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**NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER DEANNE CRISWELL  
NOMINATED TO BECOME FEDERAL FEMA ADMINISTRATOR**

*First female Emergency Management Commissioner in New York City history tapped for  
Cabinet position in incoming Biden-Harris administration*

**NEW YORK**—New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM) Commissioner Deanne Criswell has been nominated to become President-elect Joe Biden’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator. Criswell, the first female NYCEM commissioner in New York City history, led the coordination of the City’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic and managed the City’s response to emergencies including tropical storms, extreme summer heat, large fires, snowstorms and power outages.

“The American people deserve leaders like Deanne Criswell,” said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “Deanne has been a fearless, expert, and deeply respected voice in this administration. I’m proud of all she has accomplished in New York City, and I can’t wait to see what she’ll do in her new role. On behalf of every New Yorker, I wish her all the best.”

“I am incredibly honored to be nominated by President Biden to be the next FEMA Administrator. Over my career, I have focused on helping people impacted by disasters and am excited to do that on a national scale. As we face the devastating impacts of COVID-19, as well as the increasing threat of climate change, it is imperative that FEMA addresses these challenges with innovative ideas to serve all Americans fairly and equitably. I look forward to this incredible opportunity at this pivotal time in our nation’s history,” said **Deanne Criswell**. “I want to thank Mayor de Blasio for giving me the opportunity to serve the people of New York City at NYC Emergency Management. It has been my privilege to lead this terrific agency through these unprecedented times.”

Commissioner Criswell helped lead New York City’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including City government continuity of operations, planning and management, healthcare infrastructure capacity building, food access, resource management, and non-congregate sheltering.

Before and during the pandemic, Criswell:

- Oversaw the deployment of City personnel and resources to Puerto Rico in early 2020 in response to a series of powerful earthquakes.
- Coordinated the City’s readiness for planned events including New Year’s Eve in Times Square, the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, and the New York City Marathon.

- Led NYCEM through a realignment in 2020 with a vision to make New York City the most ready and resilient city in the world by reducing risk, preparing communities, minimizing the consequences of emergencies, and ensuring capabilities to respond to new and emerging threats.

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