



*DJJ Commissioner Neil Hernandez at a recent Columbia University forum exploring “The Future of New York.”*

## **Commissioner Hernandez Speaks at Columbia University Forum, Discusses DJJ’s Role in the City’s Juvenile Justice Reform Efforts**

On Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, Department of Juvenile Justice Commissioner Neil Hernandez joined New York City Housing Authority Director of Energy Lloyd Kass, and NYC Economic Development Corporation Senior Vice President of Maritime/Transportation Policy Venetia Lannon on a panel at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) to discuss “The Future of New York City.”

Moderated by SIPA’s Director of Urban Policy and Mayor Bloomberg’s former Special Advisor for Governance and Strategic Planning Dr. Ester Fuchs, “The Future of New York City” panel provided for a candid and insightful discussion by panel members of the future plans for each represented agency.

Venetia Lannon discussed EDC’s plan to use the thousands of acres of unused waterfront property throughout the City to develop ports for importing and exporting goods, subsequently reducing the large volume of trucks currently used to transport goods to and from City. This anticipated reduction in trucking needs is expected to reduce traffic congestion and pollution and limit damage to the City’s bridges, streets and highways.

NYCHA’s Lloyd Kass provided insight into Housing Authority efforts to adopt alternative, efficient and environmentally safe ways of providing energy to its residents. One such initiative seeks to replace all light bulbs currently used by the Housing Authority with bulbs that produce less heat, require less energy and last considerably longer than the traditional bulbs. Director Kass also noted that these new light bulbs have a life span of approximately five years, making them as cost efficient as they are energy efficient.

Commissioner Hernandez outlined the Bloomberg Administration’s juvenile justice reform efforts designed to promote public safety and more positive outcomes for youth and families enmeshed in the juvenile justice system. “DJJ staff members are contributing to the City’s reform of the juvenile justice system by reducing detention usage and providing post-release program services that help youth re-enter their communities,” Commissioner Hernandez said.

Participants in the forum were all graduates of Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.

