

The Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrates

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Monday, February 9, 2026 | 7PM

WELCOMING REMARKS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Board Chair Vedat Gashi

PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATIONS



COMMISSIONER WADE HARDY

PRESENTED BY VICE CHAIR TERRY CLEMENTS



LIEUTENANT KHALIA M. CARTER

PRESENTED BY LEGISLATOR COLIN D. SMITH

Vedat Gashi
Board Chair
Legislator, 4th District

Colin D. Smith
Legislator, 1st District

Erika L. Pierce
Legislator, 2nd District

Margaret A. Cunzio
Minority Leader
Legislator, 3rd District

Jenn Puja
Legislator, 5th District

Nancy E. Barr
Legislator, 6th District

Anant Nambiar
Legislator, 7th District

Jewel Williams Johnson
Legislator, 8th District

Emiljana Ulaj
Legislator, 9th District

Judah Holstein
Majority Leader
Legislator, 10th District

Terry Clements
Vice Chair
Legislator, 11th District

David Imamura
Legislator, 12th District

Tyrae Woodson-Samuels
Legislator, 13th District

David J. Tubiolo
Legislator, 14th District

James Nolan
Minority Whip
Legislator, 15th District

Shanae V. Williams
Majority Whip
Legislator, 16th District

José I. Alvarado
Legislator, 17th District



[see back for more]

Live streamed from the Board Chamber: westchestercountyny.legistar.com

COMMISSIONER WADE HARDY is the first African American department commissioner in City of White Plains history. A distinguished public servant with a career spanning nearly four decades, he has built a reputation as a transformational leader dedicated to forging strong bonds between the community and law enforcement. In his new role as Public Safety Commissioner, he oversees Police, Fire, EMS, and 911 operations.

A former lieutenant with the White Plains Police Department, Commissioner Hardy led the Community Services Division. His work included supporting at-risk youth, improving conditions in public housing, and collaborating with community leaders. Earlier in his career, he served as a detective and detective sergeant, leading major investigations and specialized units. During a three-year assignment with the Drug Enforcement Agency, he earned recognition for record-setting drug and asset seizures.

Commissioner Hardy then spent 12 years in corporate security leadership at Con Edison. He returned to public service in 2021 as Deputy Chief Criminal Investigator for the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Commissioner Hardy serves on the board of the White Plains Youth Bureau and is a servant leader for numerous professional and community organizations, including White Plains Little League softball, for which he coached a team to three consecutive district championships. He holds degrees from Manhattan University and the University of New Haven and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He and his wife are proud parents and grandparents.

LIEUTENANT KHALIA M. CARTER is a devoted law enforcement leader whose career reflects a strong commitment to public service, community partnership, and professional excellence. She began in law enforcement with the New York State Office of Mental Health, then joined the Peekskill Police Department. In 2019, she earned promotion to sergeant and this very night is being promoted to lieutenant—the first African American to attain that rank in Peekskill Police Department's 177-year history.

As Commanding Officer of the Community Policing Unit, Lt. Carter emphasizes community engagement and transparency initiatives that build trust between the department and Peekskill residents. Lt. Carter also oversees the Administrative Division, serving as grants administrator and working with the Chief of Police on fiscal planning and operational strategy.

Throughout her career, Lt. Carter has contributed to the development of the K-9 Unit, domestic violence prevention efforts, traffic safety, child passenger safety, and records management improvements.

Lt. Carter holds a Master of Public Administration degree from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where she was inducted into the Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society; a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Monroe College; and an associate degree from SUNY Rockland Community College. She is a graduate of the International Association of Chiefs of Police Women's Leadership Institute.