

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

*“Greening the Big Apple: Implementing PlaNYC”
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Biographies

Rohit Aggarwala

Director of Long-term Planning and Sustainability, Office of the Mayor

Rohit Aggarwala is Director of New York City’s Office of Long-term Planning and Sustainability, which is within the Mayor’s Office of Operations. Dr. Aggarwala’s office is charged with creating a long-term sustainability plan to ensure New York City’s continued prosperity, growth, and health for the year 2030. On Earth Day, 2007 the Mayor’s Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability released PlaNYC, 127 separate initiatives that include: housing an additional 1 million New Yorkers affordably; increasing access to parks, playgrounds and open spaces; reclaiming brownfields; developing critical backup systems for our aging water network to ensure reliability; providing additional reliable power sources and upgrading our existing power plants; and reducing water pollution so we can open our waterways for recreation.

A native of New York City, Dr. Aggarwala holds a BA, MBA, and PhD from Columbia University, as well as an MA from Queen’s College in Ontario. Prior to joining the City, he was a management consultant at McKinsey & Company, where his practice focused on transportation and telecommunications clients. During the Clinton Administration, Dr. Aggarwala worked at the Federal Railroad Administration, and currently chairs a subcommittee at the Transportation Research Board, which is part of the National Academy of Science. He is the author of several articles on transportation policy and on the history of New York City.

Adrian Benepe

Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation

Adrian Benepe has worked for the last 28 years protecting and enhancing New York City’s natural and historic beauty. He has continued this effort as Commissioner of the Department of Parks & Recreation, appointed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on January 25, 2002. In this role he has focused on improving park facilities and programs for children, developing new waterfront parks and greenways, and making New York City bloom with millions of new flowers and hundred of gardens.

Benepe started his Parks & Recreation career in 1973 as a teenage seasonal helper in East River Park on Manhattan's Lower East Side, picking up litter and mopping locker rooms. After graduating from Middlebury College in Vermont, Benepe became a member of the first corps of Parks & Recreation's Urban Park Rangers in 1979. From 1979 to 1990, he served in a number of different capacities at Park & Recreation.

Building on his horticulture experience, from 1990 to 1993 Benepe was the Director of the Annual Fund & Major Gifts for the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. From 1993 to 1995, he served as Vice President for Issues & Public Affairs for the Municipal Art Society. After six years in the non-profit sector, he returned to Parks & Recreation in January 1996 as the Manhattan Borough Commissioner, managing Manhattan's green infrastructure of more than 300 parks, playgrounds, and malls. He served in that position until promoted to Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, where he now oversees the operation of almost 29,000 acres and nearly 4,000 properties including almost 1,000 playgrounds, 600 ballfields, 550 tennis courts, 53 outdoor swimming pools, 35 recreation centers, 14 miles of beach, five major stadia, and 2.5 million street and park trees.

In addition, to his B.A. in English Literature from Middlebury College, Adrian Benepe also earned a Master's Degree in Journalism at Columbia University, where he was awarded a Pulitzer Fellowship.

Marcia Bystryn
Executive Director, League of Conservation Voters

Marcia Bystryn is the executive director of the New York League of Conservation Voters, a statewide environmental advocacy organization. Prior to coming to the League, she was at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey where she oversaw the agency's environmental policy.

Before that, Ms. Bystryn served as Assistant NYC Sanitation Commissioner, where she was responsible for the implementation of New York City's recycling program.

She also served as executive director of the Moreland Act Commission on New York State's Deposit Law and deputy director of the Twentieth Century Fund, a public policy foundation. Ms. Bystryn holds a B.A. in history and a Ph.D in sociology.

Daniel L. Doctoroff
Deputy Mayor, Economic Development and Rebuilding for the City of New York

Daniel L. Doctoroff is Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding for the City of New York. Under the leadership of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Mr. Doctoroff has overseen one of the city's most dramatic economic resurgences, spearheading the effort to reverse New York's fiscal crisis after the attacks of 9/11 through a five-borough economic development strategy.

Prior to joining the Bloomberg administration, Mr. Doctoroff was Managing Partner of Oak Hill Capital Partners, one of the oldest and most respected private equity investment firms. During his fourteen-year association with Oak Hill, Mr. Doctoroff led the purchases of companies in a wide variety of industries, including information services, insurance, thrifts, cable television, hotels and leasing. While at Oak Hill, Mr. Doctoroff founded NYC2012, the organization dedicated to bringing the Olympic Games to New York. He continued to oversee the New York's bid as Deputy Mayor, ensuring that the Olympic effort spurred parks, housing, and economic development projects in all five boroughs.

Prior to joining Oak Hill, Mr. Doctoroff was an investment banker at Lehman Brothers. Mr. Doctoroff received a B.A. degree from Harvard College. He received a J.D. degree from The Law School at the University of Chicago. Before attending law school, Mr. Doctoroff was a political pollster.

Shaun Donovan
Commissioner, Department of Housing Preservation and Development

Mr. Donovan was appointed Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) in March 2004 by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. HPD is the largest municipal developer of affordable housing in the nation. Commissioner Donovan is leading HPD in implementing Mayor Bloomberg's ten-year \$7.5 billion New Housing Marketplace Plan, which will provide 165,000 affordable homes for 500,000 New Yorkers. The housing plan is the largest municipal housing plan in the nation's history, and is cultivating innovative partnerships and pioneering new tools in affordable housing.

Before joining the Bloomberg administration, Commissioner Donovan worked at Prudential Mortgage Capital Company as managing director of its FHA lending and affordable housing investments. Prior to Prudential Mortgage Capital, he was a visiting scholar at New York University, where he researched and wrote about the preservation of federally-assisted housing.

Until March of 2001, he was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multifamily Housing at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the primary federal official responsible for privately-owned affordable multifamily housing. At HUD, he ran housing subsidy programs that provided over \$9 billion annually to 1.7 million families and oversaw a portfolio of 30,000 multifamily properties with over 2 million housing units.

Prior to joining HUD, he worked at the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) in New York City, a non-profit lender and developer of affordable housing. He also researched and wrote about housing policy at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University and worked as an architect in New York and Italy. He holds Masters degrees in Public Administration and Architecture from Harvard University.

Emily Lloyd
Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

Commissioner Lloyd was appointed by the Mayor to the Department of Environmental Protection in February 2005. DEP is responsible for managing New York City's drinking water supply and distribution and wastewater collection and treatment systems; carrying out Federal Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act regulations; handling hazardous materials emergencies and toxic site remediation; overseeing asbestos monitoring and removal; enforcing the City's air and noise codes; billing and collecting for 800,000 water/sewer accounts; and managing City-wide conservation programs. DEP is one of the City's largest agencies and the only one with substantial responsibility outside New York City, managing and protecting 2,000 square miles of watershed land in the Catskill Mountains and the Hudson River Valley. DEP's current 10-year capital budget calls for \$19 billion in investments to maintain, enhance, and expand the City's water and wastewater infrastructure and to further other environmental priorities of the Bloomberg Administration. The Department's 6,000 employees are committed to protecting the environmental health, welfare, and natural resources of the City and its residents.

Prior to joining DEP, Commissioner Lloyd served as Executive Vice President for Administration for Columbia University for ten years, and then as Executive Vice President for Government and Community Affairs. Much of the Commissioner's professional career has been spent in public service. She was Commissioner for Sanitation under Mayor Dinkins, Director of Business Development at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and Commissioner for Traffic and Parking for the City of Boston.

She is a graduate of Wellesley College, received a Masters of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and was a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University. She has served on numerous boards and commissions and is a lifetime Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner, Department of Transportation

Janette Sadik-Khan was appointed Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on April 27, 2007. Prior to her appointment, she was a Senior Vice President of Parsons Brinckerhoff, a leading international engineering firm. Commissioner Sadik-Khan is nationally recognized for her expertise in innovative finance, public policy development and transportation issues - knowledge gained in over 15 years of experience at the federal, state and local level.

Before joining Parsons Brinckerhoff, she was Deputy Administrator at the U.S. Department of Transportation. As Chief Financial Officer, she managed the agency's \$4 billion annual capital construction budget and was responsible for developing an innovative finance program which provided localities with increased funding and regulatory flexibility. She also served as Director of the Office of Policy where she initiated the FTA's Art in Transit program to expand federal funding for art and design in transit facilities and implemented new criteria to improve the ways in which the benefits of transit capital projects were quantified.

Before her tenure in Washington, DC, Commissioner Sadik-Khan was Director of the Mayor's Office of Transportation for New York City, the Mayor's principal advisor on mass transit and the City's liaison to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. She has held key positions at the New York City Department of Transportation, both as Special Counsel to the Commissioner and Legislative Director of the agency.

She is co-chair of the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Transportation Issues in Major U.S. Cities and is the chair of Reconnecting America. She was a Rockefeller Fellow and has been a visiting scholar at New York University. Commissioner Sadik-Khan holds a B.A. in Political Science from Occidental College, a law degree from Columbia University School of Law and is a member of the New York State Bar.