

# Featured Speaker Introduction

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## Felicity Williams

### Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff

City of Pittsburgh, PA



Felicity A. Williams, Esq. is a highly accomplished public sector leader and dedicated advocate for racial and economic justice. In January 2022, she was appointed as the City's first Black woman Deputy Chief of Staff by the 61st Mayor of Pittsburgh. In this capacity, she provides strategic counsel to the Mayor and senior leadership, overseeing a diverse array of teams within the Mayor's Office, including communications, workforce development, neighborhood services, business diversity, immigrant, and refugee affairs, and other areas with

a strong emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA).

Felicity is a driving force behind numerous innovative initiatives, such as the federally designated Workforce Hub, Procurement Modernization, and the Bloomberg American Sustainable Cities partnership, which focus on various aspects of economic inclusion. Notably, she spearheaded the creation of the city's inaugural multi-agency workforce equity agreement to integrate both diverse workforce participation and job quality requirements in the region's publicly funded construction projects. Under her leadership, the city also successfully assembled the largest consortium of public partners for a regional disparity study in over two decades, ensuring that minority, women, and LGBTQ-owned businesses have equitable access to government contracts.

In addition to these responsibilities, Felicity serves as the administration's representative on VisitPittsburgh's Board, focused on growing an inclusive tourism sector, where she secured critical strategies prioritizing Pittsburgh's African American, LGBTQIA+, and other emerging communities in the region's 10-year Tourism Development Plan. She also serves as the Mayor's appointment to the Governance Board of InnovatePGH, Comprehensive Municipal Pension Trust Fund (CMPTF), Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, the PA Municipal League, and InvestPGH. Under her trusteeship, the city's \$1 billion CMPTF saw the adoption of their first Diverse Investment Managers Policy and a remarkable subsequent increase in utilization of minority, women, and disadvantaged business enterprises from zero to over thirty percent within two years.

Felicity also manages intergovernmental affairs and institutional relationships, including the administration's philanthropic strategy, aiding in securing over \$300 million to support city projects and services. She manages board and commission appointments for the City and is responsible for systems development and operations of the Mayor's Office, including managing a \$4 million budget, consistently achieving positive operating results.

Prior to her current role, Felicity led economic development programs, drove effective and strategic communications, and shaped regional equitable development policy at the Hill Community Development Corporation. During this time, she played a critical role in restoring the neighborhood, while celebrating its cultural heritage. Her efforts included advancing the implementation of a community benefits agreement with a national hockey team, local government, and community partners to support redevelopment. Felicity has also been actively engaged in increasing voter engagement across eight counties in Western Pennsylvania, contributed to the development of a policy agenda, and engaged in both successful electoral and issue campaigns. Her commitment to community-rooted policy initiatives is reflected in her published works addressing pivotal issues affecting the Black community.

Felicity holds a Bachelor of Arts from Washington and Jefferson College, where she double-majored in Economics and International Studies and minored in French. She obtained her Juris Doctorate from William & Mary Law School, where her studies focused on corporate, finance, election, and government related areas of the law.

During her time in law school, she served as the Vice President of the Election Law Society and was a member of the prestigious Bill of Rights Journal. Following law school, Felicity worked as a consultant in the Washington, D.C. metro area, serving several Department of Defense contractors, an investment fund, and a national business valuations firm.

Felicity is admitted to both the Pennsylvania and Virginia bars.