



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Community, Health and Housing Services Committee**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Items:	7	Name:	April Sanders
Proposed No.:	2021-0228	Date:	August 31, 2021

SUBJECT

Proposed Motion 2021-0228 would confirm the Executive’s appointment of Regina Elmi, who resides in Council District 9, to the King County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, for a 5-year term to expire on May 22, 2023.

BACKGROUND

The King County Housing Authority (KCHA) was established in 1939 by the King County Council to provide “decent, safe and sanitary housing for those families unable to obtain such housing elsewhere.” KCHA’s Board of Commissioners are appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council. KCHA is a municipal corporation and is governed under RCW 35.82, which governs housing authorities.¹ Housing authorities are authorized by state and federal law to issue tax-exempt debt to finance the acquisition, preservation and development of affordable housing.

The King County Housing Authority Board of Commissioners is made up of 5 commissioners. Table 1 below shows the current make up of the Board. Currently, Commissioner Douglas Barnes serves as the chair of the Board, and Susan Palmer as the vice-chair.

King County Code 2.88.015² requires that at least one person appointed to the Board of Commissioners be an individual who is directly assisted by the KCHA. The KCHA refers to this position as the "resident commissioner". Additionally, appointees may not serve for more than two successive terms. Filling an unexpired portion of a term counts toward the two-term limit.

Table 1. Current Board Make Up

Pos. #	Name	K.C.C. District	Background and/or Representing	Date Appointed	Term Expires	# of Appointed Terms
1	John Welch	5	Community volunteer	2/10/15	5/22/22	1 Partial/1 Full

¹ [Chapter 35.82 RCW: HOUSING AUTHORITIES LAW \(wa.gov\)](http://www.wa.gov)

² [https://aqua.kingcounty.gov/council/clerk/code/05 Title 2.pdf](https://aqua.kingcounty.gov/council/clerk/code/05_Title_2.pdf)

Pos. #	Name	K.C.C. District	Background and/or Representing	Date Appointed	Term Expires	# of Appointed Terms
2	Terry Lynn Stewart	8	Resident Commissioner	12/13/13	5/20/20	1 Partial/1 Full
3	Susan Palmer	5	Community volunteer	8/30/12	5/22/22	2 Full
4	Regina Elmi	9	Community volunteer	2/23/21	5/22/23	1 Full
5	Douglas Barnes	1	Community volunteer	8/20/10	5/22/20	2 Full

APPOINTEE INFORMATION

Regina Elmi is a resident of Council District 9. Since 2019, she has served as the Executive Director of the Somali Parent Education Board (SPEB) in Tukwila, WA. The SPEB is a non-profit organization that develops and implements innovative methods for strong partnerships between parents, educators, community partners and organizations. Ms. Elmi also serves on multiple committees for the Puget Sound Educational Service District, Road Map Region, Renton Innovation Zone Partnerships and is a member of the Skyway Coalition. In her application materials, Ms. Elmi notes that she is deeply invested in community-based collaboration efforts that it takes to bring about positive change.

ANALYSIS

Staff has not identified any issues with the proposed appointment. It appears to be consistent with the requirements of the King County Housing Authority board of commissioners.

Currently, two members of the KCHA Board of Commissioners have terms that expired May 22, 2020. The KCHA notes that they are working to find replacements, but that it has been hard to recruit for these positions, particularly for the resident commissioner position.

INVITED

- Regina Elmi, Appointee to the King County Housing Authority board of commissioners
- Dan Watson, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Development Officer, King County Housing Authority

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2021-0228 (and its attachments)
2. Transmittal Letter