

Empire State Opioid Epidemic Innovation Challenge

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Columbia University Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science



Benjamin B. Tucker began his career with the New York City Police Department in 1969 when he was appointed as a police trainee and trained to conduct an innovative school-based drug-prevention education program. He became a police officer in 1972 and was promoted to sergeant in 1987. During his 22 years with the NYPD, First Deputy Commissioner Tucker performed patrol, school task force, anti-crime, and community affairs assignments; later serving as a Police Academy instructor, legal advisor in the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Legal Matters, and the assistant director of the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Following his career with the NYPD, Commissioner Tucker continued his public service as an executive in several local and federal government agencies. In New York City, under Mayor Edward I. Koch, Commissioner Tucker served as the deputy assistant director for Law Enforcement Services in the Mayor's Office of Operations, first deputy commissioner and executive director of the Commission on Human Rights, and chief of operations in the Office of the Manhattan Borough President. In 2002, Commissioner Tucker returned to New York City government under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg as the chief executive for school safety and planning for the Department of Education.

In 1995, President Bill Clinton appointed Commissioner Tucker as the Deputy Director for Operations in the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, at the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2009, President Barack Obama nominated, and the senate confirmed, Commissioner Tucker to serve the state and local affairs division within the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Additionally, Commissioner Tucker coordinated and directed research demonstration projects at both the Substance Abuse Strategy Initiative at New York University and the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, programs designed to evaluate the effectiveness of post incarceration services for substance abusing ex-offenders and services for pre-adolescents at risk of getting involved in drugs and crime.

Commissioner Tucker's unique blend of law enforcement, public service and academic experience led to his appointment as deputy commissioner of training, during Police Commissioner William J. Bratton's reengineering of the New York City Police Department in 2014. Proving to be a valuable member of the executive staff, Commissioner Tucker was promoted to first deputy commissioner and entrusted to design and implement a broad range of policy, programs, and training to strengthen community relations and improve the performance of the department.

First Deputy Commissioner Tucker holds a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from John Jay College, a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law, and is a tenured professor at Pace University.