



13-C-0533

CITY OF ATLANTA

KASIM REED
MAYOR

55 TRINITY AVENUE, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-0300
TEL (404) 330-6100

March 11, 2013

Council President Ceasar Mitchell
and City Councilmembers
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**Re: Appointment – Tharon L. Johnson
The Downtown Development Technical Advisory Group**

Dear President Mitchell and Members of the Council:

It is my pleasure to appoint **Tharon L. Johnson** to serve as a member of the Downtown Development Technical Advisory Group (DDTAG) on behalf of the City of Atlanta. Mr. Johnson acknowledged willingness to serve in this capacity. This appointment is **to begin upon receipt of appointment letter from the Mayor and confirmation by the Atlanta City Council. Execution and filing of the oath or affirmation as required by Code will be performed.**

Based on his experience and commitment to the community, I am confident that Tharon L. Johnson will serve the City of Atlanta and the Downtown Development Technical Advisory Group with integrity and dedication. A copy of his qualifications is attached for your review.

Sincerely,

Kasim Reed



Tharon L. Johnson*

Managing Director - Atlanta
tjohnson@mckennalong.com

303 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 5300
Atlanta, GA 30308

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FAX: 404.527.4198

Experience

Tharon Johnson is a Managing Director at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP. His practice focuses on government affairs at the national, federal, and state and local levels. During his career, he has served at senior levels of federal, state, and local campaigns and governments, advising members of Congress, leaders in state government, the mayor of one of the largest cities in the nation, and a presidential campaign. He maintains offices in Atlanta and Washington, DC.

Mr. Johnson served as the National Southern Regional Director for the 2012 Obama For America, leading the presidential re-election campaign efforts for 11 southern states, including two key battleground states, Florida and North Carolina.

Mr. Johnson has broad public sector experience, including serving as Senior Advisor to Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed in his administration. Previously, he had served as Senior Strategist and Campaign Manager for Reed's bid for Mayor of Atlanta in 2009. In recognition of his work on Reed's campaign, the American Association of Political Consultants named Mr. Johnson 2010 Campaign Manager of the Year, making him the youngest and first African-American ever to receive the distinction. Following his time in government, he advised private sector clients on their public policy strategies as a partner at a leading government affairs firm.

Since 2001, Mr. Johnson has spearheaded successful campaigns for such notable officials as Congressman John Lewis, Congressman John Barrow, and Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond. He went on to serve as Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Barrow and as District Director for Congressman Lewis. Mr. Johnson's record includes these victories, as well as numerous other elections for candidates for U.S. Congress, judge, Georgia General Assembly, county commission, city council, sheriff, and school board.

In 2012, Johnson was honored by *Georgia Trend* magazine as a recipient of their "40 under 40 Award," recognizing Georgia's Best and Brightest, and by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* as a recipient of their "40 under 40, Atlanta's Rising Business and Community Leaders Award." *James Magazine* named Johnson one of the top 25 most influential Georgians. Additionally, *Politics Magazine* named Johnson among the Top 10 Democrats in Georgia, and he was the only African-American to be named a *Campaigns & Elections* 2010 Rising Star. In addition to his political honors, he was awarded the Unsung Hero award by his alma mater Clark Atlanta University.

Actively engaged in his community, Mr. Johnson serves as a Big Brother for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta, a board member for KIPP Metro Atlanta, and is a former board member for Red Clay Democrats.

Education

- B.A., Clark Atlanta University

* Non-attorney professional

Practices:

Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs
National Government Affairs
State and Local Government
Affairs
Federal Government Affairs

Civic Activities:

KIPP Metro Atlanta, Board Member
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro
Atlanta
LEAD Atlanta 2010
Red Clay Democrats, former Board
Member
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.