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For Immediate Release

**LINDA PANTAGES, VETERAN STAFFER AT
NYC DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS SLOAN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**
“Nobel Prizes” of City government recognize outstanding civil servants

New York, NY – Linda Pantages, Director of Payments at the New York City Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD), is a recipient of the Fund for the City of New York’s 2013 Sloan Public Service Award. Widely regarded as the “Nobel Prizes” of City government, the highly selective award honors six outstanding civil servants from among 250,000 eligible City employees. Pantages and her fellow awardees were honored in their workplaces and during a ceremony at Cooper Union’s Great Hall with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg on May 8.

Pantages is cited for more than thirty years of extraordinary service, commitment, responsiveness, outstanding and reliable performance, willingness to take risks, ability to adapt, and dedication to upholding public interest. She was singled out as a driving force behind two major initiatives that increased efficiency and helped free up staff to devote more time to programs: the transformation of DYCD’s contract and payment process to a software-based system beginning in 1989, and the establishment in 2007 of a Help Desk—essentially a “311” center for community-based organizations, offering guidance and handling everything from technical assistance to last-minute funding emergencies.

As part of DYCD’s Contract Agency Finance Division (CAFD), Pantages and her team currently manage 2,600 contracts, and process some 21,000 invoice requests each year, helping to ensure that community-based organizations receive the prompt, efficient and well-timed payments that are vital to their stability and to providing DYCD’s participants with ongoing programs and services.

“New York City’s public workforce is as good a group of people as you can ever find,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “Sloan Award honorees come from every walk of life and professional experience and the share an unwavering commitment to excellence; unmatched personal integrity; and, above all, a tireless devotion to service. Each of these outstanding public servants are working on the frontlines, making life better for New Yorkers every single day.”

“When it came time to nominate an unsung hero for the Sloan Public Service Award, for me, Linda Pantages was the clear choice,” said DYCD Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav. “Helping community-based organizations is Linda’s way of giving back for the assistance she received from social service agencies as a young, single mother on the Lower East Side. I am grateful the

Fund for the City of New York is ‘paying it forward’ and recognizing Linda on behalf of the countless New Yorkers *she* has helped. Linda, you do DYCD and the City of New York proud!”

“I am fortunate to have a job where my financial and analytical skills help community-based organizations (CBOs) enhance the lives of disadvantaged and underprivileged youth and communities throughout the City,” said Pantages. “I have had the opportunity to meet inspiring people that have a real passion for their cause, and it’s a true joy to play an integral role in linking the City with CBOs to serve the community better.”

Early in her career Pantages earned her GED, and her love of numbers led to bookkeeping work with the Lower East Side Community Corporation, where she was encouraged to take accounting classes at Pace University, the Borough of Manhattan Community College and Hunter College. In 1981, she was hired by the New York City Community Development Agency, a forerunner of DYCD, and was promoted to Director of Payments, a position she has held since 1997.

Her expertise is embraced by the providers she assists. Martin Kahan, chief financial officer of the Council of Jewish Organizations in Flatbush, said, “We refer to Linda, without exaggeration, as the miracle worker.”

About DYCD

DYCD supports New York City’s afterschool and youth workforce development programs throughout the five boroughs. The agency also oversees funding for anti-poverty programs, such as adult literacy and immigrant services. For more information, please go to www.nyc.gov/dycd or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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