

Vedat Gashi**Chairman of the Board
Legislator, 4th District**

TO: Hon. Anant Nambiar
Chair, Appointments

FROM: Hon. Vedat Gashi
Chairman of the Board

DATE: June 22, 2026

RE: Appointment-Commissioner of Social Services

As Chairman of the Board of Legislators, I am placing the below item directly into the Committee on Appointments.

Thank you.

(ID: 2026-298) Appt – Commissioner of Social Services - Townes: A RESOLUTION appointing Leonard Townes, Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services for a five (5) year term of office, to commence on February 26, 2026 and to expire on February 26, 2031.

CC: Sebastian Loreti
James Silverberg
Dylan Tragni
Sunday Vanderberg



Memorandum
Office of the County Executive
Michaelian Office Building

TRANSMITTAL MEMO

To: The Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators

From: Hon. Kenneth W. Jenkins, Westchester County Executive

Date: June 17, 2026

Re: Resolution to confirm the appointment, effective February 26, 2026, of Leonard Townes as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Jenkins", with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the signature towards the right side of the page.

In accordance with Section 110.21 of the Laws of Westchester County, transmitted herewith for your approval is a resolution to confirm the reappointment, effective February 26, 2026, of Leonard Townes as the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services.

I have made a thorough review of Mr. Townes' credentials and experience and have determined that his reappointment as Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services is in the best interests of the Department of Social Services and the County, generally. Please be advised that following enactment of a resolution by this Honorable Board confirming the reappointment of Mr. Townes as Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services, a copy of said resolution is required to be forwarded to the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

Therefore, I most respectfully recommend and urge your Honorable Board to adopt the attached resolution for the appointment of Leonard Townes as Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services for a five (5) year term of office to commence on February 26, 2026 and to expire on February 26, 2031.

RESOLUTION - 2026

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

WHEREAS, the County Executive having on the 26th day of February, 2026, appointed Leonard Townes as the Commissioner of Social Services to serve a five (5) year term to commence on February 26, 2026, and expire on February 26, 2031 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: June , 2026
White Plains, New York

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive

June 17, 2026

Mr. Leonard Townes
782 Tuckahoe Road 2F
Yonkers, NY 10701

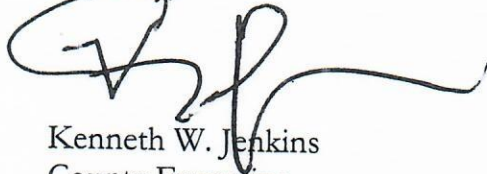
Dear Mr. Townes:

It is my pleasure to reappoint you as Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services for a five (5) year term in accordance with Section 116 of the New York State Social Services Law, to begin on February 26, 2026. Please be advised that while your reappointment authorizes you to immediately assume the duties and responsibilities of said office, your reappointment is subject to confirmation by the Westchester County Board of Legislators and submission of said confirmation to the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Once confirmed by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, your term of office, commenced on February 26, 2026, will expire on February 26, 2031.

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 reappointment letter, or within thirty days after the commencement of your term, will result in the office of Commissioner of Social Services 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,



Kenneth W. Jenkins
County Executive
KWJ/nn

Office of the County Executive
Michaelian Office Building

Leonard G. Townes Biography

Leonard G. Townes is the Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Social Services. The County's largest Department, with a budget of more than \$750 million and more than 1,100 employees, the Department of Social Services touches the lives of two thirds of Westchester residents annually, providing essential services and support to the County's most vulnerable children, families and individuals.

Townes was appointed Commissioner in February 2021, capping a 35-year career at the Department that began as an Eligibility Examiner. In 2002, Townes was selected for the Management Fellows program, and from there he ascended through various managerial positions before being appointed as Deputy Commissioner in January 2018. In February of 2021, he was tapped to lead the Department.

He currently serves as President of the Board of the New York Public Welfare Association and has been selected to be an inaugural member of the NYS Fatherhood Steering committee.

Townes has embraced working with youth as a passion. In the mid-1990, he served as a mentor in the Harambee Rites of Passage program in Greenburgh. From 2006 through 2011 he led the Youth Ministry in the Westchester region of the New York City Church of Christ. Since 2011 he has been an Elder in the Blue Nile Rights of Passage program of Harlem/White Plains.

As Commissioner for the Department of Social Services, Townes has worked to revitalize the Department with a data-driven approach focusing on customer engagement, staff development, efficient use of technology and social justice.

A graduate of North Carolina A&T State University with an M.P.A. from Pace University, Townes is a lifelong resident of Westchester, graduating from Woodlands High School in Hartsdale, and currently resides in Greenburgh.