

Lillian Sparks Robinson

Nominee for Appointment as Baltimore City Women's Commission Member



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City Hall
Room 250
Baltimore, MD 21202

MAYOR'S REQUEST TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONFIRMATION OF MUNICIPAL OFFICER

Pursuant to Article IV, §§6(a) and (b) of the Baltimore City Charter 1996 Edition, Mayor Brandon M. Scott hereby requests the City Council of Baltimore City to confirm the appointment of **Lillian Sparks Robinson** to serve as a municipal officer on the **Baltimore City Women's Commission**. In support of this request, information concerning the mayoral appointee is provided below and in the attached resume.

The information set forth in both the document and the attached resume have been distributed to authorized persons for use in the City Council confirmation process.

Name: **Lillian Sparks Robinson**

Appointed to: **Baltimore City Women's Commission**

Succeeds: **Kimberly Haven**

Term Expiration Date: **December 4, 2024**

Previous Terms Served (if none, write N/A): **N/A**

Party Affiliation: **Democrat**

Specific Board Requirements: **N/A**

Council District: **8**

Current Occupation: **CEO/Owner**

Current Employer: **Wopila Consulting, LLC**

Employer's Address: **4405 Springdale Avenue Baltimore, MD 21207**

Other Relevant Employment: **N/A**

Undergraduate Institution: **University of Baltimore**

Graduate Institution: **Georgetown University Law Center**

Civic and Professional Affiliations: **Board of Directors, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (2018- present) (40 Under 40 Chair) (Past Treasurer); Board Member, American Indian Cancer Foundation (2020- Present); Board Member, Native Forward Scholars Fund (2022-Present); Commissioner, Tunica- Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Ethics Commission (2020- Present); Member, The Links, Incorporated, Annapolis, MD Chapter (Strategic Planning Chair, Ethics Chair, Programming Chair); Diamond Life Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated**

Signature: 

Distribution:

Honorable Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Chair
Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary to the City Council
Richard Krummerich, Office of Council Services
Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
Ty'lor Schnella, Mayor's Office of Government Relations



BRANDON M. SCOTT
Mayor
100 Holliday Street, Suite 250
Baltimore, MD 21202

July 17, 2024

Lillian Sparks Robinson
4405 Springdale Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21207

Dear Ms. Robinson:

Please accept this letter as formal notice that I have nominated you to serve as the Northeastern Police District member of the Baltimore City Civilian Review Board.

You will be contacted by the Office of City Council President Nick J. Mosby with notification of the date and time at which you are to appear before the City Council for your confirmation hearing.

Please direct all inquiries concerning this process to Nina Themelis, Director of Government Relations for my office. She can be reached via telephone at 443-401-7044, or email nina.themelis@baltimorecity.gov.

Your service as a member of the Baltimore City Civilian Review Board has my full confidence and support. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the City of Baltimore.

In Service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore

cc: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
The Honorable Nick Mosby, City Council President
The Honorable Isaac "Yitzy" Schleifer, Chair, Rules and Oversight Committee

Lillian Sparks Robinson

4405 Springdale Avenue, Gwynn Oak, Maryland 21207
(202)352-7167, lillian@wopilallc.com

Summary of Achievements:

- Significantly strengthened the operations and role of the Administration for Native Americans resulting in the largest budget, largest staffing, and increased presence in the history of the organization at that time, including the creation of the new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native Americans position at the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Initiated and drafted the first Memorandum of Agreement for the Administration for Native Americans (HHS), Bureau of Indian Education (DOI), and the White House Initiative on Indian Education (DOEd) to continue the promotion of Native languages in schools and held the first joint Native Language Symposium for Native language grantees across the country to share best practices and assess the challenges and barriers.
- Partnered with the White House and the US Department of Agriculture to host a series of White House Generation Indigenous (GEN- I) Youth Summits, including the “kick off” White House Youth Leadership Summit, resulting in a report that highlights the priorities of GEN- I based on the feedback of the listening sessions held at each location.
- Successfully testified numerous times before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and the House Natural Resources Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs subcommittee on behalf of the Administration for Children and Families on the topics of economic development, Native languages and education, children and youth issues, and complex trauma in Indian Country.
- Facilitated the drafting and implementation of the first Tribal Consultation Policy for the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) resulting in strengthened and increased communications between tribal governments and ACF programs and instituting the policy and practice of annual consultation sessions at ACF.
- Chaired the Intradepartmental Council for Native American Affairs for HHS which has led the effort to increase the accessibility of HHS grants, develop related training and technical assistance, review eligibility requirements and authorities of all grant programs, and research the expansion of self- governance within HHS for tribal governments.
- Successfully advocated within the Department of Health and Human Services, ACF to expand P.L. 102-477 to include LIHEAP funding and stronger collaboration with DOI, and the Tribal Advisory on reporting mechanisms. Facilitated several meetings among the ACF principals to gain better understanding about the benefits of the 477 program and tribal self-determination and to resolve outstanding differences regarding the 477 Program.
- Successfully advocated for the enactment of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Act of 2006, resulting in increased funding for Native American language and immersion programs at HHS.
- Facilitated a series of field hearings/listening sessions resulting in legislative amendments to the No Child Left Behind Act, which were subsequently included in Every Student Succeeds Act of 2016.
- Worked collaboratively with organizations, such as the NAACP, Leadership Council on Civil Rights, National Council of La Raza, National Urban League, Southeastern Asia Resource Action Center, Alliance for Excellent Education, and the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund to work on policies around high school graduation rates and college and work preparedness.
- Expanded and improved the capacity and impact of NIEA by developing partnerships with prominent national organizations, such as the Close-Up Foundation, Reading is Fundamental, Christian Children’s Fund USA, the National Association of School Based Health Centers, Teach For America, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Professional Experience

Wopila Consulting, LLC, Gwynn Oak, MD

Owner and Chief Executive Officer, October 2016- present

Established Wopila Consulting, LLC, an American Indian and woman owned small business that provides a wide range of specialized consulting and strategic development services to federal, state, and tribal government clients. The mission of Wopila Consulting, LLC is to provide high quality expert services that improve outcomes, build capacity, and empower the communities we serve. Wopila is driven by the desire to provide innovative and meaningful strategies and solutions that result in client and community success. Expert services include training and technical assistance, program and grant management, research and evaluation, leadership and organizational development, strategic planning and facilitation, and event planning. Wopila's code of "Quality Services, Community Success, Client Satisfaction" guides how Wopila approaches each task, project, and endeavor. Wopila has provided subject matter expert services to the Native American Contractors Association, NDN Collective, The Language Conservancy, American Indian Business Leaders, Arikara Development Corporation, National Association on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, First Peoples Fund, Gathering of Nations, and the Water Protectors Legal Collective. Wopila currently serves as a subcontractor on two SAMHSA Native Connections Technical Assistance Contracts and one Department of Interior American Indian and Alaska Native Tourism Program contract.

Tribal Tech, LLC, Alexandria, VA

Chief Officer of Business Development, October 2016- September 2017

Member of senior leadership team advising Tribal Tech's president on strategies related to business development, communication, and outreach to potential clients. Responsibilities include 1) refining and progressing the corporate business strategy, 2) developing a plan to include business development and marketing opportunities with clear short and long term goals, strategies, and targets to spark potential opportunities, 3) establishing new connections (written outreach, verbal, face-to-face meetings, site visits, etc.) to multiple federal, state, and local contacts, as well as Native entities and/or other business development affiliates and 4) engage in specific outreach efforts as identified, leading to business opportunities. Serve as a technical strategist and subject matter expert for Tribal Tech contracts such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Tribal Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Center and Native Connection Grantees program.

Administration for Native Americans, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC

Commissioner, March 2010- October 2016

Presidential appointed position requiring U.S. Senate confirmation. Led the organization's efforts to administer over 200 new and continuing grants on an annual basis and supervised the competition, including the panel review, of over 400 applications for ANA programs including social and economic development strategies, tribal governance, Native language preservation and maintenance, and environmental regulatory enhancement. Increased the training and technical assistance for ANA applicants, including pre-application and post award. Established annual conferences for ANA and ACF grantees focused on evidence based best practices, sustainability, and developing relationships with foundations and philanthropic organizations. Partnered with the Office of Community Service in issuing the first joint funding opportunity announcement for ACF on building assets for Native American communities. Promoted White House priorities to Indian Country, including the provision of funding supplements for Let's Move in Indian Country efforts and Generation Indigenous. Provided advice and guidance to the Acting Assistant and Deputy Assistant Secretaries for ACF on issues and priorities of tribal communities across ACF program areas including early childhood, economic development, child welfare, and self-governance, including expansion of P.L. 102-477 to additional ACF programs (OCS-LIHEAP). Conducted and instituted annual tribal consultation sessions for ACF and represented the agency during the various HHS budget and regional tribal consultation sessions. Established the first Tribal Advisory Committee for the Administration for Children and Families. Chaired the Intradepartmental Council for Native American Affairs for HHS which advises the Secretary of HHS on tribal programs and provides guidance to HHS operating divisions on cross cutting tribal priorities. Managed the organization's annual budget of \$50 million and provided oversight in the management of five contracts covering on-site support and regional trainings and technical assistance. Successfully testified before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on behalf of the Administration for Children and Families on the topics of economic development, Native languages and education, and complex trauma in Indian Country. Developed a budget proposal resulting in two new grant programs for ANA, (Native Youth I- LEAD and Native Language Community Coordination), and increasing ANA's budget to \$50 million- the largest budget in ANA's history. Reorganized the structure of ANA that established a new Division of Policy and increased the number staff from 27 to 35, (including federal and contract staff). Elevated the role of Commissioner to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native Americans at ACF.

National Indian Education Association, Washington, DC

Executive Director, May 2004- March 2010

Led the advocacy efforts of the organization resulting in an increased presence of Native education issues on a national level. Reviewed and monitored federal legislation impacting education of Native students and related youth issues. Drafted and submitted testimony on a range of education and youth issues including suicide prevention, health, and welfare. Testified before both Senate and House committees on education programs and funding. Increased membership for the organization through the creation of new

participation opportunities and expanded membership categories. Improved the national profile of the organization through greater outreach to potential members, increased partnerships with over a dozen prominent national organizations, and the development of relationships with federal agencies and congressional offices. Supervised and expanded the size of the staff from two full time employees to five full time employees and raised the necessary funds to accommodate the growth. Coordinated and supervised annual Conventions and Legislative Summits that promote best practices and provide training and technical assistance to the attendees. Raised over \$1.4 million for NIEA through the development of innovative policy programs, cultivating strategic partnerships with foundations (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), and recruiting and developing relationships with targeted and potential sponsors (Tribes, Foundations, and Corporate sponsorships). Developed and managed the organization's annual budget of \$1.7 million, and provided oversight in the monthly reports detailing expense and revenues.

National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC

Staff Attorney/Legislative Associate, September 2001- May 2004

Represented tribal governments at the United Nations for the United Nations Indigenous Peoples Forum and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights for Indigenous Peoples. Advocated for the protection of Native American sacred sites resulting in introduced legislation and subsequent congressional committee hearings. Advocated for the Special Diabetes Project for Indians resulting in continued and increased appropriations for the program. Facilitated a Tribal Leaders Task Force on Substance and Alcohol Abuse Prevention resulting in tribal resolutions on policies to promote prevention activities. Advocated on behalf of the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Prepared testimony and briefing papers on issues related to health care, native youth issues, and religious protection.

National Indian Gaming Commission, Department of Interior, Washington, DC

Law Clerk, May 2000-August 2000

Reviewed tribal gaming regulations to ensure compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Provided guidance to tribal governments on compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the drafting of tribal gaming codes and tribal compacts. Drafted advisory memos to the General Counsel of the Indian Gaming Commission on frequent challenges tribal governments face when drafting tribal gaming codes.

Education

May 2001

Juris Doctor, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, DC

Activities: Federal Legislation Clinic, Native American Law Students Association, Black Law Students Association

June 1998

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland

Honors: Recipient of Honors Scholarship (2 years, full scholarship), Selected to intern for the Maryland State General Assembly for two consecutive sessions

Other Certifications

December 2020

Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Certification, eCornell University, online

January 2021-May 2022

Advanced Leadership Initiative- Fellow, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Social Impact Review, Senior Editor- Health Domain

Honors and Professional Affiliations

Board of Directors, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (2018- present) (40 Under 40 Chair) (Past Treasurer)

Board Member, American Indian Cancer Foundation (2020- Present)

Board Member, Native Forward Scholars Fund (2022-Present)

Commissioner, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Ethics Commission (2020- Present)

Member, The Links, Incorporated, Annapolis, MD Chapter (Strategic Planning Chair, Ethics Chair, Programming Chair)

Scott Hawkins Leadership Institute (2014-2016)

Diamond Life Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated

Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated, Greater Baltimore County (Legislative Chair 19-20, Grade Group 2 Chair 20- 21, MOMS Chair 21)

Junior League, Howard County Chapter, Charter Member

The Doll League, Incorporated, Baltimore- Washington Metropolitan Chapter, Charter Member

Lifetime Member, National Congress of American Indians

Past President, Native American Bar Association, Washington, DC Chapter (2004)

Miss Indian World (2001)

Named one of seven young Native American Leaders by U.S. Today Magazine (2004)

Named one of "40 under 40" by the National Center for American Indian Economic Development (2010)

Named "Woman of the Year" by National Indian Women Supporting Each Other (2011)