Deputy Director Lori Parris’ Biography

Lori S. Parris
Deputy Director

Lori S. Parris is a licensed attorney that has practiced in the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts since 1995. She has spent her entire professional career in the public sector. In September 2015, she was asked to return to the District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) as the Deputy Director. DCRA is the District’s agency that protects the health, safety, economic interests, and quality of life of District of Columbia residents, businesses and visitors by issuing licenses and permits, conducting inspections, enforcing building, housing and safety codes, regulating land use and development, and advocating for and educating consumers. Deputy Director Parris assists the Director in managing DCRA’s daily operations, as well as, the Office of Data & Innovations, Third Party Program, Enforcement Division, and Communications Division.

Ms. Parris oversees the revision of long-range plans, goals and objectives for DCRA. She manages the development of policy changes in levels of appropriations, as well as the organizational changes within the department. Furthermore, she leads the evaluation of the total agency performance on a continuing basis while establishing the proper measures of performance and counsels subordinate managers and supervisors as to the execution of appropriate programs.

Additionally, as a long-time legal expert and scholar, she mentors and guides subordinate managers while providing direction to staff in the development of technical, leadership and management skills. Ms. Parris also serves as the technical expert on policy and program related issues that are mission critical to the agency’s performance. On behalf of the Director, she also coordinates in-depth research and analyses on a broad array of issues, laws, rules and regulations.

Prior to joining DCRA, Ms. Parris was the Deputy General Counsel for the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA). In that role, she was responsible for assisting the General Counsel in the overall management and supervision of eight attorneys in the litigation and real estate practice areas at one of the 10 largest housing authorities in the nation.

Prior to her tenure at DCHA, Ms. Parris worked at DCRA as the Deputy General Counsel. As the Deputy General Counsel, she supervised litigation before the Office of Administrative Hearings and the Board of Zoning Adjustment and worked closely with the Office of the Attorney General litigating matters before the D.C. Superior Court.
Ms. Parris has also worked for the Office of the Attorney General. In that role, Ms. Parris represented the District of Columbia before the District of Columbia Superior Court and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

When Ms. Parris is not practicing law, she teaches Constitutional Law, Civil Rights and Liberties and Criminal Law at the University of the District of Columbia.

Ms. Parris lives in Washington, DC with her husband and son. She is a graduate of Boston College with a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science. She also earned her Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School.