

New York City Districting Commission Commission Members

Jamila Ponton Bragg

Ms. Bragg is an Educational Outreach Manager at Sesame Workshop, the non-profit organization behind Sesame Street. Ms. Bragg serves as a commissioner on the New York City Lobbying Commission. Since 2004, Ms. Bragg has taught Sunday school to 9th and 10th grade students at the Abyssinian Baptist Church. Ms. Bragg earned a Masters' degree at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor of Science degree at Duke University. Ms. Bragg is a resident of Morningside Heights. She was appointed by the Council Democratic Caucus.

Gloria Carvajal Wolfe

Gloria Carvajal Wolfe spent 35 years as a professional medical scientist doing research in the fields of cancer and mental disabilities, most recently at Merck & Co. She also did research at the New York State Institute for Basic Research on Staten Island, the Sloan Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, and Columbia University's Institute for Cancer Research. She served on the Board of Directors of Staten Island Community Television, was a long-time judge in the New York City Science Fair (Staten Island region), and volunteered with a program administered by the Community Service Society that provides financial training and coaching to low-income New Yorkers. A native of Colombia where she completed her undergraduate work in chemistry, Carvajal Wolfe has a graduate degree in biochemistry from Tulane University. She currently resides in Manhattan. Carvajal Wolfe was appointed by the Mayor.

Scott Cerullo

Scott Cerullo is a Vice President and Project Manager for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney's Global Wealth Management Technology Division. He has been with the firm for 20 years serving various technology roles and on Managing Engineering and Implementation projects. Cerullo earned a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from St. John's University. He is a resident of Staten Island. Cerullo was appointed by the Mayor.

Robert W. Hart

Mr. Hart works in digital media publishing and is a former journalist. As a reporter for the Staten Island Advance, Mr. Hart covered local breaking news, crime, and national assignments. Mr. Hart was appointed to Albany Bureau Chief, directing the Advance's state government coverage. Mr. Hart is a graduate of SUNY Purchase; he resides in the West Brighton section of Staten Island. He was appointed by the Council Democratic Caucus.

Kamillah M. Hanks

Ms. Hanks is the former Executive Director of the Downtown Staten Island Council and led the organization's effort to drive the economic development and commercial revitalization of the Downtown Staten Island Business District. She has served as a marketing and public relations consultant for the Staten Island Museum and the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation. Ms. Hanks is a graduate of the College of Staten Island, and she resides on Staten Island. Ms. Hanks was appointed by the Council Minority Caucus.

Linda Lin

Ms. Lin is a senior attorney with Liberty International Underwriters and a former Associate of the law firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher. Ms. Lin is the President of the Asian American Bar Association of New York. She is the former law clerk for U.S. District Judge Dora L. Irizarry. She is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School and Binghamton University. She resides in Forest Hills, Queens. Ms. Lin was appointed by the Council Democratic Caucus.

Oscar Odom III

Oscar Odom III is the former First Deputy Sheriff of New York City. His career in law enforcement spans a quarter-century, having held numerous assignments within the NYPD, including patrol officer, Police Academy instructor, and detective. Odom was the director of Public Safety at the MetroTech Business Improvement District, and currently serves as Professor and Chair of the Criminal Justice Division at ASA College in Brooklyn, having held similar positions at other area academic institutions. Odom served in the U.S. Army, has a bachelor's degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a law degree from CUNY School of Law, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Education. Odom is a resident of Brooklyn. He was appointed by the Mayor.

Thomas V. Ognibene

Mr. Ognibene is a former Council Member and Council Minority Leader. During his tenure at the Council Mr. Ognibene chaired the Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs and served as a member of the Council's Finance, Housing and Buildings, General Welfare, and Aging Committees. He formerly served on the New York City Lobbying Commission. Mr. Ognibene has extensive experience practicing civil and criminal law. He is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School and C.W. Post College. He is a Queens resident, and was appointed by the Council Minority Caucus.

Frank Padavan

Frank Padavan served in the New York State Senate for 38 years. During his tenure in the Senate, Padavan held positions of leadership including Vice President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Chair of the Committee on Cities and Chair of the Mental Hygiene and Addiction Control Committee. Prior to his election to the Senate, he served four years as Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Buildings and spent 14 years with the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Padavan earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Brooklyn Polytechnic University and master's degree in business administration from New York University. He is a resident of Queens. Padavan was appointed by the Mayor.

Roxanne J. Persaud

Ms. Persaud is the Registrar at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. Prior to her current position, she was an administrator at Pace University. Ms. Persaud is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. She earned a Bachelors and a Master's degree at Pace University. She lives in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn. Ms. Persaud was appointed by the Council Democratic Caucus.

Madeline Provenzano

Madeline Provenzano served in the New York City Council representing the 13th Council District in the northeast Bronx from 1997 through 2005. During her tenure in the City Council, she chaired the Committee on Housing and Buildings, and served on the Finance, Governmental Operations, Rules, Privileges and Elections, and Standard and Ethics Committees. As Chair of the Housing and Buildings Committee, she sponsored legislation that created the framework for the adoption of the City's new building code, the first significant revision since 1968. Prior to joining the City Council, Provenzano served as Chief of Staff to Council Member Michael DeMarco of the Bronx. Provenzano is a resident of the Bronx. She was appointed by the Mayor.

Benito Romano

Benito Romano is currently a litigation partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in their litigation practice group. For 20 years, he was a partner and the leader of the white collar defense practice group at Willkie Farr & Gallagher. Before re-entering private practice, Romano served as United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Prior to being named US Attorney in 1989, Romano was an Assistant US Attorney, and served in a variety of supervisory and executive positions in that office, including Chief of Public Corruption and Chief Appellate Attorney. Romano also served on the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board, including as Acting Chair, on the 1998 Charter Revision Commission, and was a member and former Chair of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

He serves as Chair of the New York State Interest on Lawyer Account Fund, and is a member of the Oversight Board for Judiciary Civil Legal Services Funds in New York. Romano is a resident of Manhattan. He was appointed by the Mayor.

Marc Wurzel

Mr. Wurzel is the General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Grand Central Partnership. He served as a Commissioner on the NYC Districting Commission in 2002-2003. Mr. Wurzel earned a B.A. degree from George Washington University and a J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law. He resides in Manhattan, and was appointed by the Council Minority Caucus.

Justin Yu

Justin Yu is the Chairman of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, president of Confucius Plaza Housing, past president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New York, and is active in many other civic organizations. Yu holds a bachelor's degree in economics from National Taiwan University and a master's degree from the Pratt Institute. A native of China who moved to Taiwan, he is currently a resident of Manhattan. Yu was appointed by the Mayor.