

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAROL SAMOL NAMED CITY PLANNING BRONX DIRECTOR

March 26, 2006 – City Planning Director Amanda M. Burden announced today that Carol Samol has been appointed as Director of City Planning's Bronx Office. Samol, a long-time Bronx resident, has been acting director since former Bronx Director Purnima Kapur left to head the agency's Brooklyn office. Both as acting director of the Bronx office and as a planner in Staten Island, Samol has managed key planning initiatives, including the now adopted Stapleton Waterfront District as well as numerous rezonings to address overdevelopment and to create new housing and economic development opportunities.

Director Burden said, "Carol Samol possesses all the qualities to lead City Planning's work in The Bronx. Her experience in urban planning, both in government and for a non-profit organization, as well as her skill and commitment to involving stakeholders throughout the planning process will enable her to excel as Bronx Borough Director. Ms. Samol's capabilities were showcased in her successful management of the Special Stapleton Waterfront District on Staten Island, a comprehensive redevelopment plan that emerged from the Mayor's Homeport Task Force. In the Bronx, she will continue the Bloomberg administration's approach to consensus building in achieving goals for new housing, economic development and neighborhood preservation. She will be a key player in upcoming initiatives in the South Bronx as well as ongoing planning for neighborhoods throughout the borough."

As Director of the Bronx office, Samol will be responsible for directing urban design and land use policy, guiding housing and economic development and fostering the orderly growth of the borough's neighborhoods, business districts and major institutions. She will also advise the Chair and members of the City Planning Commission on Bronx planning and land use issues, manage the borough office staff and act as primary liaison to a wide range of stakeholders including elected officials, community organizations and private sector entities on matters of land use, zoning and economic development in the borough.

She is currently leading the agency's planning efforts to strengthen the economic resurgence of the South Bronx. In addition, Samol has designed computer programs to improve project management, review and processing of land use applications in the borough offices.

Prior to her work at City Planning, Ms. Samol was the Deputy Director for Planning and Development for St. Nicholas Neighborhood Preservation Corporation in Brooklyn.

Samol earned Master's degrees in Urban Planning from New York University and Philosophy from Fordham University. She received her B.A. at Berea College in Kentucky.

Department of City Planning

The Department of City Planning is responsible for the City's physical and socioeconomic planning, including land use and environmental review; preparation of plans and policies; and provision of technical assistance and planning information to government agencies, public officials, and community boards.