



Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Research Center for Leadership in Action



Executive Briefing Series
Supporting High Performance Government:
Leading Large Scale Change
Biographies
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Deborah Wright

President and CEO
Carver Federal Savings Bank

Prior to assuming her current positions, Ms. Wright was President & CEO of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation, a position she had held since May 1996. She previously served as Commissioner of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development under Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani from January 1994 through March 1996. Prior to that appointment, Ms. Wright was named by Mayor David N. Dinkins to the New York City Housing Authority Board, which manages New York City's 189,000 public housing units. She is a member of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University and serves on the boards of Kraft Foods, Inc., The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, the New York City Partnership, Inc., Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and The Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board of the American Baptist Churches. Ms. Wright earned A.B., J.D. and M.B.A. degrees from Harvard University. Ms. Wright is a member of the Asset/Liability and Interest Rate Risk Committee and is Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

Peter J. Madonia

Chief of Staff to the Mayor

Prior to appointment as Chief of Staff to the Mayor, Peter Madonia served as First Deputy Commissioner of the Fire Department, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Operations at the Department of Buildings, and Executive Assistant to the Deputy Mayor for Operations. In addition, he currently owns and manages a family-owned business. Madonia received a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University, where he has taught as an adjunct professor for urban studies, and a Masters in Urban Studies from the University of Chicago.

Linda Gibbs

Commissioner
Department of Homeless Services

Linda Gibbs was appointed Commissioner of New York City's Department of Homeless Services in January 2002. Some of the major accomplishments achieved during her tenure include the brokering of a landmark settlement in 20-year family homelessness litigation; placing more families into permanent housing in a single year than in any other year in agency history; implementing first ever Client Responsibility Standards in the single adult and family shelter systems which requires clients to avoid dangerous behavior and seek and accept permanent housing; and, implementing the first-ever performance incentive program for family service providers. The agency's current focus is on working with the government, business, and nonprofit sectors in the development of a ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness. The plan will have a strong focus on homelessness prevention and housing assistance.

Since her graduation from law school, Linda has served in both the Executive and Legislative branches of city government for the last twenty years. She has worked for the Administration for Children's Services, the City Council, the Mayor's Office, and in an independent Charter Revision Commission. She resides in Brooklyn with her husband and her two children.

Patricia J. Lancaster, AIA

Commissioner
Department of Buildings

After six years in the private and not-for-profit sectors, Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA, has returned to municipal service. Appointed by Mayor Bloomberg, in April 2002 she became Commissioner of the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB), the agency responsible for setting local construction standards, enforcing related laws, and regulating the construction trades.

Commissioner Lancaster is a New York State Registered Architect. With more than 20 years experience in public/private construction partnerships, teaching, and New York City government, she is well-suited to bringing positive change to the Department of Buildings.

Commissioner Lancaster earned her Masters degree in Architecture from the University of Washington in Seattle. Her achievements include the 2001 publication of her book, *Construction in Cities: Social, Environmental, Political and Economic Concerns*. In November 2003, Commissioner Lancaster was named "Woman of the Year" by the Associated Builders and Owners. In 2000, Real Estate Weekly named her one of the top 100 Women in Real Estate and in 1996, Professional Women in Construction (PWC) named her Woman of the Year. In addition to being a registered architect, she is a licensed real estate broker, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, a Fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine and a Fellow of the Urban Institute for Design.