

**New York City Industrial Development Agency  
Director Biographies for the Fiscal Year 2021**

**Vicki Been (Term Start Date: May 6, 2019, Ex-Officio) (Local Appointment)**

Deputy Mayor Vicki Been leads the administration's efforts to grow and diversify New York City's economy, invest in emerging industries across the five boroughs, build new affordable housing, and help New Yorkers secure good-paying jobs. The Deputy Mayor oversees and coordinates the operations of over 20 agencies, offices, and affiliated entities.

Been has extensive experience fighting to make New York a more affordable and equitable city. As HPD Commissioner from 2014 to 2017, she helped craft Housing New York, the Mayor's plan to tackle the affordability crisis and create and preserve 300,000 affordable homes by 2026. She was also instrumental in advancing the Mandatory Inclusionary Housing law, requiring developers to dedicate a certain percentage of rental units at below-market rate rents in areas that are rezoned for higher density.

Been formerly served as the Director of NYU's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy, the Boxer Family Professor of Law at NYU School of Law, and an Affiliated Professor of Public Policy at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Been graduated from Colorado State University and received her JD from NYU School of Law. She has served as a Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, and an Associate Professor of Law at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

**HeeWon Brindle-Khym (Term Length: February 28, 2019 - November 20, 2021) (Local Appt.)**

Ms. Brindle-Khym is Director of Research and Global Strategies for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU-UFCW). She oversees all corporate research and international affairs functions for the union. Formerly with the Fair Labor Association, UNITE HERE!, and the Worker Rights Consortium, Ms. Brindle-Khym has a broad-set of international and domestic experience in advocating and campaigning for workers' rights and corporate accountability.

Brindle-Khym holds a Bachelor of Science from Boston College and a Master's in Public Affairs from Columbia University School of International Policy and Affairs. Brindle-Khym also sits on various committees and boards for the global union federations, UNI Global Union and the IUF, and the New York City pan-Asian community-based organization, CAAAV.

**Marlene Cintron (Term Length: November 20, 2017 - November 20, 2023) (Local Appointment)**

Ms. Cintron is President of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC), which provides incentives and assistance to new and expanding firms in the Bronx. Among its activities, BOEDC

is an SBA 504 lender (only one of two in New York State) as well as being in charge of the Bronx Empowerment Zone fund. Ms. Cintron was previously the Executive Director of the Puerto Rican and Latino Caucus of the New York State Senate and has worked in a variety of roles in the private, not-for-profit, and public sectors. Ms. Cintron received an undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Old Westbury, a Master's degree from the Fordham University School of Education, and a Juris Doctor degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

**Khary Cuffe (Term Length: April 25, 2018 - September 30, 2022) (Local Appointment)**

Mr. Cuffe is Chief Operating Officer of Heritage Link Brands. He oversees all fiscal control functions. Formerly with Prudential Financial and UBS Investment Bank, Cuffe has a decade of experience in public and corporate finance, with transactional experience in mortgage-backed securities, mergers and acquisitions, debt, equity, and initial public offerings. Having also served as director of marketing for L'Oreal USA and, prior to that, as a marketing executive with the Proctor & Gamble Company, Cuffe brings extensive general management experience to the organization.

Cuffe is a graduate of Wesleyan University and holds Master's degrees from Harvard Business School and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. He also serves as a board member for LISNR, communication protocol that sends data over audio.

**Albert V. De Leon (Term Length: October 1, 2013 - September 30, 2022) (Local Appointment)**

Mr. De Leon is an attorney/consultant in the financial services industry. He was previously General Counsel and Head of Compliance & Regulatory Affairs for: the US operations of the French-Belgian Dexia Bank, the Swedish Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken, and Head of Compliance Advisory & Regulatory matters for the Zurich Insurance Group-North America. He has extensive experience in the financial services industry, including providing volunteer services for the Financial Services Volunteer Corps and lectures part-time at the Pace University Center for Global Governance, Reporting & Regulation. He is a FINRA arbitrator, and sits on the Board of Trustees of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, (he was previously on the board of Newark Public Radio, Inc. - WBGO 88.3 Jazz). Mr. De Leon earned his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law, and a BA in political science and philosophy from The City College of New York.

**Anthony Del Vecchio (Term Length: December 2, 2019 - September 30, 2023) (Local Appt.)**

Anthony Del Vecchio is an entrepreneur, investor, and businessman who has worked with or advised global bulge bracket financial institutions and large corporate entities, as well as middle-market and start-up ventures in both developed and emerging markets. Mr. Del Vecchio is Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Fortrium Strategic Partners, a strategic and venture investment advisory firm that focuses on assisting early stage and emerging growth companies as well as corporations, family offices, and other institutional investors. Prior to his work with Fortrium, Mr. Del Vecchio was senior counsel to the Global Prime Finance Group at Citigroup where he was lead counsel to the repurchase and securities

lending divisions, while also structuring and negotiating other derivatives, credit facilities, and structured finance transactions; and advised senior management on collateral use and liquidity issues in significant structured credit and asset-backed financing transactions, as well as bankruptcy issues related to failed domestic and international financial institutions. Prior to Citigroup, Mr. Del Vecchio worked in a variety of leadership functions at a corporate law firm, venture capital firm and event-driven hedge fund that he co-founded, and Japanese fund of funds. Mr. Del Vecchio has also advised boards for organizations such as Columbia Business School and Yale School of Medicine; and, in addition to continuing to advise start-up ventures within Columbia's Startup Lab and other company boards, he is also a mentor for Columbia's Center for Entrepreneurship and a member of the Board of Trustees for the athletic department at Binghamton University. Mr. Del Vecchio has an MBA from Columbia Business School, a JD from Hofstra Law School, and a BA in Economics from Binghamton University.

**Andrea Feirstein (Term Length: October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2021) (Local Appointment)**

Ms. Feirstein is a Managing Director with AKF Consulting Group, which she formed in April 2002. Previously she was an investment banker with Citigroup's Municipal Securities Division and she was a bond lawyer with Brown & Wood, now Sidley & Austin. She currently serves on the Board of the National Institute of Public Finance, a joint venture between Pepperdine University and the National Association of State Treasurers, for which she chairs the Executive Treasury Management Track. She also serves as Treasurer of the Randalls Island Park Alliance, where she chairs the Finance Committee. Ms. Feirstein graduated from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and the University of Virginia School of Law. She is an SEC- and MSRB-registered Municipal Advisor Principal (Series 54) and previously was a FINRA-licensed Registered Representative (Series 7), and a Municipal Principal (Series 53) and a Uniform Securities Agent (Series 63). She is also a member of the New York Bar (retired).

**James Johnson (Term Start Date: November 4, 2019, Ex-Officio) (Local Appointment)**

James Johnson is a former partner at Debevoise & Plimpton and served as Corporation Counsel for the City of New York. Currently, Mr. Johnson is the chief operating officer for the Trinity Church in New York City. As Corporation Counsel, Johnson led the City through the COVID-19 pandemic and successfully fought off numerous legal attacks.

**Marisa Lago (Term State Date: March 6, 2017, Ex-Officio) (Local Appointment)**

Marisa Lago is the Director of the New York City Department of City Planning and Chair of the City Planning Commission. Before City Planning, she served in the Obama Administration as the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Assistant Secretary for International Markets and Development. She was the President and Chief Executive Officer of New York Empire State Development Corporation, Global Head of Compliance for Citigroup's corporate and investment bank, Director of the Office of International Affairs at the Securities and Exchange Commission, Director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and General Counsel of the New York City Economic Development Corporation. Lago earned a JD cum laude from Harvard Law School (1982), and a BS in physics from the Cooper Union (1977).

### **Pedram Mahdavi (Designee for Vicki Been)**

Pedram Mahdavi is a Senior Advisor for Real Estate to the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development and has over 12 year of experience in real estate finance and policy development. In his capacity as Senior Advisor, Pedram oversees the City's key real estate and economic development agencies, commissions, and boards. Prior to joining the Deputy Mayor's office, Pedram was a senior project manager at The Hudson Companies, a private real estate developer, where he was responsible for managing the predevelopment, finance and construction of development projects across New York City. At Hudson, Pedram successfully closed on market rate and mixed income developments comprised of over 580 residential units and 95,000 square feet of retail and industrial space with a total development cost of nearly \$350 million. Pedram also previously worked as a real estate advisor structuring over \$250 million of transactions on behalf of private developers, and as a policy analyst. Pedram earned a masters in city planning from MIT and a Bachelors in economics from the University of Arizona.

### **Jacques-Philippe Piverger (Term Length: May 2, 2017 - September 30, 2022) (Local Appointment)**

Jacques-Philippe Piverger is an entrepreneur who has harnessed his business and philanthropic acumen to affect change where it is needed most in the globe. He is co-Founder and President of Metripol Corporation, a company that will disrupt the brokerage side of the real estate market using a tech-enabled platform. He is co-founder and former CEO of MPOWERD, Inc., a solar product company he led from inception to global distribution into more than seventy countries. He is Executive Chairman of RegenOrganics, a commercial-scale, smart technology food dehydration system with its base in the Central Plateau of Haiti. He honed his business acumen as a Director at PineBridge Investments, helping direct over \$10 billion of private equity, hedge and real estate transactions globally. Jacques-Philippe also worked at AIG Investments, Friedman Billings Ramsey, and Barclays Capital. He founded The Soleil Group, a strategy firm with a diverse portfolio of clients such as Western Union, Universal Music, New York Public Library, Glaceau Vitamin Water, BMG, and Motorola. He is co-founder and board member of The Council of Urban Professionals, a nonprofit which is focused on empowering women and minorities with a presence in New York City, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. with support from over one hundred corporate partners. He's a Young Global Leader as designated by the World Economic Forum. He was a Term Member at The Council on Foreign Relations and an Advisory Board Member of George Clooney's Hope for Haiti Now Fund. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. He also has executive certificates from Yale University and the Harvard Kennedy School.

### **James Prendamano (Term Length: February 28, 2019 - September 30, 2023) (Local Appointment)**

James Prendamano is the CEO for Casandra Properties, Staten Island's premier real estate firm. For over 20 years, James has shepherded the completion of transformative projects, including major initiatives

reshaping Staten Island's commercial real estate landscape. Currently James serves as a consultant and Broker responsible for bringing NYC's first and only outlet mall to the St. George district of Staten Island. This has resulted in bringing thousands of much needed construction and permanent jobs to the community. He also developed an exclusive Real Estate Portfolio Optimization program helping non-profits unlock capital through their real estate to help fund their mission.

James also serves on the board of Staten Island Chamber of Commerce; as a cabinet member for the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation, and is a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and various Real Estate Associations. He also serves on the board of directors CFLC (Central Family Life Center).

**Robert D. Santos (Term Length: September 30, 2017 - September 30, 2023) (Local Appointment)**

Mr. Santos is the Vice President for Campus Planning and Facilities Management at The City College of New York. He oversees all phases of facilities planning and capital projects on the CCNY campus and has managerial responsibility for Physical Plant Services and Campus Security. His career spans a wide-range of senior level appointments in higher education, cultural institutions, municipal government, and construction. He joined CCNY from The New York Public Library, where he served as Vice President and Chief Operations Officer. Prior to that, Mr. Santos was Assistant Vice President, Operations with Lehrer McGovern Bovis, Inc. He holds BA degree from the State University of New York and a juris doctor degree from University of Michigan Law School.

**Scott Stringer (Term Start Date: January 2, 2014, Ex-Officio) (Local Appointment)**

Scott M. Stringer is the New York City Comptroller. He was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1992, representing Manhattan's Upper West Side, and won an election in 2006 to become Manhattan Borough President. He was elected Comptroller on November 5, 2013. As a trustee of the New York City Employees Retirement System (NYCERS), Mr. Stringer has worked to protect and grow members' pension dollars. He has also called for more comprehensive risk assessment and management, and further diversification of pension investments to ensure the fund's long-term sustainability. Mr. Stringer has pushed hard to create economic opportunity for all New Yorkers and has been a strong advocate for open government and community engagement. He has fought hard for immigrant rights, was one of the first co-sponsors of a 1995 bill in the state assembly to provide marriage equality, and passed landmark legislation protecting victims of domestic violence. He has dedicated himself throughout his public service career to building a strong middle class for the city—focusing on New York City's fiscal health and issues that matter to working people, including affordable housing, budget reform, school overcrowding, and public safety. Mr. Stringer was born and raised in Washington Heights, where he attended local public schools and graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He and his wife, Elyse, live with their two sons, Maxwell and Miles, on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

**Shanel Thomas (Term Length: March 10, 2017 - September 30, 2021) (Local Appointment)**

Shanel Thomas recently joined the LaGuardia Airport Team as the Community Outreach Manager for the LaGuardia Redevelopment Program. In this role, Ms. Thomas serves as the public information liaison on the redevelopment program by developing and maintaining working relationships with elected officials, businesses, and community leaders. Her responsibilities include keeping the public informed on the progress of the program, informing the public of available opportunities during and after redevelopment (e.g. employment and contract opportunities), and monitoring consumer activities to improve customer experiences, as well as support the communities surrounding the airport.

Ms. Thomas brings over fifteen years of experience in community development, capacity building, sales, business development, event production, program execution, and media relations. A life-long resident of East Elmhurst Corona, Ms. Thomas has served on several local boards, including the Kiwanis Club of LaGuardia Airport, Elmcors Youth & Adult Activities, Inc., Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens CDC, Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, 115th Precinct Council, and Community Board 3. Ms. Thomas has a BA in International Business with a concentration in marketing and holds her Masters in Public Administration from Howard University. Ms. Thomas has also studied abroad at the Sorbonne in Paris, France, and the Cultural Institute in Oaxaca, Mexico.

**Betty Woo (Designee for James Johnson)**

Ms. Woo is the chief of the Economic Development Division at the New York City Law Department. She joined the Law Department in the Commercial and Real Estate Litigation Division in 1995 and then moved to the Economic Development Division in 2001, where she became senior counsel in 2004 and then deputy chief in 2011. During her tenure in the Economic Development Division, Ms. Woo has worked on many complex real estate and other commercial transactions including the redevelopment of the World Trade Center site, the Hudson Yards development, and the management of the airports. Prior to the Law Department, Ms. Woo was a litigation associate at the firm of Mandel and Resnik. She has a JD from Fordham University School of Law.