



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 31, 2022

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**NYC ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES APPLAUDS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CHILD PROTECTION, WILLIAM FLETCHER, ON BEING RECOGNIZED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS FOR HIS LIFETIME OF LEADERSHIP**

*ACS Deputy Commissioner William Fletcher Receives Prestigious "Diamond Award" from The National Association of Social Workers New York City Chapter*

**New York, NY** – The New York City Administration for Children Services (ACS) today announced that Deputy Commissioner William Fletcher, who leads the Division of Child Protection, has been awarded the prestigious "Diamond Award" by the New York City Chapter of the [National Association of Social Workers](#), the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world. The organization aims to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards and to advance sound social policies. The Diamond Award recognizes individuals whose work has left an imprint in social work leadership, policy advocacy and social change.

Deputy Commissioner Fletcher leads ACS' Child Protection Borough Offices, the Office of Special Investigations and Emergency Children's Services, all charged with ensuring the safety, permanency and well-being of NYC children. In this role, Deputy Commissioner Fletcher manages the implementation of child welfare initiatives focused on improving outcomes for children and families, collaborates with partners to develop neighborhood based and specialized services, ensures effective coordination with other divisions and implements support to frontline staff to promote resiliency, self-care and reduction of secondary trauma. Deputy Commissioner Fletcher is a Social Worker at heart and in the real sense of the title. He is a man that strives to maintain the highest standard of excellence while always placing his best foot forward.

Deputy Commissioner William Fletcher's child welfare career at ACS spans nearly 40 years. Prior to his current role, Deputy Commissioner Fletcher served as Assistant Commissioner of the Manhattan and Staten Island Borough Offices, where he was instrumental in the implementation of a Therapeutic Supervised Visitation Pilot Project for families in partnership with the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. His innovative ideas and passion for the work continues to shine as he leads the Division of Child Protection today.

In 2014, the National Association of Social Workers New York City Chapter recognized him for Exemplary Mid-Career Social Work Leadership in New York City. Deputy Commissioner

Fletcher received his master's degree from Columbia University School of Social Work and has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 1989.

"The National Association of Social Workers is one of the most important social work organizations in the world and it is an honor to be recognized by the New York City chapter as a lifetime leadership awardee," said **ACS Deputy Commissioner of the Division of Child Protection, William Fletcher**. "After growing up in a two-bedroom NYCHA apartment in a family of nine people, I was driven to social work because of my passion to be the voice of those unjustly affected by systems. While New York City continues to be a national role model for child welfare, much work continues to be needed and I look forward to working with child welfare leaders to ensure we continue to improve the best outcomes for children and families."

"For over three decades, Deputy Commissioner Fletcher has been committed to improving outcomes for children and families across New York City, and on behalf of ACS, I'd like to congratulate him on this well-deserved recognition," said **ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser**. "It is a privilege to get to work every day with William and witness his deep commitment to the families we serve and to our team that serves them. As a fellow social worker, I know we have the one of the best in him. We at ACS also applaud the many social workers across New York for the selfless work they do each and every day, and the contributions they make to ensure the well-being of New York City children and families."

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