

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

August 13, 2024

**Committee
Report No. _____**

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, having met on July 9, 2024, makes reference to Resolution 24-110, entitled “APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD MITCHELL AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING.”

Resolution 24-110’s purpose is to approve the appointment of Richard Mitchell as Director of Housing, effective July 1, 2024, in accordance with Section 8-20.2 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended (“Charter”).

Your Committee notes that voters elected to bifurcate the Department of Housing and Human Concerns into the Department of Housing and the Department of Human Concerns, effective July 1, 2024, as a result of a 2022 Charter amendment.

By correspondences dated June 12, 2024, and June 28, 2024, respectively, the Mayor transmitted Mr. Mitchell’s resume and a copy of Charter Section 8-20.

Your Committee also notes, effective July 1, 2024, Charter Section 8-20.2 provides that the:

- Director of Housing be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the Council; and
- Qualifications for the Director and Deputy Director may be prescribed by ordinance.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Page 2

**Committee
Report No. _____**

Your Committee received comments from the Mayor and Mr. Mitchell regarding the appointment before interviewing Mr. Mitchell.

The Mayor said that Mr. Mitchell has the experience and drive needed to lead the Department. He also said Mr. Mitchell shares his vision to create affordable, safe, and stable housing, while establishing and maintaining good working relationships with community members.

The Mayor highlighted Mr. Mitchell's educational background including his Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Cornell University; Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan's College of Architecture and Urban Planning; and Juris Doctorate and Certificate in International Legal Studies from Syracuse University, College of Law. He also highlighted Mr. Mitchell's experience as a Commissioner on the King County Housing Authority, and most recently, as a Legislative Attorney in the County of Maui, Office of Council Services.

Mr. Mitchell said he is inspired to serve as Director because he himself grew up in public housing. He understands that housing is fundamental and foundational to hope, prosperity, and resiliency, and that home ownership is crucial to breaking cycles of poverty.

Mr. Mitchell said his focus for the Department will be to seek opportunities to improve and innovate the County's current approach to affordable housing; fill vacancies; and build and maintain relationships with County, State, and community partners.

Your Committee expressed support for Resolution 24-110 and highlighted Mr. Mitchell's reliability and integrity as necessary qualities for the position.

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Page 3

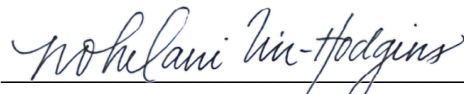
**Committee
Report No. _____**

Your Committee voted 7-0 to recommend adoption of Resolution 24-110. Committee Chair U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and members Cook, Kama, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sugimura voted “aye.” Committee members Johnson and Sinenci were excused.

Your Committee is in receipt of Resolution 24-110, CD1, approved as to form and legality by the Department of the Corporation Counsel, incorporating your Committee’s nonsubstantive revisions.

Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee RECOMMENDS that Resolution 24-110, CD1, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled “APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD E. MITCHELL AS THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING,” be ADOPTED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



NOHELANI U‘U-HODGINS, Chair

Resolution

No. 24-110, CD1

APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF RICHARD
E. MITCHELL AS THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

WHEREAS, by letter dated June 12, 2024, Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. notified the Council that he will be appointing Richard E. Mitchell as the Director of Housing effective July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Charter Section 8-20.2 (effective July 1, 2024) provides that the director of housing shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council and may be removed by the mayor; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it approves the appointment of Richard E. Mitchell as the Director of Housing; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and Managing Director.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

/s/ Cody Minatodani

Cody Minatodani
Deputy Corporation Counsel
County of Maui
great:misc:001(13)areso01:kmatt

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

ALICE L. LEE

Upon the request of the Mayor.