

Cuomo nominates State Police chief, makes other appointments

Posted by: [Cara Matthews](#) - Dec 22, 2010

Gov.-elect Andrew Cuomo just announced another round of appointments and nominations for his administration, this time for superintendent of the State Police, commissioner of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, deputy secretary for civil rights, and director of communications.

Cuomo, the outgoing attorney general, is nominating his office's chief investigator, Joseph A. D'Amico, for State Police superintendent. D'Amico, who has worked for Cuomo since 2007, oversees 300 civil and criminal investigators statewide who work in the Organized Crime Task Force, the Auto Insurance Fraud Unit, the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Investigations Bureau. Before joining the Cuomo's staff, D'Amico was with the New York City Police Department, serving in the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens and rising to the rank of deputy chief. He was commanding officer of the New York City police commissioner's Real Time Crime Center, and he helped develop the 24-hour information and investigative support center to help on-scene detectives solve violent crimes.

"The State Police is a vital and honored public safety force which will be of paramount importance in my administration. Chief D'Amico brings extraordinary police credentials and a fresh prospective to the State Police which will be a significant asset in reestablishing the good reputation of this distinguished force," Cuomo said in making the nomination. "The rank and file who are among the nation's best will have a true leader in Chief D'Amico."

Cuomo's news release about the appointments included positive statements on D'Amico from New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, former FBI Director Louis Freeh, former State Police Superintendent Tom Constantine, former state Deputy for Public Safety Michael Balboni, former U.S. Attorney Zachary W. Carter and New York PBA President Pat Lynch.

"From his more than 27 years with the NYPD to his remarkable work as head of investigations in the Attorney General's office, Chief D'Amico's entire career has been one of absolute integrity, professionalism and a commitment to the safety and security of the people of the city and state of New York," Kelly said. "I am pleased

to have been a part of the transition committee that overwhelmingly recommended bringing Chief D'Amico's unquestioned experience and leadership abilities to this critical post."

Here are the other appointments:

—**Arlene Gonzalez-Sanches** as commissioner of the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services. She is the commissioner and director of community services at the Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services, and co-chairs that county's Health Disparity Task Force. Before that, she was deputy commissioner for two years, and previously served in various high-level positions at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for 10 years. Other experience includes positions as director of the Bronx Health Corps and assistant administrator for the Fund for Aging Services Inc. at the New York City Department of Aging.

Cuomo said Gonzalez will have a major role in reviewing, consolidating and redesigning the state's human services agencies. She has experience in this area through her work in Nassau County.

—**Alphonso David** will be the deputy secretary for civil rights. He is currently special deputy attorney general for civil rights. He was named deputy chief of the Civil Rights Bureau in Cuomo's office in 2008 and was promoted to bureau chief in 2009. He became deputy attorney general for civil rights in May. Prior to joining Cuomo's office, he was a deputy commissioner of the state Division of Human Rights and a staff attorney at the Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund. He is an adjunct professor at Cardozo Law School and Fordham University Law School.

—**Richard Bamberger**, the attorney general's director of communications, will hold that position in Cuomo's gubernatorial administration. Before joining the Attorney General's staff in 2008, he was a television news reporter for nearly 17 years. He was managing editor of Inside Edition before being hired by Cuomo. He spent six years at WCBS-TV in New York City, holding a variety of positions, and previously was managing editor at WJBK-TV in Detroit and assignment manager at WFOR-TV in Miami. He began his career as a producer for WRGB-TV in Albany.