



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

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“Every record has been destroyed or falsified, every book rewritten, every picture has been repainted, every statue and street building has been renamed, every date has been altered. And the process is continuing day by day and minute by minute. History has stopped. Nothing exists except an endless present in which the Party is always right.”
-George Orwell, 1984-

Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC
extends warm holiday greetings to our clients,
colleagues, & friends!



*Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC, 111 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York. (518) 449-3320
Theresa Cosgrove, editor, tcosgrove@pittabishop.com*

In the News – New York State



SUNY Board of Trustees Appoints SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley as Interim Chancellor

SUNY Board of Trustees to Launch Global Search for Permanent Chancellor Beginning January 2022

The State University of New York Board of Trustees this week announced the appointment of SUNY Oswego President Deborah F. Stanley as interim chancellor. President Stanley brings nearly 45 years of campus leadership to SUNY and will begin serving as interim chancellor on January 15, 2022.

“... President Stanley is the right educator at the right time to lead this prestigious university system,” said SUNY Board Chairman Dr. Meryll H. Tisch. “With President Stanley’s decades of leadership, commitment to academic excellence, and her unwavering support for students, she is well-positioned to serve our 64 campuses with a proven record of accomplishments, integrity, and intellect.”

The SUNY Board of Trustees also announced they are launching a global search in January 2022 for the permanent SUNY Chancellor. They plan to work with an executive search firm.

This month President Stanley will step down as the 10th President of the State University of New York at Oswego after 25 years. She was co-chair of SUNY’s mental health and wellness task force, which provided its recommendations to the Board of Trustees to expand services for all SUNY students. She served on the American Council on Education’s Board of Directors, is a past chair of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Board of Directors. She is current chair of the American Academic Leadership Institute, and serves on numerous other education, climate, and leadership boards and institutes. President Stanley earned her baccalaureate degree with honors and juris doctor degree from Syracuse University.



Chapters of the Laws of 2021

Chapter 684* -- Sponsored by M of A Cymbrowitz/Senator Kavanagh -- Authorizes additional supervision and regulation of limited-profit housing companies.

Chapter 686* -- *Sponsored by Senator Kaplan/Senator Silitti* -- Requires real estate brokers and salespersons to receive implicit bias training as part of their license renewal process.

Chapter 689* -- *Sponsored by Senator Addabbo/M of A Pheffer* -- Allows individuals with disabilities to have an essential support person with them during emergency hospitalizations.

Chapter 693 -- *Sponsored by Senator Savino/M of A Abbate* -- Requires third-party delivery services to have a valid agreement with a merchant before they advertise, promote, or sell the merchant's products.

Chapter 702 -- *Sponsored by Senator Stavisky/M of A Fahey* -- Requires certain professionals to provide and the state education department to collect information about the practice of their professions.

Chapter 722* -- *Sponsored by M of A Reyes/Senator Hoylman* -- Enacts the "hate crimes analysis & review act."

Chapter 727* -- *Sponsored by M of A Dinowitz/Senator Comrie* -- Provides online absentee ballot tracking.

Chapter 747* -- *Sponsored by M of A Walker/Senator Myrie* -- Establishes an electronic absentee ballot application transmittal system through which voters may apply for and submit an absentee ballot online.

Chapter 749* -- *Sponsored by M of A L. Rosenthal/ Senator Kavanagh* -- Relates to procedures regarding mutual housing companies considering dissolution and/or reconstitution.

Chapter 767* -- *Sponsored by Senator Skoufis/M of A Rozic* -- Authorizes the use of video and audio conference technology in identifying individuals for electronic notarization.

Chapter 782 -- *Sponsored by Senator Comrie/M of A Bichotte Hermelyn* -- Establishes a construction industry advisory council on public contracting reform to consider and advise on matters concerning the improvement of the current public works contracting process.

(*) Governor's Approval Message indicates agreement has been reached on a chapter amendment.



Bills Being Considered by the Governor

S255B -- *Sponsored by Senator Mayer/M of A Bronson* -- Requires prevailing wage to be paid for work performed on a public works project for any work involving the delivery to and hauling of aggregate supply construction materials.

A4637 -- *Sponsored by M of A Englebright/Senator Gaughan* -- Requires eligible projects for state aid involving water pollution control revolving fund agreements to take county-wide or regional wastewater planning into consideration when determining eligibility.

S6603 -- Sponsored by Senator Skoufis/M of A Gottfried -- Requires Medicaid managed care plans to reimburse retail pharmacies in an amount equal to the fee-for-service rate.

S6972 -- Sponsored by Senator Gounardes/M of A Abbate -- Provides that any lung condition resulting in total or partial disability or death to a member of the New York city transit authority shall be presumed to have been incurred in the performance and discharge of duty.

S6976 -- Sponsored by Senator Gounardes/M of A Abbate -- Modifies the retirement program for Triborough bridge and tunnel members to a twenty-year retirement program.

In the News – City



Mayor de Blasio Signs Bill Banning Natural Gas in New City Buildings

Mayor Bill de Blasio this week signed a mandate phasing out the combustion of fossil fuels in new buildings and accelerating the construction of all-electric buildings in the City of New York.

According to the Mayor, the law, the first of its kind for a large cold-weather city, represents a major shift in how buildings use energy to provide heating and cooling. It sets restrictions on fossil fuel usage in newly constructed residential and commercial buildings by phasing in strict emissions limits.

Under Intro 2317-A, sponsored by outgoing City Council Member Alicka Ampry-Samuel, new buildings shorter than seven stories must go electric on January 1, 2024, and taller buildings must meet the mandate after July 1, 2027. Projects approved before those respective dates will be exempt from the mandates.

The legislation permits the burning of some fossil fuel in new buildings but not for heat and hot water. It will permit the combustion of 25 kilograms of carbon dioxide per million British thermal units of energy or more if it is not connected to the building's heat or hot water systems. The bill will not apply to renovations of construction projects.

The construction trades argue that the necessary technology will not be readily available to effectively use electricity as required by Intro 2317-a. Given electricity's unreliability and the cost of its use for stoves, space heaters, and water boilers, the new law may leave New Yorkers with unreliable heating sources at inflated costs.



Adams Administration Appointments

Mayor-elect Eric Adams this week made the following administration appointments:

City Hall & Mayor's Office

Brendan McGuire, Chief Counsel to the Mayor: Former Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York Brendan McGuire was tapped by Mayor-Elect Eric Adams as Chief Counsel to the Mayor. McGuire served as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York for 11 years, including as Chief of the Public Corruption Unit and Chief of the Terrorism and International Narcotics Unit.

Melanie La Rocca, Chief Efficiency Officer: Currently the New York City Department of Buildings Commissioner, Commissioner La Rocca will join the Adams Administration as Chief Efficiency Officer. Previously, Commissioner La Rocca was Vice President of Development and External Affairs at the School Construction Authority (SCA). Prior to joining SCA, Commissioner La Rocca served as Chief of Staff to Christine C. Quinn, former Speaker of the New York City Council, and was a member of Queens Community Board 1.

Matthew Fraser, Chief Technology Officer: Matthew Fraser currently serves as Deputy Commissioner of the Information Technology Bureau in the New York City Police Department (NYPD). Previously, he served as Assistant Commissioner in NYPD's Information Technology Bureau and as Director of Technology Development and Implementation and a project manager for the City of New York.

Sherif Soliman, Director of the Mayor's Office of Policy and Planning: Current Department of Finance Commissioner Sherif Soliman will join the Adams Administration as Director of the Mayor's Office of Policy and Planning. Previously, he served as Chief of Staff for the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Operations, Senior Advisor to the First Deputy Mayor, and Director of State Legislative Affairs. In addition, Soliman was Director of Communications at the New York City Employees' Retirement System.

Maxwell Young, Communications Director. Maxwell Young is currently the Chief Public Affairs Officer and Senior Vice President at Everytown for Gun Safety. A graduate of Dartmouth College, he previously worked for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

José Bayona, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Ethnic and Community Media: Jose Bayona served as spokesperson for Mayor Bill de Blasio and held the title of Director of Community and Ethnic Media and Deputy Press Secretary at the Mayor's Office. Bayona's journalism experience includes positions at the *New York Daily News* where he started as community reporter for the Spanish weekly *Hora Hispana*. Later, he was a writer for *NY1 Noticias* and Metro Editor for *El Diario*.

Deputy Mayors

Lorraine Grillo, First Deputy Mayor: Lorraine Grillo served as Mayor Bill de Blasio's COVID-19 recovery czar, responsible for overseeing the City's comeback from the financial effects of the virus. Prior to that role, Grillo served as the Commissioner of the NYC Department of Design and Construction and the CEO of the New York City School Construction Authority, where she has worked since 1994.

Meera Joshi, Deputy Mayor for Operations: Meera Joshi currently serves as the Deputy Administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Prior to that role, she served as the Deputy Commissioner of Legal Affairs at the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. She also served as the Inspector General of the City's Department of Correction and as the Deputy Director of the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Anne Williams-Islom, Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services: Anne Williams-Islom is currently the chair of Child Welfare Studies at Fordham University. She is the former CEO of the Harlem's Children's Zone and the former Deputy Commissioner at the Administration for Children's Services.

Maria Torres Springer, Deputy Mayor for Economics and Workforce Development: Maria Torres-Springer is currently the Vice President for U.S. programs at the Ford Foundation. Her public service includes Commissioner of NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development, Chief Executive Officer of New York City Economic Development Corporation, and as Commissioner of the NYC Department of Small Business Services.

Sheena Wright, Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives: Sheena Wright is the President & CEO of United Way of New York City. She is the first woman to lead the organization in its more than 80-year history. Prior to joining UWNYP, Wright served as President and CEO of the Abyssinian Development Corporation. She is a graduate of Columbia University and received her law degree from Columbia Law School.

Major Departments & Commissioners

Jocelyn Strauber, Investigations Commissioner (nominated): Jocelyn Strauber is a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Prior to joining Skadden in 2013, she held numerous roles at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, including co-chief of the Criminal Division's Terrorism & International Narcotics Unit. Earlier in her career, Strauber clerked for the late William H. Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States.

Ydanis Rodriguez, Commissioner of Department of Transportation: New York City Council member Yandis Rodriguez (D-Manhattan) will join the Adams Administration as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. Council member Rodriguez has served on the Council since 2010, and as the Chair of its Transportation Committee for eight years.

Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk, Chair of the Taxi and Limousine Commission: Appointed by Bill de Blasio in January 2020, Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk will remain as Chair in the Adams Administration. Prior to her appointment, she served as Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Operations and Chief of Staff for Central Operations at the Department of Education.

Ashwin Vasan, Health Commissioner: Ashwin Vasan will succeed current City Health Commissioner David Chokski on March 15th. Vasan is currently the President and CEO of Fountain House. The appointment marks his return to the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene where he served as the Executive Director of the Health Access Equity Unit. Also, Vasan previously worked at the World Health Organization.

Gary Jenkins, Commissioner of the Human Resources Administration: NYC HRA Administrator Gary Jenkins has been tapped by Mayor-elect Eric Adams as the next Commissioner. He earned his Master's in Public Administration from Metropolitan College of New York and a Bachelor's Degree in Forensic Psychology from John Jay College. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of Metropolitan College of New York.

Dawn Pinnock, Commissioner of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services: Dawn Pinnock is the Acting Commissioner for the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services and will become Commissioner under the Adams Administration. Prior to serving as Acting Commissioner, Pinnock served as the Executive Deputy Commissioner for People Operations and Risk Management and Deputy Commissioner for Human Capital. Prior to joining DCAS, Pinnock served as the Vice President of Human Resources at New York City Transit and as the Director of Human Resources at the New York City Housing Authority.

Briefs

Falsification of a COVID-19 Vaccination Card a Crime in NYS

Governor Kathy Hochul yesterday signed legislation making falsification of a COVID-19 vaccination card a crime in New York State.

Sponsored by Senator Anna Kaplan and M of A Jeffrey Dinowitz, Chapter 784 of the Laws of 2021 adds clarification that a COVID Vaccination Card shall be considered a written instrument for purposes of the forgery statute, making the falsification of COVID-19 Vaccination Cards a class A misdemeanor. It also creates a new E felony of computer tampering in the third degree for intentional entering, alteration or destruction of "computer material" regarding COVID-19 vaccine provisions.

The legislation went into effect immediately upon signature.

Governor Hochul Signs Legislation to Support Bars, Restaurants, Breweries and Other Small Businesses

Governor Kathy Hochul this week signed a legislative package removing red tape and assisting new bars, restaurants, and other alcoholic beverage businesses to open more quickly.

Chapter 700 of the Laws of 2021 allows for temporary retail permits to be issued for bars and restaurants opening in New York City. The new law puts these businesses on the same footing as businesses in the rest of the state. The bill was sponsored by Senator Jessica Ramos and M of A Inez Dickens.

Chapter 709 of the Laws of 2021 allows for new temporary manufacturing permits to be granted for New York wineries, breweries, cideries, and distilleries that are awaiting final approval on their manufacturing license. The new law allows business to operate and serve customers while their full application is pending. It was sponsored by Senator Michelle Hinchey and M of A Donna Lupardo.

Governor Hochul Announces Applications Open for “Nurses for our Future” Scholarships

Governor Kathy Hochul this week announced the opening of the application period for the "Nurses For Our Future" Scholarship. The scholarship will cover tuition for 1,000 new or current healthcare workers to earn an Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN) or Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) at a two-year or four-year New York State public college or university.

Up to 500 scholarships will be awarded for out-of-state licensed nurses who relocate and practice in New York State to earn a BSN, 250 for New York State licensed nurses to earn a BSN, and 250 to New York State residents newly seeking an ADN.

Scholarships will cover the actual tuition charged by the public college or university for four full-time semesters. Awards will be pro-rated for recipients attending less than full-time and scholarships will not cover other costs of attendance, including fees, room-and-board, or other expenses.

Entries must be completed [here](#). By successfully transmitting a completed online entry form, each participant will be entered into the drawing.

Governor Hochul Signs Legislation Directing the Port Authority to Study How to Widen and Increase Traffic Flow of the Outerbridge Crossing

Governor Kathy Hochul this week signed legislation (Chapter 674) directing the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to study the alignment and surrounding property of the Outerbridge Crossing between Staten Island and New Jersey. The purpose of the study is to determine the feasibility of physically widening the bridge and increasing the flow of traffic.

According to the Governor, originally opened to traffic in 1928, the Outerbridge Crossing has in recent years been the subject of criticism from residents and local elected officials in both New York and New Jersey for frequent traffic congestion and much needed modernization. The Outerbridge Crossing is used by 30 million vehicles annually.

The legislation was sponsored by Senator Andrew Lanza and M of A Michael Reilly.

Mayor de Blasio Signs Legislation to Codify the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health in the NYC Charter

Mayor Bill de Blasio this week signed Intro. 2442-A, codifying the Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health into the City Charter and establishing the Office as a permanent part of City government.

The Mayor's Office of Community Mental Health coordinates an all-government approach to mental health. It works with city government agencies and over 200 community-based organizations to close gaps in mental health care. The signing of Intro. 2442-A follows an executive order establishing the Office on May 5, 2021.

Mayor de Blasio Announces Launch of a Digitized Placard Reader Program in North Brooklyn

Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced the launch of a digitized placard reader program in north Brooklyn. Starting next week, NYPD's Traffic Enforcement Agents in Patrol Borough Brooklyn North will be equipped to validate issued parking permits with handheld electronic devices.

The devices will allow agents to determine if the placard was legitimately issued; if it belongs to the vehicle it's placed in; and if it's being used in accordance with the privileges it confers.

The program's phased rollout will begin in north Brooklyn, with a special emphasis on downtown Brooklyn. It will expand to lower Manhattan by mid-January, and to the rest of the city by the end of January. By 2022, all placards will be replaced with vehicle stickers.

Coming Up

There are no meetings scheduled for the week of December 27th.

“No man can be a good citizen unless he has a wage more than sufficient to cover the bare cost of living, and hours of labor short enough so after his day’s work is done he will have time and energy to bear his share in the management of the community, to help in carrying the general load.”

-Theodore Roosevelt-

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**120 Broadway, 28th Floor
New York, New York 10271**
Telephone (212) 652-3890
Facsimile (212) 652-3891

**111 Washington Avenue, St. 401
Albany, New York 12210**
Telephone (518) 449-3320
Facsimile (518) 449-5812

**25 Hyatt Street, St. 202
Staten Island, New York 10301**
Telephone (718) 943-1050
Facsimile (718) 943-1051

**1220 19th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036**
Telephone (202) 964-4753
Facsimile (202) 964-5754