

Appointments Meeting Agenda



800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Committee Chair: James Nolan

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

2:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

Legislator Symra Brandon will be participating remotely from 28 Wells Avenue, 5th floor, Yonkers, New York 10701.

Legislator Terry Clements will be participating remotely from 275 Washington Avenue, New Rochelle, New York 10801.

MINUTES APPROVAL

November 27, 2023 at 4 PM Minutes

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

[2023-488](#) **APPT-Commissioner of Dept. of Planning-Lopez**

A RESOLUTION appointing Blanca Lopez as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning effective October 30, 2023.

COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Westchester County

George Latimer
County Executive

October 30, 2023

Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators:

In accordance with Section 110.21 of the Laws of Westchester County, transmitted herewith for your approval is a resolution to confirm the appointment, effective October 30, 2023, of Blanca Lopez as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning.

I have made a thorough review of Ms. Lopez's credentials, experience and job performance, and have determined that her appointment as Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning is in the best interests of the Department of Planning and of the County, generally.

Therefore, I most respectfully recommend and urge your Honorable Board to adopt the attached resolution confirming the appointment, effective October 30, 2023, of Blanca Lopez as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning.

Sincerely,



George Latimer
County Executive

GL/nn



George Latimer
County Executive

October 30, 2023

Blanca Lopez
16 Rockland Avenue
Port Chester, New York 10573

Dear Ms. Lopez:

It is my pleasure to appoint you as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning, effective October 30, 2023. Please be advised that while this appointment authorizes you to immediately assume the duties and responsibilities of said office, your appointment as Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning is subject to confirmation by the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Once confirmed by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, you will serve in that position unless otherwise terminated as provided by law.

As you know, the Department of Planning is responsible for overseeing the physical development of the County.

Pending your confirmation by the Board of Legislators and in accordance with New York State law, you must take and file an oath of office in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk. Please be advised that your failure to take and file such an oath within thirty days of the date of this letter, or within thirty days after the commencement of your term of office, will result in the office of Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning being deemed vacant. If you have any questions with regard to these legal requirements, please contact the County Attorney.

I look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Latimer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

George Latimer
County Executive

GL/nn

Blanca P. López
16 Rockland Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573
(914) 552-8762 * BPL2024@gmail.com

SUMMARY

Experienced professional with over two decades in community development, planning and housing. Background in social policy issues focusing on civic engagement, civil rights and immigration. Expertise in advocacy, not for profit management and support services. Excellent management and interpersonal skills, grant acquisition and reporting at local, state, and federal levels. Bilingual and bicultural in Spanish.

EXPERIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, White Plains, NY **2022- PRESENT**

Department shapes and influences growth and development in the county with a goal to improve the quality of life and to protect the environment. Performed primarily through land use and development, housing, transportation and environmental planning.

Deputy Commissioner

- Assist the Commissioner in planning, organizing, and directing the activities of the Department, with direct oversight of the housing, transportation and administrative units
- Responsible for the administration of community development and affordable housing programs including funding allocations, implementation of program guidelines and requirements, reporting, monitoring and evaluation
- Provide direct assistance to municipalities, developers and non-profit agencies, helping them identify and address the needs of their low and moderate income residents and neighborhoods
- Lead and facilitate group discussions among members of the Housing Opportunity Commission, Urban County Council, Citizens Development Advisory Group, and Not for Profit Eviction Prevention Network
- Interact with members of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council to discuss regional transportation vision and goals; administer transit priority studies through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, White Plains, NY **2018 – February 2022**

Office coordinates and directs administrative management functions of county government. Recommends policy and develops annual budget.

Communicates with business community, public officials outside county government, not for profit organizations and other stakeholders.

Assistant Director of Operations – February 2021 to February 2022

- Oversight of all county housing-related programs
- Steered the development of recommendations and implementation of policies from the County's Police Reform and Reimagining Task Force which led to the creation of Project Alliance, a five-prong approach involving a multidepartment team to address the needs of county residents with behavioral health challenges
- Work with Probation Department on Raise the Age implementation

Assistant to the County Executive/Adviser on Fair and Affordable Housing - February 2018 to 2021

- Served as liaison to various County departments such as Planning, Probation, Correction, Human Rights Commission, Emergency Services and Office for People with Disabilities
- Monitored the development of affordable housing units that received county funding and/or county IDA benefits
- Worked on special projects such as Census 2020; the development and release of the County's Housing Needs Assessments, and served as Team Leader for Staff Liaisons to the County's Police Reform & Reimagining Task Force

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OF WESTCHESTER, Port Chester, NY **2004 – February 2018**

Nonprofit agency located in Westchester County provides housing, vocational services, care management, community support, and mental rehabilitation services. Organization operates with a \$10-million-dollar budget and employs approximately 90 staff.

Director, HDSW Neighborhood Preservation Company (NPC)

The HDSW NPC is one of 250 neighborhood preservation companies throughout New York State funded through New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Its mission is to preserve affordable housing, stabilize vulnerable communities and assure that every resident of those communities obtain a secure and stable living environment.

- Grew program from a small unit serving low- to middle-income residents of Port Chester with housing rehabilitation for homeowner and tenant assistance, to a full service HUD-approved and funded local housing counseling agency (LHCA) meeting housing-related needs of homeowners and renters throughout Westchester County, including foreclosure prevention and court representation. Supervise a staff of certified housing counselors and support staff
- Successfully wrote and awarded competitive grants from federal, state and county agencies, foundations and financial institutions, community agencies, and private donors; including: U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, NYS Housing & Community Renewal, NYS Affordable Housing Corporation, Federal Home Loan Bank of NY, Westchester County Department of Planning, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Kiwanis Club, United Way of Westchester & Putnam, and others
- Implemented automated online systems for tracking clients and follow up. Detailed computerized records with paper back up; detailed statistical analysis

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN & GIRLS, Tarrytown, NY

2004 – 2005

Institute promotes the well-being of women and girls who experience poverty, violence, health problems and workplace discrimination.

Program Administrator for Mentoring Latinas Program

Mentoring Latinas addresses the unique challenges faced by Latina adolescents by pairing them with Latina college students who can guide and assist them, and inspire them to pursue higher education.

Office of Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey, White Plains, NY

2001 – 2004

Congresswoman represented 17th Congressional District. Office provides services to constituents in district.

District Representative/Housing & Immigration Specialist/Hispanic & Veteran Affairs Liaison

Assisted constituents; Coordinated and developed strategies to reach Spanish-speaking and immigrant populations; Created and spearheaded Congresswoman's 17th District Hispanic Advisory Board.; Translated press releases into Spanish and maintained community with Spanish-speaking press.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP/BOARD AFFILIATIONS

Commissioner, Metropolitan Transit Authority, New York, NY 2022 to Present

- Co-Chair, Joint LIRR/MNR Committee 2022 to Present

Member, Women in Transportation – Greater NY Chapter, New York 2002 to Present

Member, King Street School Parent Teacher Association, Port Chester, NY 2018 to Present

- Co-President 2020-2022

Board Member, Council of Community Services Port Chester/Rye Brook/Rye Town 2005 to Present

- President 2016-2021

Member, Port Chester/Rye Brook Kiwanis Club, Port Chester, NY 2005 to Present

Member, Port Chester/Rye/Rye Brook NAACP, Port Chester, NY 2007 to 2018

Commissioner, Port Chester Housing Authority, Port Chester, NY 2008 to 2018

Member, Board of Education, Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District 2009 to 2012

- President 2011-2012

EDUCATION**Master of Science, *Urban Policy Analysis and Management***

Robert J. Milano Graduate School of Urban Policy and Management

New School University, New York, NY

La Guardia Scholarship Recipient; University Scholars Award Recipient

Bachelor of Arts, *Latin American and Latino Studies/Communications*

Rose Hill Campus

Fordham University, Bronx, NY

AWARDS & RECOGNITION**Fellow, *Immigrant Advocacy Fellowship Program 2008***

Leadership Program for emerging immigrant leaders in New York City and State

Honoree, *Rising Star: Westchester's Forty Under Forty, 2011*

Forty young men and women who exemplify leadership, foresight, and a vision for the future of Westchester County

Honoree, *New York State Senate Women of Distinction, 2016*

Nominated by NYS Senator George Latimer, event showcases outstanding women living and working in New York State whose contributions have greatly enriched the quality of life in their communities and beyond

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Proficient in Microsoft Office, Outlook, and Teams; WebEx and MAC OS platforms.

Notary Public: Westchester County

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATION

Glick, Nada B. & Lopez, Blanca P. (2012). "Responding to the US Foreclosure Crisis & Recession: Case Study of a Vulnerable Community." Presented at the 36th Annual Fulbright Association Conference, London, England.

RESOLUTION - 2023

TO THE COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS
OF THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK

WHEREAS, the County Executive having on the 30th day of October, 2023, appointed Blanca Lopez as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning, effective October 30, 2023, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Westchester County Charter, as amended, and subject to the confirmation of this Board; it is

RESOLVED, that said appointment be and is hereby confirmed.

Dated: _____, 2023
White Plains, New York