverly received a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from Howard University and a Juris Doctorate from American University.





# OUR JOB AT THE COMMISSION

**Natural Gas**



**Customer Service**



**Electricity**



**Pay Telephones**



**Telecommunications**





# MISSION STATEMENT

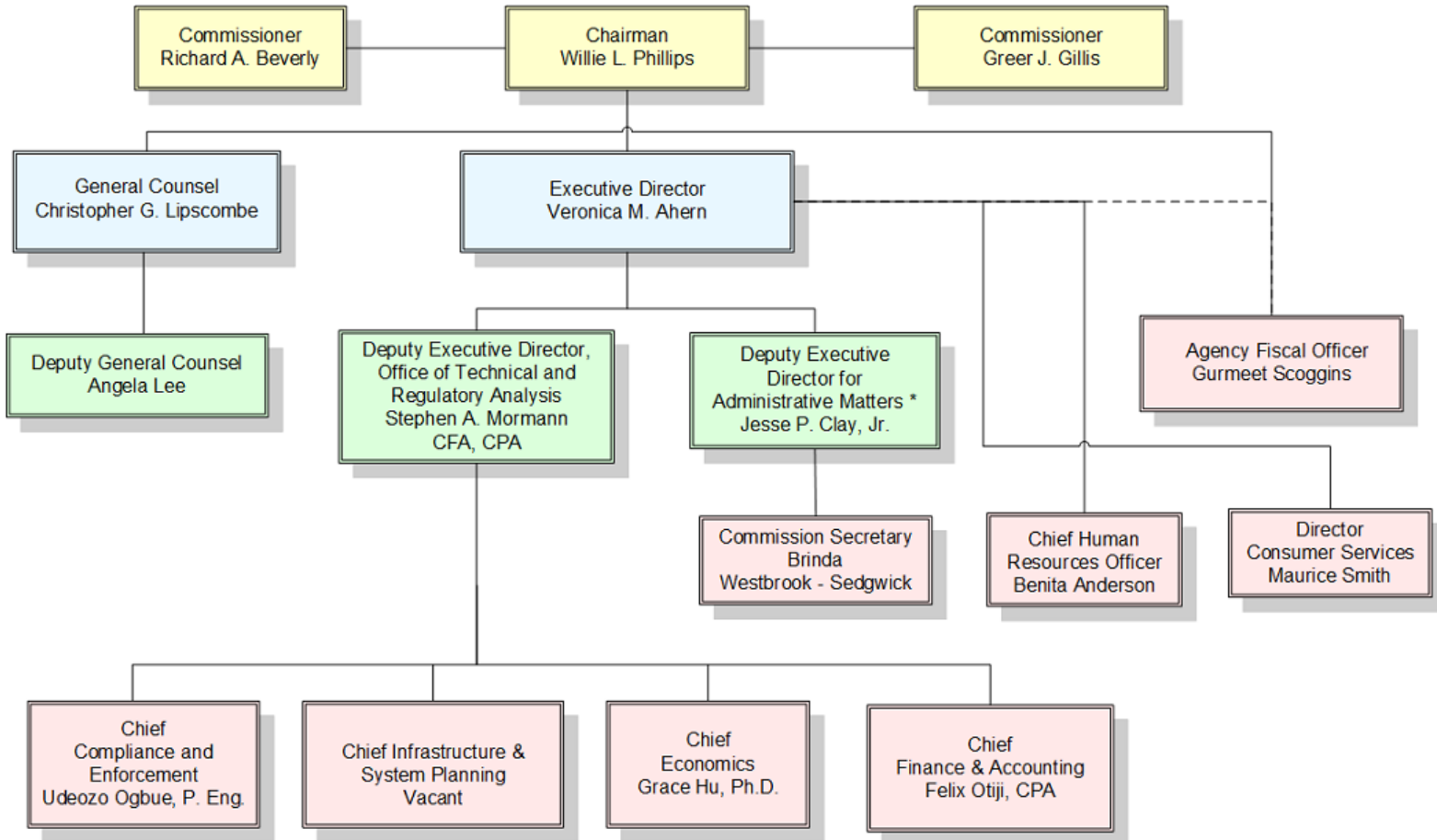


- The mission of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia is to serve the public interest by ensuring that financially healthy electric, natural gas and telecommunications companies provide safe, reliable and quality utility services at reasonable rates for District of Columbia residential, business and government customers.
- We do this by:
  - Motivating customer- and results-oriented employees;
  - Protecting consumers to ensure public safety, reliability, and quality services;
  - Regulating monopoly services to ensure their rates are just and reasonable;
  - Fostering fair and open competition among service providers;
  - Conserving natural resources and preserving environmental quality;
  - Resolving disputes among consumers and service providers; and
  - Educating consumers and informing the public.



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

## Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia Organizational Structure FY 2019



\* Staff includes the Chief Information Technology Officer.



# THE COMMISSION IS LIKE A COURT

- The Commissioners are like judges.
- All staff involved in formal cases are advisors to the Commissioners.
  - (Commissioners' staff, the Offices of the General Counsel (OGC), Executive Director, and Technical and Regulatory Analysis (OTRA) are all advisors to the Commissioners.
  - In some cases, the Office of Consumer Services (OCS) staff also serve as advisors.)
- The Administrative staff are like the Clerk of the Court.
  - (The Office of the Commission Secretary and the Administrative Offices [Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director for Administration, Human Resources, and Information Technology]).
- OCS provides mediation services to consumers and businesses re complaints re utility service providers and pay telephone service providers and OGC staff serve as hearing officers when formal hearings are requested.
- OTRA manages the natural gas pipeline safety program.



# Commission

**Privately-Owned  
Utility Companies**

e.g., Pepco, Verizon, and WGL

***Public – Utility  
Customers***

**Office of the People's  
Counsel (OPC)  
Consumer Advocate**

Representing residential ratepayers

**Government Intervenors  
– e.g., DC Govt. including  
D.C. Energy Office, and  
Federal Govt.**

**Private Intervenors – e.g.,  
Apartment & Office  
Building Association  
(AOBA), Competitive  
Suppliers/Providers**





# THE COMMISSION'S REGULATORY JURISDICTION

- Electric
  - Pepco has a monopoly over the distribution of electricity to consumers.
  - Competitive Electric Generation and Transmission Suppliers - CES supply the generation and interstate transmission of electricity to Pepco's distribution system.
- Natural Gas
  - Washington Gas Light has a monopoly over the distribution of natural gas to consumers.
  - Competitive Commodity Gas Suppliers - CGS supply the natural gas that flows through Washington Gas Light's pipes and mains.
- Local Telephone
  - Verizon, DC
  - Competitive local telephone providers called Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs)



# THE COMMISSION'S OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES



- OCS serves as the public relations arm for the Commission and is responsible for the day-to-day activities of three programs:
  - mediation of consumer complaints re utility service providers;
  - registration of applications to install new pay telephones and mediation of complaints re proposed and existing pay telephones; and;
  - an outreach program that includes, publication, distribution, and presentation of information to help consumers make informed choices.



# MEDIATING CONSUMER COMPLAINTS



- The Commission can mediate consumer complaints.
- However, if the complaint is not resolved informally, the Commission, through OCS, conducts an independent investigation and will arrange an informal hearing, if necessary. OPC can attend the informal hearing as an observer or as the lawyer for the consumer at the hearing.
- If the complaint is not resolved at this stage, the consumer can request, in writing, a formal hearing. OCS will have the formal hearing request docketed by the Commission Secretary and a Commission attorney will serve as the hearing officer. OPC can attend the formal hearing as an observer or as the lawyer for the consumer.
- The Commission engages a court reporter to provide an official transcript of the hearing. The hearing officer will subsequently render a decision in an order.



# MEDIATING CONSUMER COMPLAINTS



- If a complaint is not resolved at the formal hearing stage, either party can appeal the Hearing Officer's decision to the full Commission.
- Another Commission attorney will then serve as an advisor to the Commissioners. The Commission will issue its decision in an order.
- If a party is not satisfied with the Commission's decision, it can appeal the decision to the D.C. Court of Appeals.



# COMMISSION'S BUDGET



FY 2019 - \$15.751 million

- ✓ \$3.879 million – Non-Personnel Services (NPS)
- ✓ \$11.872 million – Personnel Services (PS)
- ✓ 85.6 - No. of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Positions





# COMMISSION'S OPERATING BUDGET ASSESSMENTS



- The Commission assesses the 3 utility companies, Pepco, Verizon, and Washington Gas , alternative electric and natural gas suppliers, and Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) for its annual operating budget.
- In March of each year, the Commission conducts an annual survey to obtain the revenues of electric, natural gas, and telephone utility companies and alternative electric and natural gas suppliers and Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) serving the District for the previous calendar year.
- Other companies' shares of the Commission's budget are based on their shares of total utility industry revenue in the District, minus the aggregate amount of the first-year CLECs' payments.



# FORMAL CASE ASSESSMENTS

- The Commission assesses the utility companies (Pepco, Verizon DC, and Washington Gas Light) for the cost of formal proceedings.
- Rate Cases – The Commission can assess no more than one-quarter of one percent of the jurisdictional value of the utility company, per case.
- Non-Rate Cases – The Commission can assess no more than one twentieth of one percent of the jurisdictional value of the utility company for the calendar year.