



2025 SPIRIT OF ABNY

AWARDS CEREMONY AND RECEPTION

Meet Our Honorees



JESSICA TISCH

NYPD, Commissioner

Jessica S. Tisch was appointed the 48th police commissioner of the City of New York by Mayor Eric Adams in November 2024. Immediately prior, she had served as the commissioner of the New York City Department of Sanitation, a post she held since April 2022.

Commissioner Tisch began her career in public service with the NYPD in 2008, when she was hired as an Intelligence Research Specialist in the department's Counterterrorism Bureau. She went on to serve as Counsel to the Police Commissioner, and the CTB's Director of Policy and Planning. In both capacities, she administered a major systems integration contract for the build-out of the NYPD's

Domain Awareness System (DAS), and led the development and department-wide roll-out of DASLite, designed to aid in real-time response to 911 calls, investigations, and crime mapping and analysis. Also with the Counterterrorism Bureau, Commissioner Tisch negotiated more than two dozen Memoranda of Agreement with other government agencies and private-sector stakeholders involved in the Lower Manhattan Security Initiative (LMSI), the Securing the Cities program, and specialized infrastructure protection initiatives; drafted the first-ever Public Security Privacy Guidelines to regulate the collection, retention, sharing, and use of data collected through a wide variety of LMSI technologies; and led the final review, drafting, interagency clearance, and production of the NYPD publication, "Engineering Security: Protective Design for High Risk Buildings."

When Police Commissioner William Bratton returned to the lead the NYPD in 2014, he appointed Tisch as the Deputy Commissioner of Information Technology, tasking her with the advancement and democratization of the NYPD's data both inside and outside the department, including the development of the department's strategy for leveraging mobile platforms, enhancing data analytics to promote data-driven decision-making, and incorporating new and emerging technologies. In this role, Commissioner Tisch oversaw 911 operations, managed the Domain Awareness System, directed the implementation of the NYPD's department-wide body-worn camera program, and oversaw the distribution of smartphones to every officer and tablets for every police vehicle. She was also responsible for the modernization of CompStat, the revolutionary crime data-tracking and organization platform, as well as the NYPD's computer-aided dispatch system and the Enterprise Case Management System, among others.

In November 2019, Tisch was appointed by then-Mayor Bill de Blasio as commissioner of the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunication, where she was responsible for New York City's IT infrastructure, establishing and consolidating citywide IT standards and guidelines, managing the city's telecommunications franchises, the NYC311 system, and more. Notably, Commissioner Tisch led the IT response of America's largest city during the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2022, Mayor Adams appointed Tisch as the commissioner of the NYC Department of Sanitation, the largest such department in the world. Under her leadership the agency implemented several successful policies and procedures – including improvements to citywide trash containerization, recycling collection, street cleaning, snow removal, and more.

Before joining the NYPD, Commissioner Tisch previously worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the Law Firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, the Domestic Policy Council of the White House, and the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal.

Commissioner Tisch holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, in Government from Harvard University, a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard Business School. She was admitted to the New York State Bar in 2011.



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KATHRYN WYLDE

Partnership for New York City, CEO & President

Kathryn Wylde is the President and CEO of the Partnership for New York City, a nonprofit organization whose members are the city's global business leaders and major employers. The Partnership's mission is to mobilize private sector resources and expertise to advance New York City's standing as a global center of economic opportunity, upward mobility, and innovation.

Kathryn is an urban policy expert and represents the business community on issues that impact the economy and public policy more generally. She has written numerous opinion and policy papers and has been widely recognized for her leadership by educational, professional, and nonprofit institutions.

She serves on many boards and advisory groups, including the Fund for Public Schools, Invest Puerto Rico, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York City Tourism + Conventions, NYC Economic Development Corporation, and the NYC Regional Economic Development Council.

Prior to taking over as Partnership CEO in 2000, Wylde was the founding CEO of both the Partnership's investment fund and housing affiliates. From 1995-2000, Wylde worked with Henry Kravis and Jerry Speyer to establish and manage the Partnership Fund for New York City, a civic fund that is capitalized with \$170 million in private contributions.

From 1982 to 1995, Wylde was responsible for developing and managing affordable housing and economic development programs that contributed to the renaissance of blighted urban neighborhoods across the five boroughs. The New York City Housing Partnership was the sponsor of the city's New Homes and Neighborhood Builders programs, producing more than 35,000 units of new, owner-occupied housing and of the Neighborhood Entrepreneurs Program, which enabled more than fifty minority and women-owned firms to purchase and rehabilitate apartment buildings that were formerly owned by the city.

Before joining the Partnership, Wylde worked in senior positions at the former Anchor Savings Bank and at the former Lutheran Medical Center in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. She is a native of Madison, Wisconsin.



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MARIA TORRES-SPRINGER

Ford Foundation, Senior Fellow

Most recently, Torres-Springer served as New York City's first deputy mayor as well as deputy mayor for housing, economic development, and workforce, where she led the city's landmark "City of Yes" plan, the most significant pro-housing reform in New York City history through a range of historic zoning reforms, and oversaw back-to-back record-setting years creating affordable housing for New Yorkers. She also oversaw economic recovery efforts in the wake of COVID-19, helping break New York City's record for the most jobs created eight times in the last three years. She led transformative investments in public housing, workforce and small business development, and arts and culture while ensuring the city's most vulnerable communities were not left behind.

As first deputy mayor, Torres-Springer oversaw the day-to-day operations of the City of New York and had strategic and budgetary oversight of a 300,000+ public sector workforce and an annual \$110 billion budget. Previously, as commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, Torres-Springer focused on the production of housing for the city's most vulnerable communities while also launching several new programs to protect tenants' rights. Earlier in her career, as president and CEO of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, Torres-Springer led the implementation of the new citywide ferry service and made major investments in key sectors of the city's economy. Prior to that, as commissioner of the New York City Department of Small Business Services, Torres-Springer prioritized efforts to raise wages and support women- and immigrant-owned businesses and worked to prepare New Yorkers for 21st century jobs.

Torres-Springer received her bachelor's degree in ethics, politics, and economics from Yale University and her master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School. She has served on numerous boards and commissions, including the New York Public Library, WTC Performing Arts Center, New York City Public Housing Authority, and the New York City Economic Development Corporation.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Association for a Better New York's Spirit of ABNY Award, City & State/Responsible 100's Lifetime Achievement Award, New Yorkers for Parks' City Leadership Award, LiveOn NY's Human Spirit Award, Asian Americans for Equality's Pioneer Spirit Award, Citizens Housing Planning Council's Impact Award, New York Housing Conference's Leadership Award, and women's leadership awards from The Metropolitan Museum of New York, Crain's, Bisnow, and Women's Builders Council.