

Wendell Felder, *Special Advisor*

Occupation: Community Development Manager, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

Education: Bachelor Degree: Political Science from Bowie State University

Master's Degree: Georgetown University in Urban & Regional Planning

Other Information: Wendell Felder is a fourth generation Washingtonian and proud Ward 7 resident. The economic and social hardship that his family faced while he was growing up taught him the value of hard work and education. He is a graduate of McKinley Technology High School, he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Bowie State University and his Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Georgetown University. The focus of his graduate research was on financial investment in underserved communities while ensuring the inclusion of long-term residents.

Mr. Felder began his career in public service in 2012, when he served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) in the Capital Heights Community in Ward 7. In 2015, he served as the Ward 7 Liaison in the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services. In this capacity, he advocated for over 73,000 constituents and addressed a wide variety of community issues and concerns, including residents' access to city services and programs. In 2017, Mr. Felder served as the traveling chief of staff to the city administrator, Rashad Young, directing and managing the city administrator's daily operations, site visits, special projects and budget. Currently, Mr. Felder works in the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development as a community development manager, focusing on economic and real estate development throughout the city.

Mr. Felder is also a community activist. He serves as the chair for the Washington Literary Council's Advisory board, he participates in community service projects with his Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, and he is a member of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. He serves as a motivational speaker at various school and youth organizations across the city. Mr. Felder is passionate about influencing younger generations to engage in public service and teaches young people that they are never too young to fulfill their civic duty. He encourages them to pursue education at all stages of life. His motto is, "It's not how you start out in life, but rather the legacy you leave behind."