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**Mayor Mamdani Reappoints Scott French as Human Resources Administration  
Administrator, Appoints Reesa Henderson as Department of Homeless Services  
Administrator**

**NEW YORK** – Today, Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani announced the reappointment of Scott French as Human Resources Administration (HRA) Administrator and appointment of Reesa Henderson as Department of Homeless Services (DHS) Administrator.

French, who has served as HRA Administrator since November of 2023, will continue to oversee HRA's efforts to strengthen the city's social safety net, safeguard benefits access, and improve the delivery of services for the more than three million New Yorkers who rely on benefits and supports administered by HRA.

Henderson will assume the role of DHS Administrator after more than two decades of service with both DHS and HRA. She most recently served as the HRA Chief Housing Officer where she led the agency's efforts to consolidate and streamline housing operations between DHS and HRA to expedite housing placements for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Henderson will leverage her years of experience and expertise to enhance shelter operations, update outreach programs and protocols to better meet the needs of New Yorkers experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and work across both arms of DSS to prioritize upstream efforts to prevent homelessness.

With decades of experience addressing some of New York City's most pressing challenges, French and Henderson are both uniquely positioned to lead the agency into the future, not only due to their considerable expertise and institutional knowledge, but their commitment to innovation and their creative approaches to the long-standing and recent issues impacting vulnerable New Yorkers and the administration of vital benefits.

French and Henderson will both report to DSS Commissioner Erin Dalton.

"Every New Yorker deserves to be treated with dignity and care, especially those who are homeless or relying on our social safety net to make ends meet," said **Mayor Mamdani**. "Scott French and Reesa Henderson are proven public servants who understand that government works best when it delivers the support New Yorkers need. Their leadership will help us build a city where accessing shelter, benefits, and essential services is simpler and more effective. That is how we deliver public excellence for all New Yorker."

"Making sure every New Yorker can access stable, dignified services is essential to the fabric of our city's social safety net," said **Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Dr. Helen Arteaga**. "Developing, maintaining and evolving those services requires experienced leadership, and that's exactly what Scott French and Reesa Henderson have provided our city for decades. I look forward to continuing my work with them to deliver assistance and protection to New York City's most vulnerable."

“I am thrilled to have two experienced and talented administrators leading HRA and DHS,” said **DSS Commissioner Erin Dalton**. “Scott French's continued leadership provides the seasoned experience we need to navigate the challenges that Federal changes to SNAP and Medicaid are creating for New Yorkers accessing those benefits. Reesa Henderson's appointment gives DHS the leadership it needs to make bold efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness and improve outcomes for individuals in our shelters.”

"It has been an incredible privilege to lead an agency that plays such a vital role in the lives of millions of New Yorkers, and I am honored to continue serving as HRA Administrator. Together with our dedicated staff, I remain committed to ensuring that New York City's social safety net is accessible, responsive, and effectively meeting the needs of low-income New Yorkers," said **HRA Administrator Scott French**. "I am grateful to Mayor Mamdani for his confidence in my leadership during this consequential moment. As access to essential benefits faces growing challenges, I look forward to continuing my partnership with Commissioner Dalton, Administrator Henderson, and the dedicated public servants who work every day to connect New Yorkers with the benefits and services they need. Together, we will use every resource at our disposal to strengthen our social safety net and build a city where every New Yorker has the opportunity to thrive.”

“After serving in numerous executive roles across both DHS and HRA, it is deeply gratifying to be selected to lead DHS and oversee the Agency’s efforts to enhance the services available to New Yorkers experiencing homelessness while also expanding the resources available to support those experiencing housing insecurity and prevent homelessness before it occurs,” said **Incoming DHS Administrator Reesa Henderson**. “This is an incredibly important mission, and I am deeply honored for the opportunity to lead a team of individuals who are dedicated to this work and serving the most vulnerable among us. I look forward to leveraging my knowledge and experience to develop more effective and person-centered supports for New Yorkers in crisis and am incredibly grateful to Mayor Mamdani for the opportunity to do so.”

### **About Scott French**

Scott French has served as HRA Administrator since November 2023, overseeing HRA’s benefits and social service programs that serve more than 3 million people. As Administrator, French has led the agency response to HR 1 in support of SNAP recipients and spearheaded the consolidation of DSS’ housing support work into an integrated unit to better support the ability of New Yorkers to secure and maintain housing.

French previously served in various critical roles within DSS, including as chief of staff; chief strategy officer; chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer; and director of the project management office. In his prior roles at the agency, French played a vital role in leading the integration of HRA and DHS under DSS, ensuring the deployment of an effective emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic, furthering agency priorities to transform the shelter system, expanding and strengthening access to vital agency supports for New Yorkers in need, and improving overall social service delivery.

Before joining DSS in 2014, French served in key leadership roles at Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE). During his time at SAGE, he managed the institutional giving portfolio, ensured effective oversight of the organization's comprehensive LGBTQ+ caregiver support program, and managed the overall strategic planning and implementation of The SAGE Center, the nation's first governmentally funded senior center for LGBTQ+ older adults.

French received a B.A. from George Washington University. He also holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Master of Fine Arts from Columbia University.

### **About Reesa Henderson**

Reesa Henderson joined DHS in 2005 and has served in numerous roles, including Family Worker and Special Assistant at Intake, Legal Analyst, and various executive positions within the Housing Emergency Referral Unit (HERO) including Deputy Commissioner, and Chief of Placements where she oversaw the new DHS Placements Division, responsible for making both temporary and permanent housing placements for DHS clients. During her tenure at DHS, Henderson has helped lead the City through historic shelter capacity crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the unprecedented asylum seeker response. During these critical periods, she played a key role in upholding New York City's Right to Shelter mandate while ensuring the continued delivery of emergency services with operational excellence.

Henderson most recently became HRA's inaugural Chief Housing Officer, utilizing her breadth of knowledge and experience to implement reforms across both HRA and DHS to further expand housing opportunities for New Yorkers in shelter, reduce administrative delays, and improve coordination within the agency and with providers. Several of these efforts were highlighted in Mayor Mamdani's SPEED Report including the Making Accelerated Transitions to Coordinated Housing (MATCH) initiative, which will allow landlords and marketing agents to work directly with shelter providers to match clients with available homes faster.

Henderson holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from John Jay University and a Bachelor of Arts from Alfred University.

"United Way of New York City congratulates Scott French and Reesa Henderson on their appointments as Administrators of the Human Resources Administration and the Department of Homeless Services. Their service at the Department of Social Services reflects a deep commitment to the most underserved New Yorkers,' said **Grace Bonilla, President and CEO of United Way of New York City**. "Their appointments come at a critical time when New Yorkers are facing skyrocketing costs of living and the risk of losing life-saving benefits. We look forward to our continued partnership to ensure that New Yorkers can thrive."

"Homeless Services United (HSU) welcomes the appointments of Scott French and Reesa Henderson to the Department of Social Services," said **Kristin Miller, HSU Executive Director**. "Scott has a genuine understanding of what it takes to deliver for New Yorkers in need, and his commitment to that mission has been clear throughout his tenure at HRA. We have had the opportunity to work with Scott directly, and we look forward to continuing that partnership as he leads HRA through what is a critical moment for housing stability in this city."

Reesa Henderson brings deep operational expertise and a proven track record on homelessness that matter most to our members and the New Yorkers they serve. Her focused and practical leadership will give DHS, our members, and the people we serve the support we need at this time. We congratulate them on their appointments and look forward to a close working partnership with both administrators."

"Robin Hood congratulates Scott French on his re-appointment to lead the Human Resources Administration, which operates at the center of New York City's fight against poverty and serves as a vital link connecting millions of New Yorkers to the benefits that help make economic security possible," said **Matt Klein, Chief Program and Impact Officer, Robin Hood**. "Scott meets moments of genuine challenge—from the pandemic to today's far-reaching changes in federal benefits policy—with steady leadership and an unwavering focus on the New Yorkers HRA serves. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Scott, working across government and alongside the nonprofit community to ensure all eligible New Yorkers have access to HRA's critical supports."

"The Department of Homeless Services and the Human Resources Administration are responsible for a significant portion of the City's social safety net that protects our neighbors in their moments of greatest need," said **Jeffrey R. Ginsburg, President and CEO of Volunteers of America-Greater New York**. "Both Reesa Henderson and Scott French have worked closely with our organization on innovative initiatives that strengthen the effectiveness of social services and public benefits, including streamlining pathways from homelessness to permanent supportive housing. Leading such complex agencies requires experienced hands and a passion for service, and that is exactly why New Yorkers are lucky to have bold leaders like Administrator Henderson and Administrator French at the helm."

"On behalf of everyone at Breaking Ground, I want to congratulate Scott French on his reappointment as HRA Administrator and Reesa Henderson on her appointment as DHS Administrator," said **Brenda Rosen, President and CEO of Breaking Ground**. "Scott has made extraordinary strides at HRA during a challenging period of uncertainty, and we are delighted that he will continue to lead the agency. Reesa's deep institutional knowledge and experience at DSS, along with her most recent efforts leading HRA's housing programs, ensure that housing remains at the center of the City's efforts to address homelessness. We look forward to continuing our close partnership with both agencies to help more unsheltered New Yorkers come indoors to stable housing and permanent homes."

"The important work of the agencies that provide critical services to New Yorkers that need them the most, such as the Human Resources Administration and Department of Homeless Services, requires a steady hand and deep institutional knowledge to be effective, said **Eileen Torres, CEO of BronxWorks**. "Congratulations to Scott French and Reesa Henderson on their elevation to these important roles. BronxWorks looks forward to continuing to work together with partners that align with our goals to provide services and support for our most vulnerable neighbors."

"To best deliver the benefits and housing solutions New Yorkers need, the City's systems must be supported by strong, experienced leadership. The appointments of Scott French and Reesa

Henderson underscore the Mamdani administration's commitment to ensuring that New Yorkers have access to the resources and services they need,” said **Richard Nightingale, President & CEO of Westhab**. “Westhab looks forward to continuing our partnership with both agencies to move more people from crisis to stability through permanent housing.” —

“HELP USA firmly supports Mayor Mamdani’s appointments for these key positions, said **Dan Lehman, President and CEO of HELP USA**. “In his time as HRA Administrator, Scott French has understood the critical role that nonprofit organizations like HELP USA play in preventing homelessness and supporting persons impacted by domestic violence. Similarly, as one of the City's largest shelter operators for families with children and single adults, we welcome the housing solutions focus that Reesa will bring as DHS Administrator, as we work together to ensure that everyone has a place to call home.”

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**About the New York City Department of Social Services:** DSS, comprised of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA), serves millions of New Yorkers annually through a broad range of services that aim to address poverty and prevent homelessness. DHS oversees a broad network of shelters, re-housing solutions, and outreach programs designed to help New Yorkers experiencing homelessness get back on their feet. HRA serves over three million New Yorkers through the administration of more than 15 major public assistance programs. DSS is central to the City’s mission to expand opportunity for New Yorkers in need, address housing insecurity, and ensure that low-income New Yorkers receive the benefits and assistance for which they may be eligible.