

**Wilson Kimball**

**Commissioner of Planning and Development, Yonkers**

Wilson Kimball currently serves as the Commissioner of Planning and Development for the City of Yonkers. She was appointed to this position by Mayor Mike Spano in January 2013. Prior to serving as Commissioner, Kimball held the position as Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Development. As Commissioner, Kimball oversees a staff of 21 individuals comprising the Planning Bureau, Community Development Agency, Sustainability, Downtown Waterfront and Economic Development. Kimball leads negotiations of multi-million dollar property sales and coordinates development of public and private projects ranging from \$3 million to \$500 million. Kimball graduated Dean's List with departmental honors from Skidmore College and earned a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law where she was a Stein Scholar and recipient of the Archibald R. Murray Public Service Award. Kimball graduated from Pace University Lubin School of Business, where she was a Michaelian Scholar, with a MBA in Finance.

**Luiz Aragon**

**Development Commissioner, New Rochelle**

Luiz Aragon's NYS Civil Service career spans 25 years and covers the City of New Rochelle, New York City, and upstate New York. Preceding his appointment as Commissioner for Development for the City of New Rochelle, Mr. Aragon served as Commissioner for Planning & Environmental Management for Sullivan County, NY and Deputy Commissioner for Preservation Services for NYC's Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD). His broad expertise includes community development, economic development and revitalization, housing, planning, transportation, environmental management, and the expansion of arts program as a building block for economic development. Mr. Aragon has led the current renaissance in the City of New Rochelle, was the catalyst for the economic revitalization in Sullivan County and, while in NYC Government, was the creator of the "Fourth Street Arts Block" which solidified and preserved the cultural institutions in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Ellen Stuart from La Mama said it best when she wrote in 2006 to Mr. Aragon and said "Here we are out at sea. Thank you for helping to make it possible so that we can have a port to dock our dreams."

**Thomas Madden, AICP**

**Director of Economic Development, Stamford**

Thomas Madden was appointed Director of Economic Development for the City of Stamford, CT in July 2014, and appointed Executive Director of the Urban Redevelopment Commission, City of Stamford, CT in March 2017. During his career, Mr. Madden has been instrumental in the development of new economic and environment standards for the communities he has served, including administrative procedures and policies to retain, restore and expand the commercial and industrial tax base, adoption of Green Building code for new site development, and oversight of the approval and development of numerous large-scale developments. Thomas is an advocate for promoting Connecticut's assets. In 2017, Mr. Madden initiated the launch of the new economic development website: [www.choosestamford.com](http://www.choosestamford.com). The website is aimed at site selectors and commercial brokers and offers all of the information that someone is looking for when considering Stamford. Mr. Madden is currently working with CTDOT and UConn to bring an Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Program to Stamford as early as October 2019. This project seeks to establish the nation's first statewide model for deploying autonomous micro-transit service. In 2018, Mr. Madden was appointed Chairperson of the Connecticut Tourism and Sports Bureau, which brings new corporate meetings and sporting events to Connecticut. Prior to working for Stamford, Mr. Madden was the Commissioner of the Department of Community Development and Conservation for the Town of Greenburgh, NY. Mr. Madden graduated from the University of Victoria with a BA in geography (Urban Studies) and attended Dalhousie University's Masters of Urban and Rural Planning Program. In his spare time, he enjoys coaching and refereeing youth hockey. Mr. Madden is also a Director for the Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research in NYC, which has raised more than 2 million dollars for cancer research.

**Timothy Sheehan**

**Executive Director, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency**

Tim Sheehan is currently the Executive Director of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency. He has held this position since 2002. During his tenure he has advanced in Norwalk an urban economic development policy that seeks to re-establish Norwalk's urban corridor as the residential, commercial and entertainment center of the City. The advancing development agenda seeks to promote mixed use, sustainable and transit related development projects that contextually compliment and economically enhance the City's urban core. Under his guidance the Redevelopment Agency and City have approved the development of hundreds of new residential units, thousands of square feet of complimenting retail and commercial space as well as a new urban mall with Bloomingdales and Nordstrom as its anchor tenants. Additionally, Mr. Sheehan has spearheaded Transit Oriented Development in Norwalk with the intent of unlocking the development potential in the area immediately surrounding the South Norwalk Train Station. The Washington Village Development which replaces outdated public housing with new mixed income housing units and the Maritime Village housing development are the first projects advancing the Transit Oriented Development objectives. Prior to becoming Executive Director of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency, Mr. Sheehan served in various public economic and community development positions in Massachusetts. Most recently Mr. Sheehan worked for Mass Development, the State's economic development bank as Vice President of Real Estate and Development.

**Robert W. Christoph, Jr.****President of Operations, RCI Group**

Robert W. Christoph, Jr. joined the RCI Group in 2000 and moved quickly through the ranks from an analyst to his current position as President of Operations. For his undergraduate studies, he attended Central Michigan University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. He continued his education at the University of Miami earning his Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in International Business. Since starting with the RCI Group, Mr. Christoph has been actively engaged in the origination and execution of public and private sector, mezzanine and equity financing for a variety of waterfront development projects. As the highest ranking executive in the Operations division, his responsibilities include the preparation of annual proposals and budgets for portfolio properties, oversight of all commercial leasing, optimizing organizational structure to achieve management targets and building technology infrastructure for the organization's business needs. As the highest ranking executive in the Operations division, his responsibilities include the preparation of annual proposals and budgets for portfolio properties, oversight of all commercial leasing, optimizing organizational structure to achieve management targets and building technology infrastructure for the organization's business needs.

**Seth Pinsky****Executive Vice President, RXR Realty**

Seth Pinsky is an Executive Vice President at RXR Realty, where he is leading RXR's efforts to invest in "emerging opportunities" in the New York region. He focuses on areas with significant growth potential, particularly in the Outer Boroughs and suburban downtowns. Prior to RXR, Pinsky was Director of Mayor Bloomberg's Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency, which developed a \$20 billion plan to protect the City from climate change impacts. Pinsky also served at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where he was President from 2008 to 2013. While at NYCEDC, Pinsky was lead negotiator for projects such as Yankee Stadium, Citifield, the World Trade Center, and the acquisition of Hunters Point South in Queens. Other initiatives advanced under Pinsky's leadership were developments in Willets Point, Coney Island, Homeport in Staten Island, Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx, and the Alexandria Center for Life Sciences. Under Pinsky, NYCEDC also managed the construction of the High Line, launched the East River Ferry and announced plans for the world's largest observation wheel in Staten Island. In the area of economic modernization, under Pinsky, NYCEDC launched business incubators across the City and oversaw the international Applied Sciences NYC competition, which will result in a new Carnegie-Mellon program in the Navy Yard, a significant expansion of Columbia's engineering school, and the creation of a new engineering institute in Downtown Brooklyn led by NYU. It will also result in a \$2 billion engineering campus on Roosevelt Island launched by Cornell and the Technion of Israel. Prior to NYCEDC, Pinsky was an associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton and a financial analyst at James D. Wolfensohn Inc. He is a graduate of Columbia College and Harvard Law School, and is an Adjunct Senior Research Scholar at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.

**Gerri Tortorella****Founding Partner, Tortorella & Wekstein, LLP**

Gerri Tortorella is a founding partner of Hocherman Tortorella & Wekstein, LLP (HTW) and for decades has been representing private clients in the entitlement approval process in Westchester County, the Hudson Valley and Long Island. She appears regularly before municipal agencies and boards seeking land use approvals and environmental permits for a wide variety of development proposals including mixed use, industrial, retail, residential, recreational and office projects. HTW's approach in representing its clients is solution-oriented, but the firm has extensive experience with Article 78 Proceedings and other types of litigation and, when necessary, litigates to protect its clients' rights and interests. Gerri has lectured and/or written articles regarding various zoning, environmental law, property rights, and constitutional issues for National, State and local organizations and groups. She is an Associate Member of the Urban Land Institute/Westchester-Fairfield District Council, in which she co-chairs the Business Development Committee and serves on the Management/Advisory and Women's Leadership Initiative Committees. HTW also supports the programs and efforts of the Land Use Law Center at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University, from which Gerri earned her J.D., cum laude. Gerri proudly serves on the Board of Directors of the Community Center of Northern Westchester and volunteers in the Center.