



PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Transition at the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

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BOSTON — Today, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy announced the departure of Undersecretary of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation John Chapman, and announced current Deputy Chief Secretary of Boards and

Commissions, Edward A. Palleschi, as incoming Undersecretary, effective March 1, 2019. Palleschi brings over two decades of experience serving in various roles in state government as well as expertise in business development from the private sector.

“John has worked tirelessly to protect the Commonwealth’s consumers, leveraging his extensive legal and regulatory expertise, and we appreciate his contributions, counsel, and public service,” **said Secretary Kennealy**. “In addition to serving together in the administration’s first term, I worked directly with John on the Financial Services Advisory Council, where his knowledge and abilities were evident and well respected by industry. We thank John and wish him the best, and look forward to Ed building upon the progress made during the administration’s first term.”

As Undersecretary, Chapman oversaw five agencies and nearly 600 people, launching initiatives that modernized and streamlined government operations and processes, increasing accountability and responsiveness to consumers and industry.

“I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to work with Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and Secretary Kennealy these last four years, but it is time to pursue new projects and give others the opportunity to take on leadership roles,” **said Undersecretary Chapman**. “I am especially excited to launch an initiative to establish a public-private partnership focused on FinTech and innovation. As FinTech is now an integral part of the financial services industry, and the policy and regulatory issues need to be developed, it will be an exciting way to utilize my knowledge and background in the emerging market as well as leverage my prior experiences.”

“It has been an honor to serve as Deputy Chief Secretary of Boards and Commissions for Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito, and I am excited to serve in a new capacity at Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation,” **said incoming Undersecretary Palleschi**. “It is critical that we continue the efforts to protect consumers, regulate industry and enable professionals to do business in a straightforward manner. I look forward to furthering the Governor’s economic vision and working with Secretary Kennealy.”

As Undersecretary of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR), Chapman’s initiatives have included:

- Updating infrastructure with the establishment of the Office of FinTech and Innovation at the Division of Banks, implementing e-Licensing and e-Permitting system for DPL's licensing boards and establishing online systems for both the Home Improvement Contractor (HIC) program and data breach notifications.
- Improving fraud prevention through multiple public awareness campaigns, enhancement of enforcement processes throughout OCABR agencies and establishing a Senior Financial Abuse and Fraud prevention working group with other State agency partners (AGO, Elder Affairs, Veterans Affairs).
- Empowering and educating consumers with the establishment of two financial literacy programs at the Division of Banks, one to fund high school Credit for Life Fairs throughout the Commonwealth, reaching over 30,000 students, and the other, Operation Money Wise, to support members of the Military, Veterans and their families.

About Edward A. Palleschi:

Edward A. Palleschi has served as the Deputy Chief Secretary of Boards and Commissions for Governor Charlie Baker since January 2015, advancing the Governor's vision of delivering a more accountable, capable, and representative government, leading the recruitment and appointment of a diverse group of more than 2,000 Massachusetts residents to over 700 boards and commissions.

Palleschi combines private sector experience with a deep commitment and expertise in state government. He worked in business development in the insurance, advertising, and financial services industries, including five years as Director of Business Development at Community Credit Union until 2014. Palleschi has previously worked for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Executive Director of Professional Licensure, in addition to earlier roles at the offices of the State Treasurer, Lottery Commission, and Retirement Board.

A graduate of Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, Palleschi and his family reside in his native Swampscott. He has served two terms on the Swampscott

School Committee and was a 2018 recipient of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus Good Guys Award, which honors male leaders for working to advance gender equality.

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About John Chapman:

John Chapman is an attorney with expertise in corporate and regulatory matters gained through federal experience at the Office of the Counsel to the President in the George H.W. Bush administration and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, serving in state government as an Agency Commissioner and then Undersecretary of Economic Development under Governor Mitt Romney and private sector leadership in financial services as in-house counsel at a leading financial services firm and as a partner at the law firm of Duane Morris LLP, where he advised corporate clients on enforcement and compliance issues, corporate governance and regulatory matters. Prior to joining the Administration in January 2015, Undersecretary Chapman was the Republican nominee and candidate for U.S. Congress in the 9th Congressional District.

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About the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation:

The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation (OCABR) oversees five regulatory agencies: Division of Banks, Division of Insurance, Division of Professional Licensure, Division of Standards, and the Department of Telecommunications and Cable. These agencies have a combined operating budget of over \$76 million and together have approximately 600 employees. OCABR also oversees the state's Lemon Laws and Lemon Law Arbitration, Data Breach reporting, Home Improvement Contractor Programs, and the state's Do Not Call Registry. OCABR helps Massachusetts consumers, home improvement contractors, people seeking help with a recently purchased car, tenants and

landlords, and businesses seeking to report a data breach or interested in the data breach notification law. Learn more about OCABR at [mass.gov](https://mass.gov/orgs/office-of-consumer-affairs-and-business-regulation) ([/orgs/office-of-consumer-affairs-and-business-regulation](https://orgs/office-of-consumer-affairs-and-business-regulation)).

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Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

([/orgs/executive-office-of-housing-and-economic-development](https://orgs/executive-office-of-housing-and-economic-development))

The Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development promotes vibrant communities, growing businesses, and a strong middle class.

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Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

([/orgs/office-of-consumer-affairs-and-business-regulation](https://orgs/office-of-consumer-affairs-and-business-regulation))

The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation protects and empowers consumers through advocacy and education, and ensures a fair playing field for the Massachusetts businesses its agencies regulate.

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