“We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants”
The Role of Howard University Faculty and Graduates and the Commission in the Integration of the Public Utility Industry in the District of Columbia

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Executive Director
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
For the 41st Annual Conference on DC Historical Studies
November 22, 2014

*means there is an affiliation with Howard University.
Sources

- Minutes of Commission Meetings, 1913 – 1973; there are no minutes after that date. (Numbers in parentheses are page numbers in the Minutes.)
- Annual Reports
- Commission Orders
- Newspaper Articles
- Interviews
- Photographs
- National Archives
- Wikipedia
- Howard University Moorland-Spingarn Library
Washington, D.C. in 1913

- Population 353,297
- 98,144 or 28% were “Colored.”
- Racial segregation ruled most aspects of life.
- Housing, schools, many restaurants and retail stores, swimming pools, and theaters were segregated.
- Streetcars were not segregated, thanks to Sojourner Truth protest in the mid-1860s.
- There were separate “Colored” and “White” Taxicab Associations.
- Few “Coloreds” worked in government, except in menial positions.
Republican President William Howard Taft signed legislation creating the Commission on March 4, 1913. On the same day, Democrat Woodrow Wilson became President.
One of President Wilson’s first acts was to swear in Chester Harding and Cuno Rudolph as Commissioners of the PUC on March 10, 1913. They were already D.C. Commissioners.

During Wilson’s tenure as President, he attempted to re-segregate the federal government and the District Government was part of the federal government.
In 1913, the PUC regulated the privately owned electric, gas, telephone, and public transportation companies serving the District.

Transportation dominated the PUC’s agenda—particularly streetcars, jitneys, and taxicabs for the first half century.

Jurisdiction over transportation companies was transferred to a metropolitan authority in the early 1960s.

In 1964, responsibility for regulating security broker/dealers was added to the Commission’s responsibilities. With the addition of the securities industry, the name of the PUC was changed to the Public Service Commission (PSC) in 1964.

In 1986, taxicab regulation moved to a newly formed Taxicab Commission.

In 1997, the Office of Securities was moved to a newly created DC Government Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking.

Today, the Commission regulates electric, natural gas, and local telephone services.

Every state has a similar regulatory agency.
The Commission is like a Court
Photos From Previous Cases
Commission

Privately Owned Utility Companies
- e.g., Pepco, Verizon, and Washington Gas

Public - Utility Customers

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

Office of the People’s Counsel (OPC) - Consumer Advocate
Representing residential ratepayers

Private Intervenors -
- e.g., Apartment & Office Building Association (AOBA), Competitive Suppliers/Providers
One of the Commission’s key functions is to set “just and reasonable rates.”

There are 3 steps:
1. Determine the Revenue Requirement as follows:
   \[ RR = OE + ROR \times (RB - AD) \]
   Revenue Requirement (RR) = Operating Expenses (OE) + Rate of Return (ROR) \times Value of Physical (Capital) Assets (Rate Base (RB) - Accumulated Depreciation (AD))
2. Allocate the RR across customer classes such as residential & commercial
3. Design rates

- Economists and Financial Analysts testify and advise on ROR.
- Accountants testify and advise on OE and RB-AD based on historical costs and adjustments for known and measurable changes.
- Economists testify and advise on steps 2 and 3.
- Step 3 can involve marginal or incremental cost pricing.
All employees were White males except for Blanche Miller; a White female employee.

Blanche joined the PUC as a Clerk in the Executive Office on November 6, 1913.

Her salary was $60 per month or $720 per year; the same as male employees in the same position.

She was 29 years old.

She left the PUC on June 30, 1914.
2013 PSC Staff
2013 PSC Stats

DIVERSITY OF CURRENT 65 PSC STAFF

<table>
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10 Countries
- Costa Rica
- India
- Jamaica
- Kenya
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Philippines
- Russia
- Taiwan
- Venezuela

Source: DCPSC
How Did We Get To Where We Are?

The Commission’s Fair Employment Record and Impact on the Utility Industry in the District
W.H.H. Terrell – 1919?

William H.H. Terrell, first “Colored” employee, age 48 in 1919
- Born 1871 in Virginia; Father W.H.H. Terrell (Waiter) born in 1847; Mother Ellen Terrell born 1846.
- Approved on the rolls of the PUC as a Messenger on July 1, 1919, but we don’t know when he first joined the PUC because it is not noted in the PUC’s Minutes of Meetings as was done for other employees.
- Beginning salary $720 per year; 1925 – salary $1140; 1926 – salary $1200; July 1, 1928, salary increased from $1,320 per year to $1,380 per year as Messenger-Chauffeur.
- Effective November 1, 1928, appointed Janitor in the Southeast Testing Station of the Gas Inspection Bureau at a salary of $5.00 per month. (PUC No. 2397) (page 56 of Minutes of PUC Meetings 1928-1932)
- I assume this was in addition to his regular position.
- Position as Laboratory assistant abolished so “Involuntarily separated due to shortage of appropriations and not for misconduct” on June 30, 1933 (PUC No. 2397) (Charles Kutz, W. Gwynn Gardiner, Louis Brownlow)
Possible W.H.H. Terrell Genealogy

Was He Related To *Robert H. Terrell – Colored?

- Graduated from Harvard in 1884; LLB from Howard University School of Law in 1889; LLM in 1893; Taught at Howard 1898 - ?
- Married to Mary Church Terrell; had 2 daughters
- Born in Charlottesville, Virginia; Parents were Harris & Louisa Terrell.

Was He Related To W.H.H. Terrell – White?

- W.H.H. Terrell (1827-1884)
- Named after President William Henry Harrison, 9th US President – 1771-1841
- Adjutant General for Indiana with rank of Colonel
- Third Assistant Postmaster General in DC (1869-1873)
- Married to Sarah Eliza Church Terrell
- Two children – Emma Terrell born 1851 and George Fisher Terrell (no date)
In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Mabel Boardman to be the first woman member of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia. Congress never confirmed her. She served only about 6 months from September 1920 to March 1921.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mabel_Thorp(Boardman)
1910 – Federation of Citizen Associations (FCA) was organized in 1910 by a group of 20 neighborhoods. The organization had a Whites only clause in its constitution that was removed in 1972. From the start, the Commission mailed notices of hearings to the FCA and its member organizations so they could participate in Commission proceedings.

1921 - The DC Federation of Civic Associations (DCFCA) was formed officially on November 10, 1921 by 9 civic associations. The founding civic associations represented Black residents and businesses in Georgetown, Barry Farms, Benning-Glendale-Oakland, Central Northeast, Howard Park, Northeast Improvement, Pleasant Plains, Potomac, and Reno.

Some neighborhoods had both an FCA and a DCFCA.

November 1922 - Due to the need to save on postage through the end of the year, the PUC discontinued mailing notices of public hearings to various citizens’ associations. Instead, they were given to the public through the daily press. (1920-1922 Minutes of PUC meetings at 286)

There is no mention of when the Commission began distributing its notices and orders to the DCFCA.

1940, the PUC reduced its mailing list for notices of hearings and orders, however, the FCA and the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations (DCFCA) remained on the list.
Despite Much Progress, Racial Distinctions Between Citizen and Civic Associations Remain Today

Anne Renshaw (with scarf)
2013 President of Federation of Citizen Associations

Barbara Morgan (in purple)
2013 President of DC Federation of Civic Associations
Southwest Civic Association Complaint re: Inadequate Streetcar Service

- 1924 - First mention of civic association – Southwest civic association complaint re inadequate service on streetcars serving the area. (Southwest was a predominantly “Colored” neighborhood at the time.)
- The PUC denied the complaint, saying service was adequate. (PUC No. 2233)
- (Rudolph, Bell, Oyster)

(Source: page 124 of 1923-24 minutes of PUC meetings)
PUC Directs Suspension of Mass Transportation for KKK Parade

1926 – As was customary for inaugural activities, the PUC directed that streetcar and bus service be suspended in the areas of the KKK parade on September 13, 1926.

(Rudolph, Bell, and Dougherty)
PUC’s Positions on Efforts to Racially Segregate Streetcars in the District

1916 - Congress considered 3 bills that would require streetcar companies to provide separate accommodations for White and Colored passengers. The bills were referred to the DC Commissioners. No PUC action was taken. (Kutz, Brownlow, and Newman)

1921 - Congress considered another bill requiring separate accommodations on streetcars for White and Colored races - Senate Bill 549. The PUC opposed the bill - PUC No. 1874 (1920-22 minutes of PUC meetings, page 138) (Kutz, Rudolph, & Oyster)

1927 - the PUC’s General Counsel, William McBride, issued a legal opinion that legislation separating the races on streetcars would probably be held constitutional.” (Col. J. Franklin Bell, Sidney F. Taliaferro, Procter Dougherty) If enacted, the legislation would have required street car lines to run two cars in tandem, the second car designated by signage, “For Colored Passengers Only.” The local press referred to such proposed legislation as “Jim Crow Car Bills.” Senator Arthur Capper, Republican from Kansas, recommended against favorably reporting this legislation, and the bill died with the termination of the 70th Congress.
Edna Mae Brown, first “Colored” Female employee

Joined the PSC as a Clerk Stenographer on September 26, 1932

Salary $1,440 per year

Service Terminated on February 19, 1933

Temporarily reappointed to Clerk Stenographer at same salary on May 29, 1933

Service terminated on July 14, 1933.

(General Mason M. Patrick, Major John Gotwals, and Riley Elgen)
1940 & 50s – Possible PSC Negro Employees & Promotion of White Female

- Carl Harris - Messenger
- Albert James Jackson – Messenger
- Edward W. Williams – Messenger
- Kyle Lewis Thomas, Jr. – Messenger
- James L. Harris – Messenger
- Naomi Hetzel (White Female) promoted to Chief Clerk at $2,300 per year, effective August 16, 1941.
WASHINGTON, D. C.—Two white taxi drivers who failed to pick up a Negro fare were fined $50 each by the Public Utilities Commission on Friday.

The complaint was lodged with the commission by E. Lewis Ferrell, attorney, who said the two drivers refused to accept him as a passenger while they were standing in the cab zone at Hecht’s Department store. He took their license numbers.

George Hankins, chairman of the commission, who fined the men declared: “I am not going to stand for any bi-racial set-up in public transportation. You drivers, when on duty, must pick up any passenger who hails you.”
Since its establishment, the Capital Transit Company refused to accept applications from Negroes for employment as streetcar or bus operators. Capital Transit would, however, hire Negroes in the Company’s maintenance section. Capital Transit took the position that its discrimination was based on its past experience and the attitude of the platform operators. Capital Transit claimed that the hiring of Negro streetcar and bus operators would result in a decrease in the workforce as the white streetcar and bus operators would quit.

Capital Transit’s discriminatory hiring practices eventually gained national attention. An article written in 2012 titled, “The Fight against Capital Transit’s Jim Crow Hiring: 1941-55,” details Capital Transit’s long history of discriminatory hiring practices. The article states that groups such as, “the NAACP, Americans for Democratic Action, a now marginalized Communist Party, and other activists continued to raise the issue [of the discriminatory hiring practices] at Capital Transit fare increase hearings before the District Public Utilities Commission from 1948-53.”

Capital Transit’s discriminatory hiring practices also led to the establishment of the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities, which was chaired by William S. Johnson. The Committee solicited sponsorships and endorsements from national figures such as Charles Hamilton Houston, Ralph Matthews, and Mary McLeod, just to name a few. (Simpson, Craig. "The Fight Against Capital Transit's Jim Crow Hiring: 1941-55." Weblog post. Working Class Heroes. p., 12 Dec. 2012. Web. 04 Feb. 2014.)
Manpower shortages had been a long standing issue, dating back to World War I, causing Capital Traction, precursor of Capital Transit, to convert two-man cars to one-man cars. The Federation of Citizens Association regularly opposed the use of the one-man cars. One of the chief complaints was the cars were not safe (no rear exit doors) and they were not well maintained. Meanwhile, Capital Traction followed by Capital Transit refused to hire Negro and female drivers.

On March 6, 1945, Capital Transit requested authority to reduce base day service on streetcar lines because of a manpower shortage.

The PSC docketed the case as PUC No. 2075/29, GD No. 1617, and F.C. No. 344.

The PSC held a formal public hearing on March 21, 1945.

The People’s Counsel, Capital Transit, and representatives of various “citizens and civic bodies appeared and were heard.”

Others protesting the request were the Legislative Committee of National Negro Council, CIO, and the Federation of Citizens Association.

The protestants argued that Capital Transit had failed to use all available sources of manpower (e.g., Negroes and women).
William Hastie, Esq. - First Negro Attorney Appearing Before the PUC

*William H. Hastie, Esq.* represented the NAACP, which protested the request. It appears he is the first Negro attorney to participate in a PUC proceeding. William H. Hastie was the first federal judge and federal appellate judge in the US. He was also Dean of the Howard University School of Law where he was Thurgood Marshall’s professor. He graduated from Dunbar High School.
By Order No. 2912, issued on April 20, 1945, the PSC ruled as follows:

..., the Commission is unable to find anything in the statute, or its legislative history, authorizing this Commission to impose its judgment upon management with respect to the employment policies of Capital Transit. The Commission does not feel that it should assume such broad power without Congressional approval and direction. Many employment policies are now subject to the jurisdiction of separate governmental agencies, such as, wages and hours, collective bargaining, and working conditions. The subject of discrimination because of race, creed, color, or place of origin, is under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Fair Employment Practices established by Executive Order of President Roosevelt, and proposals are now before Congress seeking to establish this Committee as a permanent part of the Federal Government. The Committee completed hearings in January of this year with respect to Capital Transit but as yet has not published its decision. In light of this Committee’s jurisdiction, it would appear to be particularly inappropriate for this Commission to assume and attempt to exercise powers for which it has not statutory authority.

Therefore, the PUC approved Capital Transit’s request to be in the public interest.

(James Flanagan, James F. Reilly, and Charles Kutz; Richmond Keech, General Counsel)
Capital Transit Hired White Women as Bus Drivers But Not Negroes
Federation of Citizens Association and DC Federation of Civic Associations (Ernest Harper) intervened, among other community organizations.

*Charles Hamilton Houston testified on behalf of the President’s Committee on Fair Employment Practice created under Executive Order No. 9436. He testified “with respect to the Company’s war-time efforts to utilize Negro street car and bus operators.” (Order No. 3422 at 4)

The PUC did not address the employment issues and impact on costs and revenue in its decision. Order No. 3422 issued October 1, 1948.

(Flanagan, Young, Lauderdale)
Charles Hamilton Houston, Esq.

*Charles Hamilton Houston, Esq.* was born in DC, graduated from Dunbar high school, and was valedictorian and Phi Beta Kappa at Amherst College where he graduated in 1915. He graduated from Harvard Law School (cum laude) in 1922 and received a Doctor of Laws from Harvard in 1923. He served on the Brown vs. Board of Education team and was Dean of Howard University Law School. From 1935-1940, he served as Special Counsel for the NAACP.
On April 3, 1953, Capital Transit sought an increase in fares from 17 cents cash, 5 tokens for 75 cents, and a weekly pass for $2.40 to a cash fare of 20 cents and a fare of 5 tokens for 95 cents.

There was “widespread public concern” over successive fare increases that had been granted to the Company in recent years.

The PUC held 25 days and one night of hearings between June 3, 1953 and October 1, 1953.

During the hearings “a large number of transit riders were heard on the record.” (Order No. 4052 at 2)
Howard University Participants in F.C. No. 424, Capital Transit Rate Case

James M. Nabrit, Jr., Esq.  
Howard Jenkins, Esq.  
Dr. Harry Walker
Howard University Participants

Howard University School of Law attorneys Dorsey Edward Lane, James Nabrit, Howard Jenkins, and Louis Page represented Harry J. Walker et al, complainants in the case. (3676)

James M. Nabrit, Jr. was a Professor at Howard University School of Law. He later became Dean of the Law School and President of the University.

Dr. Harry J. Walker was Professor of Sociology at Howard University.

Capital Transit’s refusal to hire Negro streetcar and bus operators was a major factor in the Commission’s decision to deny Capital Transit’s request for a rate increase.

Robert McLaughlin was Chairman and Louis Prentiss & Robert Weston were Commissioners. Vernon West was General Counsel.
In its Order, the PUC wrote, “If this Commission took action – even negative action in refusing to disallow Company expenses – tending to abet (even by silent acquiescence) the Company’s discrimination practices solely on the basis of race, such action would be subject to the most serious question under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution…” (Order No. 4052, p. 14)

The PUC noted its willingness to help in the efforts to rectify this discrimination. The final sentence of the Order’s section regarding Capital Transit’s discrimination states, “we will carefully observe, and cooperate with the Company and the Union in action towards integration of colored operators, during the coming months.” (Ibid., p. 16)

The PUC did just that. It hosted a series of meetings involving Capital Transit, the Urban League, and representatives of the President’s Commission on Contracts and the union.

Finally, on August 6, 1954, in F.C. No. 433, a Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between Capital Transit & the PUC in regard to a number of issues such as the employment of Negro streetcar & bus drivers and the conversion of all streetcar service to bus service. (A meeting was held on January 13, 1955 (P.U.C. No. 3407) per 3889 & 3973 of the Minutes of PUC Meetings.)

While this effort ultimately involved a number or persons and organizations, the PUC served a very important role in changing Capital Transit’s hiring policies and practices.
Text of Agreement Made By Transit Co. and PUC

The text of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Capital Transit Co. and the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia follows:

1. The first two quarterly dividends for the year 1954, if the rate of 40 cents per share, will be recommended to the Board of Directors that dividends be declared at the rate of not more than 30 cents per share per quarter. It will likewise recommend that the first dividends in 1955 be not more than 30 cents per share. The Commission takes no position as to the availability of cash for these dividends.

2. In view of the fact that the Public Utilities Commission has claimed that its investigation under Order No. 4060 has disclosed an accumulated deficit in the Company's books of $2,240,000 as computed on a "straight-line" basis, the Company, at the annual meeting of shareholders in April 1955, will submit to the stockholders and stockholders an amendment to its charter to change the book value of the stock of the management's recommendation is followed and the change in the book value of the stock is voted so as to create a capital surplus of $2,400,000, this amount will be transferred from capital surplus to the depreciation account, thereby wiping out the accumulated deficit. If such employment is determined to be feasible, the company will cooperate in an action program with the union, the Commission, and the President's Committee on Contracts.

3. The company and the Commission, jointly, will forthwith undertake a study of the present tax obligations of the company with a view of presenting to the Board of Commissioners justification for such tax relief as may be indicated.

4. There will be changes in the Board of Directors to include additional citizens, as well as changes in the financial and operating policies of the company. The company recognizes its responsibility under its charter to provide reasonable and adequate service for the public.
Robert Pettigrew (2nd row with glasses), the first Negro knowingly hired by Capital Transit as a bus operator in 1955

Courtesy of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689
1954 – Desegregation of Public Schools & Its Impact

- Supreme Court Decision in Bolling vs. Sharpe that desegregated public schools in DC and Brown vs. Board of Education that desegregated nationally.
- In DC, White residents fled to the suburbs, opening up homeownership opportunities in the District, and sparking greater interest by Negroes in issues related to utility bills.
- By 1957, the District was majority Negro.
President Eisenhower appointed Republican *George Edward Chalmers Hayes, Esq.* to be a Commissioner.

He joined the PUC on June 2, 1955 and his colleagues elected him to be Chairman. He served until June 30, 1961.

He is the first Negro PUC Commissioner and Chairman.
Prior to joining the PUC, he was Lead Counsel on Bolling vs. Sharpe and a Senior Partner at Cobb, Howard, Hayes, & Windsor.
He was a 1918 graduate of Howard University School of Law and he was a faculty member of the Law School between 1924-1936. Thereafter, he became an adjunct Professor.
He is one of the founders of the Washington Bar Association in 1925.
(Two other PSC Commissioners have been Presidents of the WBA – Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt and Belva Newsome.)
After leaving the PUC, he was an advocate of Home Rule when he became the first Black to be elected to the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Board of Trade that had opposed Home Rule. He served for 18 years.
He was University Counsel to Howard University for 35 years and a Director of Industrial Bank.
He was a 1911 graduate of the M Street School (Dunbar High School) and a 1915 graduate of Brown University.
Issues During Hayes Tenure

- Pepco Labor Strike and Aftermath of Hurricane Hazel
- Natural Gas Shortage
- Streetcar/Bus Transportation Dominated the Agenda
- Hayes preferred the formation of a publicly owned regional authority that ultimately became the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority – WMATA.
- D.C. Transit Rate Cases – F.C. Nos. 460, 471, and 474
Chairman Hayes with Commissioners Kertz & Welling
Chairman Hayes Speaking in Front of the District Building
Chairman Hayes Receiving Commendation from Walter Nathan Tobriner, President, D.C. Board of Commissioners
Certificate of Merit Awarded to Chairman George E. C. Hayes

The Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia

Certificate of Merit

Awarded to

George E. C. Hayes

CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In recognition of his outstanding service to the Community and to the Government of the District of Columbia while serving as a member and Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission from June 30, 1955, to June 30, 1961, and in deepest appreciation of his contribution of exceptional ability and sound judgment in dealing with many complex municipal problems during this period.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DATE: June 30, 1961

ATTTEST: [Signatures]
Commendations from Fellow Commissioners

- **Judge John Lewis Smith, Jr. – October 1, 1957**
  It was a privilege to serve under your able chairmanship. Your inherent sense of fairness, judicious approach to problems and calm demeanor made it a pleasure to be associated with you.... Your friendship is highly valued.

- **Engineer Commissioner Brigadier General A.C. Welling – July 25, 1960**
  During my tour of duty as Engineer Commissioner I have relished the opportunity of serving with you on the Public Utilities Commission. You have been the finest Chairman of any of the organizations to which I have been assigned, including the organizations of which I was Chairman. I have admired and respected your competence, your objectivity, and the pleasant, friendly way in which you have gone about your work. You have been not only an outstanding Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission, but also a respected leader in the community.
In 1960, Chairman Hayes hired James Bell as Chauffeur at $1.85 per hour. See pictures below.

In 1961 – Chairman Hayes had the PUC adopt a resolution establishing a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and directing that all personnel actions taken or ordered shall be based solely on merit and fitness of the individual without regard to race, religion, color, ancestry, or national origin. (PUC No. Misc. 14) (4463)
President Kennedy appointed *James E. Washington, Esq.* as PUC Commissioner. His colleagues elected him Chairman. He was also a Professor at Howard University School of Law and member of the Bolling vs. Sharpe team.


He served between 1961-1966.
Chairman Washington’s Minority Hiring

- **1961** - Hired Bobby Shaw as GS 5 Engineering Aide (4502)
- Hired 2 Black women as his secretaries -
  Miss Joyce Smith (November 27, 1961 as File Clerk (typing) at $3760 per year; permanent February 28, 1962)
  and Mrs. Catherine Purnell (November 8, 1961 as Clerk-Stenographer at $4,040 per year; permanent on February 8, 1962)

- **1965** – Promoted James Bell to a GS 3 Clerk.
  Hired students under President’s Youth Opportunity Campaign (5226)

Applied to UPO for services of support staff, funded by UPO (5326)
Employed clerical aids at $1.25 per hour under Economic Opportunity Act (5419, 5447, 5501)
1964 - Chairman Washington Hired First Black Employee at the Professional Level

August 1964 – Chairman Washington hired *Estella Bradley as GS 11 Accountant at $8,410 a year.

First Black employee hired at professional level position.

She was a Howard University graduate.
In 1964, Chairman Washington hired first Black Legal Agents, Elwood Chisholm, Esq. & Herbert Reid, Esq. Howard Law School faculty as legal consultants (agents) in a Yellow Pages case (5203).

Chisholm resigned for health reasons so Chairman Washington hired James E. Sheffield, Esq. to replace him. Sheffield was a Howard University Law School graduate and a law professor there.
First Black Consultants
Were Howard University Law School Faculty

Elwood Chisholm, Esq.

Herbert O. Reid, Esq.

James E. Sheffield, Esq.
Chairman Washington held meetings with utility companies re their minority employment record (4583, 4603, 4606)

Chairman Washington objected to the local utility companies’ practice of providing scholarships only to universities not supported by federal funds; instead he argued scholarships should be available to all. He asked staff to advise him whether ratepayers or shareholders should fund the scholarships. (4603)

Chairman Washington was a victim of racial segregation when he went to the November 11-15, 1962 NARUC Meeting in New Orleans and was refused entry into the hotel to attend the meeting. (Story told by George Avery.)
1963 – Continued Attempts to Integrate Utility Companies

- March 17, 1963, - PUC met with 3 utilities re Fair Employment Practices; Chairman Washington promised to gauge progress in 6 months.
- September 17, 1963, Chairman Washington held meeting to discuss progress. General Duke, the Engineer Commissioner, attended. (4766)
PUC Chairman Says He Will Probe Race Discrimination by Utilities

Chairman James A. Washington Jr. of the District Public Utilities Commission said yesterday he will look into suggestions of racial discrimination in the employment practices of the city's utility and taxicab companies.

He said he has information that Negroes have only "more or less token" representation among the utilities' better-salaried "higher management" jobs. Spokesman for two of the three major utilities denied that they practice discrimination.

Washington also said he will meet today with representatives of three major cab companies—Yellow, Diamond and Washington—to discuss complaints that they employ only white drivers.

Washington said he recognized that "this is an internal management matter and we have no jurisdiction or authority to tell them who to employ or promote."

"But as a regulatory body, we are concerned to have public services follow the present trends of the Federal government," he said, adding that, "Our only tool in this area is persuasion."

Joseph S. Greco, executive secretary of the PUC, said the agency's concern "lies in with the President's goal of fair employment practices."

Washington said another matter he will discuss with officials of the three cab companies is that the agency has received complaints that some white drivers have ignored Negroes who hailed them.

"We are going to ask the representatives to instruct their drivers on the regulations," Washington said. "Refusal of service on the basis of race will not be tolerated."

Continued violations by a driver can lead to a PUC recommendation that his hack license be revoked, Washington added.

As regards employment of white drivers only, Washington said that "it is not within our jurisdiction to tell them whom they shall hire. We only want to raise the question of whether continuation of this practice is desirable."

Kermit Bens, president of the Washington Cab Association, conceded that all 210 of his company's drivers are white. But he said they do not discriminate in picking up passengers.

"If any of them do, I certainly don't approve of it," he said. "We take our passengers as they come." Officials of the other two cab companies could not be reached for comment.

A spokesman for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co. said that all hiring, job assignment and advancement of its employees is done "on the basis of merit without discrimination because of color, race, creed or national origin."

An official of the Washington Gas Light Co. said all its workers "have equal opportunity to apply for and be considered for higher graded job openings."

Neither said he could give an offhand count of the number of Negroes in "higher management" jobs. The Potomac Electric Power Co. said that it would have no comment now on Washington's remarks.

To Hear Complaints

Washington also announced yesterday that he had set up a board of PUC officials to hear complaints from the public about cab service.

"We are trying to educate the drivers to their responsibilities," Washington said. "These fellows often have the highly individualistic attitude that they are small businessmen whose only obligation is their own convenience. We intend to let them know they are in the public's service whether they like it or not."
PUC, Utility Firms Air Job Equality

Agency Spurs Companies to Hire More Negroes

The District Public Utilities Commission met with representatives of the city's three major utility firms yesterday to discuss minority hiring.

The session was the third in a series of meetings initiated by the PUC more than a year ago to encourage the employment of more Negroes. PUC chairman James A. Washington Jr. described the meetings as "roundtable discussions" aimed at solving problems in recruiting and employing qualified Negro workers.

All of the companies hire Negroes, he said, but the PUC has been urging a more "positive approach" specifically aimed at attracting Negro job applicants, Washington said.

The three companies are Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone, Potomac Electric Power and Washington Gas Light. They are sending representatives to the sessions without complaint, but spokesman for the firms say they are doing nothing now that they have not done before in providing equal employment opportunities.

Washington, however, believes the meetings have produced positive results.

He said the firms are now recruiting at Howard University and working with the Washington Urban League on job referrals.

The telephone company also is using pictures of Negroes as well as whites in its advertisements which encourages Negroes to apply for jobs, he said.

A spokesman for the telephone company said yesterday that the firm now has 613 Negroes among its 6704 employees. He said this is more than 12 percent of the work force, compared with 8.5 percent at the end of March.

The other two companies do not release racial statistics, but Washington Gas Light informed the U.S. Civil Rights Commission in February that 67 of its 2487 employees are Negroes.

Washington said he does not know how many of Pepco's 3800 workers are Negroes, but added, "I'm certain they are going forward."
1964 – Civil Rights Act

- Prohibited discrimination in public accommodations.
- Banned discrimination on the basis of sex, race, and national origin in the hiring, promoting, and firing of employees.
- Created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
Chairman Washington broadened the concept of regulation by laying the foundation for ushering in an era of “Economic & Social Ratemaking.”

That is, the Commission became instrumental in addressing socio-economic needs such as utility company employment and minority contracting; the affordability of utility services, particularly by the poor and residential consumers through the establishment of low-income discount rates; the mitigation of rising energy prices; and the inclusion of environmental concerns all in the rate-making process.

In so doing, Chairman Washington ushered in a more inclusive rate-making process as many more citizen groups began to participate in the Commission’s proceedings.
Chairman Washington’s Concurring Statement re Pepco’s Lack of Competitive Bidding and Impact on Rates – F.C. No. 511

- Susan Schapiro – first female attorney for an intervenor (5969)
- Chairman Washington’s concurring statement to Order No. 5062 (1966) in which he criticized Pepco’s contracting practices as lacking sufficient competitive bidding and public advertisement to ensure minimum cost and to ensure all persons have an equal right to compete. These “policies should apply with equal strength to a public utility since it is “the substitute for the state in the performance of the public service, thus becoming a public servant.”
PSC Promotes Utility Company Minority Contracting Through a Voluntary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Belva D. Newsome, Esq.
Quarterly Publication “The Utility Bulletin”
1990

Chairman Betty Ann Kane and Commissioner Lori Murphy Lee at the signing of a Diversity Supplier Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pepco, Verizon & Washington Gas
2012 PSC Annual Report

Signing an MOU with utility companies in 1991
President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed George A. Avery, Esq. to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from March 16, 1966 until June 12, 1971. He became Chairman in the middle of 1966 and he held that position until his departure on June 12, 1971.


*H. Mason Neely, Esq. first appointed by President Richard Nixon. Served from 1971-1977. He received his law degree from Howard University.
Pepco filed an application to increase rates on February 27, 1969. It amended the application on May 15, 1969, requesting a $24.9 million revenue requirement.

UPO, Oil Heart Institute of Greater Washington, WGL, DC City-Wide Consumers Council, GSA, Metropolitan Coin-Op Association, Washington Urban League, Far East Community Services, Inc., Capitol Hill Group Ministry, Southwest House, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Arlington County Public Utility Commission, Consumer Council of CHANGE, and Safeway stores filed letters opposing the increase and or requesting participation in the proceeding. Congressman Charles Diggs, Chairman of the House District Committee, also sent a letter to Mayor Washington regarding the case. Congressman Joel Broyhill sent a letter to the PSC.

On August 4, 1969, the PSC issued a notice of a pre-hearing conference on August 27, 1969 and hearings to begin on September 15, 1969.

However, on August 5, 1969, Pepco filed an emergency application for interim rates that added a 6.5% surcharge to current rates.

PSC held pre-hearing conference on the initial and emergency applications and hearings on the emergency application on September 10 and 15, 1969.

GSA; UPO; Consumer Council of CHANGE, Inc.; DC City-Wide Consumer Council; Washington Urban League; and Capitol Hill Group Ministry, Inc. opposed the request and urged the PSC to consider the impact of any rate increase on low-income consumers. PSC Staff also opposed the interim rates.
In Order No. 5402, issued on October 27, 1969, the PSC deferred action on the interim rates.

The PSC held 11 days of hearings on the amended May 5th application between September and December.

The PSC held a special evening hearing on December 17, 1969 to provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to present their views on the issues.

Thereafter, Pepco renewed its Emergency Application. On January 30, 1970, the PSC issued Order No. 5419 in which it approved a 5% interim surcharge, effective February 2, 1970, until the conclusion of Phase II of the case.

In Order No. 5419, the PSC stated:

“There is, first, the question of Pepco’s employment practices. Suffice it to say that the testimony of record with respect to those practices is deeply disturbing to the Commission and although we are not persuaded that the evidence of record, considered in the context of a rate case, would support exercise of our authority to deny any rate increase, the issue of employment practices will be the subject of a full treatment and the fullest exercise of the Commission’s authority in its final order of this phase of the proceeding.” (at 17-18)

(Avery, Porter, Mathe)
According to Order No. 5429, issued on April 15, 1970, the Washington Urban League raised the issue of Pepco’s employment practices. It provided evidence from Pepco’s EEO-1 report to the EEOC as of December 31, 1969 and testimony from 3 Pepco employees. There was considerable testimony on the topic during the December 17 evening public hearing. Pepco offered no evidence of its own nor did it cross examine the witnesses called by the Urban League.

The PSC stated: “We have no doubt that we should be vitally concerned with Pepco’s equal employment policies and practices. There can be no doubt that the provision of equal employment opportunity is required by the laws of the United States and of the District of Columbia. We refer specifically to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (PL 88-352, approved July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 241), Executive Order No. 11246, and D.C. Commissioners Order No. 65-768. When it is brought to our attention that the requirements of the law are not being met by a utility subject to our jurisdiction, we are clearly expected to act. Thus, in creating this Commission, Congress said: The Commission shall have power, after hearing, and notice by order, in writing, to require and compel every public utility to comply with the provisions of Chapters 1-10 of his title, and with all other laws of the United States applicable, and any municipal ordinance or regulation relating to said public utility…” 43 D.C. Code, Section 303

“Further, in defining our general powers, Congress gave us the power to investigate the methods used in manufacturing electricity and to order such improvements as will reasonably promote the public interest. (43 D.C. Code, Section 601) We believe that a concern with equal opportunity employment falls within that language.”
Order No. 5429 also stated in its footnote at 41, “The holding in Re Capital Transit Co., 58 PUR (NS) 189 (Order 2912, April 20, 1945) that we should not assume power in the equal employment area can no longer be regarded as having vitality. Since that decision was rendered, the provision of equal employment opportunity has not only become a matter of stated public policy, it is required by law. The “Congressional approval and direction” which the Commission found lacking in 1945 has now been amply provided.”

The PSC ruled that the statistics in Pepco’s EEO-1 report provide a sufficient basis to require Pepco to modify its employment practices.... The Company employs no Orientals, American Indians, or Spanish surnamed Americans and those Negroes employed are concentrated in the lower income areas. We are particularly struck by the paucity of Negro employees in these categories listed above the “Operatives” classification. In this community, these statistics reveal a situation of serious concern.

(Avery, Porter, Mathe)
The PSC’s Affirmative Action Plan for Pepco

The PSC did not find any link between Pepco’s employment practices and its cost of service. Instead, the PSC indicated that it would direct that any necessary action would be taken in the Commission’s final order. However, the PSC rejected Pepco’s proposal to defer the matter to the EEOC, US Department of Labor, or DC Human Relations Commission on the grounds the PSC has the power and responsibility to take its own action.

With the assistance of the EEOC, the PSC proffered its own affirmative action plan that would require Pepco’s top management to provide strong guidance and support. Pepco would be required to file regular reports so the PSC could monitor its progress and there would be continuing dialogue with Pepco’s top management to ensure they are committed to the program. The Plan was attached to Order No. 5429.
Results of Pepco’s Appeal

- Pepco appealed the PSC’s proposed Affirmative Action program and the Court reversed the directive.
- The reasons for the reversal were primarily procedural in nature.
- On the substance of the matter, the Court concluded that the Commission had authority and power to examine Pepco’s employment practices, either as part of a rate proceeding or as an independent matter. (D.C., CA 2382-70 and 2384-70, February 23, 1971)
Pepco’s 1970 Annual Report

W. Reid Thompson
President and CEO
Pepco’s 1972 Annual Report
1971 – Pepco’s Employment Practices in F.C. No. 568 Rate Case

- The PSC initiated F.C. No. 568 on July 12, 1971.
- Pre-hearing conference held on September 23, 1971.
- Intervenors – Students Hot on Conserving Kilowatts (SHOCK) and the Sierra Club; Washington Urban League; Center City Community Corporation; Washington Gas; DC Office of Human Rights; DC Citywide Consumer Council, Inc.; DC Federation of Civic Associations and Interfederation Council; Senior Citizens Committee, Senior Neighbors and Companion Clubs Advisory Council; Safeway Stores, Inc.; Friendship House Association; United Planning Organization; and Electric Utility Employees Union.
- The Urban League took the position that the Commission should find, as a precondition to holding the rate hearing, that rates may not be increased if Pepco’s employment practices are found to violate the constitutional rights of its employees.
- On October 6, 1971, the PSC received a letter from the Director, DC Office of Human Rights, supporting the Urban League’s criticism of Pepco’s employment practices and suggesting the Director be appointed an agent of the Commission to conduct an investigation into Pepco’s employment practices.
In Order No. 5477, issued on October 12, 1971, the PSC wrote: That matters such as environmental pollution or discriminatory employment practices by utilities in the District of Columbia are proper subjects for investigation by the Commission seems clear. (Cite: Section 43-303, D.C. Code, 1967: Judge Pratt’s order in CA 2382-70 and 2384-70 filed in the United States District Court of the District of Columbia on February 23, 1971.)

However, the PSC rejected the Urban League’s position that rates could not be increased until after a finding regarding Pepco’s employment practices. The PSC also rejected the offer from the DC Office of Human Rights.

The PSC designated the same employment practices issue in the Pepco rate case as it designated in the WGL rate case, F.C. No. 567.
In Order No. 5509, issued on May 9, 1972, the PSC stated:

The question of Pepco’s employment practices, which was also an issue in the last Pepco rate case, was raised again here. No evidence was presented, however, and the Commission is aware of none, which would relate employment practices to service or the cost of service in the District of Columbia. We can therefore make no findings with respect to this issue in this proceeding. Nevertheless, in fulfillment of our responsibility in this area we have instituted as of April 20, 1972, a separate proceeding, F.C. No. 576, in which the question of Pepco’s employment practices will be explored. (Waterman and Neely)

The Washington Urban League took exception to the PSC’s conclusion and the PSC rejected the Urban League’s claims for the same reasons expressed in Order No. 5509. (Waterman, Neely, Watt)

- Investigations of Pepco’s employment practices were also underway by GSA, EEOC and the DC Office of Human Rights.
- On January 7, 1972, the PSC sent letters to each re the status of their investigations.
- On April 20, 1972, the PSC opened an investigation into Pepco’s employment practices in **Order No. 5508**.
- The GSA reported that it had completed its fact finding phase and summarized a substantial number of employment practices sufficient to warrant the institution of a formal inquiry by the PSC.
- The PSC determined its investigation would cover employment practices related to recruitment, promotion, transfer, employee benefits, and termination.
- The PSC designated 2 issues: (1) What are the employment practices of Pepco with respect to minority groups, and (2) Whether these practices are unduly or unlawfully discriminatory.
- Pepco and Electric Utility Employees Union were designated as parties and petitions to intervene were approved for GSA, EEOC, the DC Office of Human Rights, and the Urban League.
- On July 12, 1972, in Order No. 5519, the PSC added women to the scope of the inquiry.
- The PSC held 6 days of hearings between December 7, 1972 and March 21, 1973.
- GSA submitted its report on Pepco’s employment practices.
The PSC determined that Pepco’s employment practices, as revised in connection with a GSA compliance review, were neither unduly or unlawfully discriminatory at the time. However, the Commissioners also indicated that they remained concerned, on the basis of the record, “that despite recent changes in both management and employment practices, that the effects of prior practices remain clearly visible in Pepco’s employment picture.” Therefore, “we do not believe that this matter as it now stands can be considered a closed case. The goals and timetables, for example, proposed by Pepco and accepted by GSA are but a first, albeit significant step…” Thus, “we will, in addition, order Pepco to furnish us, simultaneously with submission to GSA, copies of the quarterly reports required by GSA, together with the compliance review documents and affirmative action plans developed as a result of each new compliance review. The Commission will meanwhile keep this case open and retain jurisdiction to take such further or additional action as may be warranted or required.” (Order 5591 at 2).

On July 23, 1973, the EEOC filed an application for reconsideration of Order No. 5599. EEOC argued the PSC’s conclusion that Pepco’s employment practices at the time were not unduly or unlawfully discriminatory was contradictory to its statement that “the effects of prior practices remain clearly visible in Pepco’s employment picture.” EEOC also argued the order failed “to consider the specific bases of discrimination which were alleged to exist at Pepco and for which evidence presented established a prima facie case of employment discrimination.” The EEOC was also critical of the scope of affirmative action embodied in the GSA Compliance Review.” (Order No. 5599 at 1.)

The PSC denied the EEOC application for reconsideration.

(Neely and Schneider)
The PSC opened the proceeding on July 8, 1971, upon WG’s filing of the case.

On December 17, 1971, the PSC held a prehearing conference to discuss the issues in the case.


Major topics – usual rate case issues, special issues regarding employment practices and customer deposit policies and practices, and implementation of Phase II of the Administration’s Economic Stabilization Program. The latter relates to the regulations regarding utility rate making to be issued by the Federal Price Commission.

The Urban League and Center City Community Corporation raised the issue of employment discrimination and customer deposits.
The PSC determined “each of the topics can properly be raised in a rate proceeding, subject however, to the important proviso that the evidence concerning employment practices and customer deposit policies and practices must be shown to affect the revenues, expenses, or service of the applicant, Washington Gas Light Company.” (Order 5494 at 2 issued January 10, 1972)

Thus, the PSC designated the following issue:
“Whether, and in what manner, WGL Co.’s employment practices in the District of Columbia, if shown to be discriminatory, affects revenues, expenses, or service in the District of Columbia.”

By Order No. 5522, issued on August 2, 1972, the PSC issued its Findings, Opinion, and Order on Phase I of the case. The Order read:

The intervenors who raised issues related to deposit policies and employment practices neither presented testimony nor filed briefs. There was some cross-examination on customer deposits, but this was not related to the designated issue. Therefore, the PSC had no facts of record on these issues. Accordingly, it neither decided nor discussed them further.

The PSC addressed credit and deposit policies and a special discount for senior citizens proffered by Friendship House in the rate design, Phase II, of the case, but rejected the proposals, with empathy for the concerns.

(Waterman & H. Mason Neely; George Avery was Legal Agent)
1975 - Home Rule

First D.C. Council, Jan. 2, 1975
History Behind the Headlines: D.C.'s Quest for Voting Rights.

*Walter Washington, Esq.
Sworn in as Mayor of Washington D.C.,
The Black Past: Remembered
www.blackpast.org - 262 × 250 - Search by image
Home Rule Act

- Home Rule Act became effective in 1975.
- The first elected Mayor Walter Washington appointed Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt, Esq. the first confirmed Female & Black Female Commissioner. Her colleagues elected her Chairperson and she began promoting and hiring women and minorities at the PSC.
1975 – Chairman Nesbitt promoted Mary Brazelton from GS 9 Administrative Assistant to GS 14 Executive Secretary – 1st woman and 1st Black Office Director. She later became the first Director of the Office of the Commission Secretary.
DC Mayors Since Home Rule
(The Mayor appoints PSC Commissioners and as of 1984 the Mayor appoints PSC Chairpersons)

*Walter Washington
1975-1979

Marion Barry
1979-1991

*Sharon Pratt Kelly
1991-1995

Marion Barry
1995-1999

Anthony Williams
1999-2007

*Adrian Fenty
2007-2011

Vincent Gray
2011-2015
PSC Chairpersons After Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt


Angel M. Cartagena, Esq. *Agnes A. Yates, Esq. Longest serving Commissioner

Betty Ann Kane (Former DC Councilwoman)
PSC Commissioners Since Home Rule

Wesley H. Long Ph.D. (Economist)
Belva Newsome, Esq.
Edward M. Meyers, Ph.D. (Acting Chairman Twice)
Anthony M. Rachal, Esq.
Richard E. Morgan (Economist)
Lori Murphy Lee, Esq.
Joanne Doddy Fort, Esq.
*Willie L. Phillips, Esq.
The Commission moved to the Old City Hall at 451 Indiana Avenue, NW in 1980. The Office of the Executive Director was established in 1980. Melvin Dixie was the first Executive Director. The office handled administrative matters such as personnel, budget, and procurement.

The Office of Economics was established in 1980. Gordon Pozza was the first Director of the Office.

The Office of Consumer Services (OCS) was established in 1981 to implement the new Consumer Bill of Rights. The first OCS Director was Vivian Jordan Webb. The first in-house General Counsel was Lloyd N. Moore, Jr. in 1980. He was the first General Counsel who was not the D.C. Corporation Counsel.
After Home Rule, the PSC Had its Own General Counsels

*Lloyd Moore, Esq.  
1980-1984  
Adjunct HU Law Professor & Hired HU Law Professors, Warner Lawson & Michael Newsome, as agents

Howard Davenport, Esq.  
1984-1991  
Undergrad degree in Economics

*Daryl Avery, Esq.  
1991-1994  
Undergrad degree in Business

*Lawrence D. Crocker, III, Esq.  
1995-1997

*Richard Beverly, Esq.  
1997-2000

Timothy Robinson, Esq.  
2000-2002

*Richard Beverly, Esq.  
2003 to Present
Prior to Home Rule the DC Office of the Corporation Counsel served as the General Counsel for the Commission.

Melvin Washington joined D.C. Corporation Counsel in 1960s as Assistant Corporation Counsel.

He was a graduate of Howard University and Howard School of Law.

In 1978, he became responsible for utility matters in the Corporation Counsel’s office.

He learned about ratemaking by attending a 2 week rate-making course at the Michigan State University, Institute of Public Utilities

He mentored Lloyd Moore, Howard Davenport, and Ron Jessamy as interns at Hudson, Leftwich and Davenport (no relation to Howard Davenport)

Current Commissioner Joanne Doddy Fort also worked with Hudson, Leftwich, and Davenport before becoming a legal agent first to the PSC and subsequently to OPC.

The firm became Leftwich, Moore, & Douglas, and it is currently Leftwich and Ludaway.
PSC Minority Consultants

Hazel O’Leary, Esq.
Dr. Lorenzo Brown
Wendell Webster, Esq.

Gilbert Hardy, Esq.
(Deceased)

Robert Nathan
DataNet - Website & Edocket Host
Other Minority PSC Legal Consultants

- Willie L. Leftwich, Esq., - FC 743
- Joanne Doddy Fort – 1982 – FC 759, 777, 785
- Frederick A. Douglas – 1982 – FC 785
- Sonia Jarvis – 1982 – FC 785
*Chairman Patricia M. Worthy Increased PSC Staffing in the Mid-80s

*Patricia M. Worthy, Howard Law School Graduate and Howard Law Professor, was appointed by Mayor Marion Barry as a Commissioner in 1980 and as Chairman in 1984.

Like her Professor, James Washington, she put pressure on the utility companies to hire more women and minorities. She also doubled the size of PSC staff and thereby increased employment opportunities in the agency.
Commissioner (Dr.) Wesley Long (Economist) conducted a cost benefit study that showed savings if the PSC increased its legal and technical staff and reduced the hiring of consultants. The Council, led by Betty Ann Kane, Chairman of the PSC’s Oversight Committee, approved the request, which enabled the PSC to double its staff within a few years. She was also instrumental in getting the earlier legislation passed that created a separate General Counsel for the PSC.
General Counsel Howard C. Davenport with His New Staff
Executive Directors

Melvin Doxie, Esq.
Current Picture
1979-1984

Daniel Flores
Chief of Staff
2000-2003

James E. Kerr
1985-1991

Dr. Phylicia Fauntleroy Bowman
Current Picture
1991-2000

Dr. Phylicia Fauntleroy Bowman
2003 to Present
Directors
Office of the Commission Secretary

Mary B. Jordan
1980-1990

Dr. Christine Brooks
2004-2005

Dr. Jesse P. Clay Jr.
1990-2002

Sanford Speight, Esq.
2002-2004

Dorothy Wideman-Davis
2004-2011 (Retired)

Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick
2012 to Present
Directors
Office of Consumer Services

(Left) Vivian Jordan Webb, Esq.
1983-1990

Karen Archer
1998-2000

Anna Flores
1991-1995

Linda Jordan
2001 to Present

Directors
Office of Accounting and Finance

Norman Reiser, CPA
1979-2001
(Retired)

Ellen Brown
2009-2011
(Retired)

Felix Otiji, CPA
2012 to Present
Directors
Office of Economics

Gordon Pozza
1980-1984
Now VP for Alternative Electricity Supplier

Dr. Phylicia Fauntleroy Bowman
1984-1991

Dr. Robert Loube
1991-1996
Went to FCC, now Principal with telco firm

Dr. Grace Hu
1996 to Present
Directors
Office of Engineering

Fred Franklin
1981-1985
First Black Director of the Office of Engineering

Richard Huriaux
1988-1996
(Retired from USDOT) now a Consultant

Enver Masud – 1986-1988

Dr. Joseph Nwude
1997 to 2007

Udeozo Ogbue, P.E.
2007 to Present
Chiefs
Office of Human Resources

Mary Goodwin
First Black Chief of HR

Freda James
Formerly with FERC, PSC Accounting, and Deputy Commission Secretary

Eve Willis Holt

Benita Anderson
2008 to Present
Directors
Office of Securities

James Whitescarver
1970 - 1994
(Deceased)

Veda Shamsid-Deen, Esq.
1994-1996
Attorney in Texas
Comptrollers/Agency Fiscal Officers

*Daphne McKoy
1994-1997
(Deceased)

Vanetta Wells
2009-2010

Irvin Logan
1998-2009
(Deceased)

Curtis Lewis
2010-2011

Charles Simpson
1997 - 1998

Gurmeet Scoggins
2011 to Present
Other PSC Firsts

Angel Cartagena, Jr., Esq.
2000-2003
Former attorney in OGC; then left for FCC
Returned as First Hispanic Chairman and Commissioner

Betty Ann Kane
2007 - First White Female Confirmed Commissioner
2009 - First White Female Chairman

Delvonne Nicholson Meade
2004-2006 - 1st Female Engineer
Came from WGL & is now with Pepco
OPC
Consumer Advocates – People’s Counsel

Annice Wagner, Esq.
Became Federal Judge
1975-1979

Brian Lederer, Esq.
1978-1983
People’s Counsels

Frederick D. Dorsey, Esq.
1984-1989
Became Superior Court Judge

Elizabeth A. Noël, Esq.
1990-2010
(Retired)
Undergraduate degree in Economics
People’s Counsels

Brenda Pennington, Esq.
2010-2011
Formerly at PSC, then D.C. Council

Sandra Mattavous-Frye, Esq.
2011 to Present
OPC’s Minority Consultants
After Home Rule

- Thomas Queen, Esq. – 1979 - FC 715
- Manual Geraldo, Esq. – 1979 - FC 722
- Rod & Karen Woodson, Esq. – 1980 – 1984 - FC 729, 748, 785
- Charles Duncan, Esq. – 1980 - 1982 – FC 729, FC 785
- William Lightfoot, Esq. – 1983 - FC 757, 813
- James Haynes, Esq. – 1983 – FC 757, 759
- Ruth Banks, Esq., - 1984 – FC 820n
- William Bennett, Esq. – 1984 – 1988 - FC 813, 869
- James DeGraffenreidt, Esq. – 1985 – FC 827
- Joanne Doddy Fort, Esq. – 1985 – FC 840, 870
- Nathaniel Speights, Esq. – 1985 – FC 840
- L. Marie Guillory, Esq. – 1988 - FC 869, 870
- Altomese Kennedy, Esq. – 1988 - FC 869
- Mark C. Darrellm, Esq. – 1988 – FC 870
- Andrea Lonian, Esq. – 2001-2006 – FC 989
- Adrienne Clair, Esq. – 2009-2010 – FC 1076
- Yvette Smiley- Smith, C.P.A. - Accountant
- Lenneal Henderson, Ph.D. - Sociologist
C&P
C&P has a long history of hiring women as telephone operators.

However, C&P did not agree to hire Black phone operators until 1956.

In the 1960s, a Black woman, Jean Pulley, was Director of Communications in D.C.
In 1962, C&P began recruiting Howard University students in order to increase the number of minority employees.

Graduate of Howard University and School of Law – 1962

General Attorney for EEOC

1968 – C&P hired him as an attorney.

1971 - First Black attorney representing a utility company (C&P) before the PSC – FC 560. (6182)

1975 – Lee Satterfield, General Attorney

1990 – Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

*Lee Satterfield, Esq.*
Photo by Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, October 30, 2006
C&P Board of Directors

1974

Dr. Cleveland L. Dennard, President of Washington Technical Institute

Belford V. Lawson, Jr., Attorney, Lawson & Lawson

Dr. Cleveland Dennard

*Belford V. Lawson Jr., Esq.
First Black C&P President

- 1975 – Delano Lewis, Assistant Vice President, Revenue Requirements and Public Affairs
- 1983-1988 - Delano Lewis served as Vice President
- 1988-1993 – Delano Lewis served as President and CEO of C&P

Hired by C&P Telephone mid-1970s, rose to Vice President 1983, President 1988
Subsequent Presidents

William M. Freeman
1994-1998

Marie Johns
1998-2004
Member Howard University Board of Trustees
Obama Administration
President, L&L Consulting

William Roberts
2004-2012

Anthony Lewis
Present
Vice Presidents

Sherry Bellamy, Esq.
VP, GC & Secretary of Bell Atlantic
1992-1997
Later became President of Maryland Co.
Retired

J. Henry Ambrose
VP, Regulatory Matters
Retired
C&P/Bell Atlantic/Verizon Attorneys

Ed Young, Esq.

D. Michael Stroud, Esq.

Natalie Ludaway, Esq.
(Legal Consultant - Leftwich & Ludaway)
Other Verizon Regulatory Contacts with the PSC

Barbara Taylor Woods
Executive Director for External Affairs
1987-1989

Larry Graham
2013

Kathy Buckley,
Vice President, Public Policy
2013
First Pepco Female Senior Officer

Helen Martell
Treasurer and Assistant Secretary
1968-69
Pepco - Board of Directors

Theodore R. Hagans, Jr.
1971 – 1984
Built Fort Lincoln Housing Community

Flaxie M. Pinkett
1978 – 1987
Owned Real Estate Co.
Pepco - Board of Directors

Floretta McKenzie
1987 - 2001
Former Superintendent of DC Schools

Pauline Schneider, Esq.
2001-2014

H. Russell Frisby, Jr., Esq.
Current Member
Former Chairman, MD PSC
Former Attorney before the DCPSC
PEPCO/PHI - CEOs/Presidents

W. Reid Thompson, Esq.
1971-1982

Edward M. Mitchell
1983-1991

John Derrick
1991-2000

Dennis R. Wraase
PHI President
2000-2002

William J. Sim
PHI President
2002-2006

Joseph M. Rigby
2007-2009 – PHI President
2009-Present – PHI Chairman, President, & CEO
Pepco Vice Presidents – 1980s

*Sharon Pratt Dixon, Esq.*  
1976 – Associate Counsel  
1979 – Director of Consumer Services  
1983 VP of Consumer Affairs  
1986 – VP for Public Policy  
1991 – Mayor of the District of Columbia

Iraline Barnes, Esq.  
1990 – Vice President  
Appointed a Superior Court Judge  
(Deceased)
Pepco Vice Presidents – 1998

Bob Grantley
Group Vice President
Customer Service & Power Distribution
(Retired)

Earl K. Chism
Vice President
(Retired)

William R. Gee Jr.
Vice President
(Retired)
PHI Senior Vice President

Beverly Perry, Esq.
1990 – Manager, Government Affairs, DC & Federal
1994 – Manager, Government Affairs
1997 – General Manager, Government Relations
1999 – Vice President & Senior Vice President
2013 - Retired
Presidents of Pepco Region

Thomas Graham
2005 - 2013

Dr. Donna Cooper
2013 to Present
Current PHI/Pepco Vice Presidents

David M. Velazquez
PHI Executive Vice President for Power Delivery
2009 to Present

*Marc Battle, Esq.
2009 – 2013 – General Counsel’s Office
2013 – Promoted to Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Policy
Howard Law Graduate
Early Women & Minority Attorneys Representing Pepco

- Altomease Kennedy – 1982 - FC , 757, 785
- Sylvia Bateman – 1982 – FC 785
- Vincent Cohen – 1988 - FC 869
Women & Minority Staff Attorneys at Pepco

- Susan Power – 1975 - First female attorney – FC 651
- Mary Donn Jordan – 1982-1988 - FC 785, 813, 869
- Deborah Royster – 2005-2011
- Keith Townsend – 2006-2009 (formerly with PSC)
- Anthony Wilson – 2004-2009 (formerly with PSC)
- *Marc Battle – 2009-2013
Early Pepco Economic & Legal Consultants

Robert R. Nathan
Economic Consultant to Pepco in F.C. No. 568 rate case - 1971
(Deceased)

Dr. Andrew Felton Brimmer
First Black Member of Federal Reserve Board
1977 and 1980s - Economic Consultant to Pepco in 1970s & 1980s
(Deceased)

Fred Abramson
(Deceased)
WGL
WGL – First Minority Members of the Board of Directors

Orlando Darden
1979 - First Black Member of Board of Directors

Dr. Norma Maine Loeser
1983 - 1st Female Member of the Board of Directors
WGL – Past Minority Members of the Board of Directors

Karen Hastie Williams
1993 - First Black Female Member of the Board of Directors

Debra Lee
2000 - Member of the Board of Directors
BET - Chairman & CEO
WGL – Current Minority Members of the Board of Directors

James W Dyke
Senior Advisor
McGuire Woods Consulting

Linda R. Gooden
Retired Executive Vice President
Lockheed Martin Information Systems & Global Solutions
WGL Presidents & CEOs

Right, 1979 - Donald J. Heim – Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
Left 1987 - Patrick J. Maher – Chairman & Chief Executive Officer

Joe Schepis
President & Chief Operating Officer
(Deceased in 1994)

Adrian Chapman
President & Chief Operating Officer
2009 to Present
James DeGraffenreidt, Esq.
First Black WGL President/CEO/Chairman of the Board

1985 - Outside Counsel
1986 – Senior Manager
1986 – Senior Regulatory Counsel
1991 – VP Rate & Regulatory Affairs
1993 – Senior VP for Rates, Public Affairs & Customer Service
1994 - President/CEO & Member, Board of Directors
1998 – President & CEO & Member, Board of Directors
2000 – President, CEO & Chairman, Board of Directors
2009 – Retired
WGL - Vice Presidents

1979 - Hired Robert A. Sykes
        1987 - VP- Human Resources

1983 – Kenneth H. Tracey
       Vice President
       Community Affairs

1984 - Thomas A. Duckenfeld, Esq.
       VP & General Manager
       of DCNG
       (Deceased)
WGL - Vice Presidents

Roberta Willis Sims, Esq.
1982-1986 – PSC Attorney
1986 – Moved to WGL
1992 to Present – WGL Vice-President

Beverly Burke, Esq.
1999 – VP & Assistant GC
2001 – VP & GC
12/31/11 (Retired)

Leslie Thornton, Esq.
Vice President & General Counsel – 1/2/12 – 9/30/2014
10/1/14 – Senior Vice President,
General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary
WGL Attorneys - 1981

Zoe Bush, Esq.
Left WGL for Pepco in 1984
Now Superior Court Judge

Howard Davenport, Esq.
Became General Counsel of PSC; Chairman of PSC
Now with FCC
Other Minority Attorneys Representing WGL

- L. Patrice Lattimore – Staff Attorney – 1992 – FC 922
  (formerly with the Oklahoma PSC and then DC PSC)
- *Chuck Morgan, Director of D.C. Public Affairs, 1986-1996
WGL - Regulatory

Kenney Mitchell
Senior Regulatory Specialist

Bernice McIntire, Esq.
Director of Regulatory Matters and as of April 2013, Program Director of Legal Regulatory Strategy
Former Chair, Massachusetts PSC & DC Attorney

Cathy Thurston-Seignious, Esq.
Supervisor, Administrative & Associate General Counsel (also former OPC Attorney)
OTHER INTERVENORS
Minority Attorneys Representing DC Government

- Ruth Baker
- Jill Pennington
- Frederick Cooke
- Barbara Brown
- Doreen Thompson
- Leslie Nelson
Minority Attorneys Representing GSA*

(*GSA also represented the District Government before Home Rule)

Mrs. Lilyan G. Sibert
1972 – FC 570
(C&P Rate Case)

Patsy Mullinex
1988-81 – FC 729
(C&P Rate Case)

Allie Lattimore
1977 – FC 680, 685 and 813
Apartment & Office Building Association (AOBA)

Frann Francis, Esq., Senior Vice President & General Counsel of AOBA, spoke at the Centennial Anniversary symposium since she has the longest continuous service in Commission proceedings by representing AOBA since the early 1970s.
In conclusion, 90% of us at the Commission and many of us employed in this industry today would not have been hired for our current positions back in 1913 and several decades thereafter.

The progress made since then is a testament to the creative talents and leadership of many.

It is no accident, therefore, that the utility industry in the District is probably more diverse than anywhere else in this country.

Going forward, as we “Stand on the Shoulders of Giants,” let us ensure their accomplishments were not in vain as we continue their legacy through our daily commitment to serving the “public interest” in the District of Columbia.
Credits

- Commissioner Joanne Doddy Fort, Esq.
- Aminta Daves
- Natalie Taylor
- Carmen Davis
- Issaya Whitesides
- Lara Walt, Esq.
- Family of James A. Washington, Jr.
- Kenney Mitchell – WGL
- Mara Cherkavsky – PSC Consultant
- DeAndre Morrow, Esq.
- Dr. Donna Cooper - Pepco