

## Gwen Williams to Head Procurement Following Top Management Changes

By Bill Heard, Editor

(September 24) Gwendolyn W. Williams, a procurement professional with more than 15 years' experience, was named acting executive officer of the MTA's Procurement department following a management change effective Friday



Williams, who joined the MTA in 1991 as a senior contracts administrator, had served as deputy executive officer of Metro Construction administration for the past two and a half years. She replaces Michael O'Connor who left the agency Friday. Also leaving the department were deputy executive officers Richard Carron and Anne Fischer.

**Gwen Williams**

"Procurement needed a fresh start," said Chief Operating Officer Allan Lipsky. "It was overburdened with process. Other departments have improved, but Procurement hasn't kept pace."

Lipsky said the MTA will immediately begin recruiting for a permanent Procurement executive officer. In the meantime, he expressed confidence in Williams' abilities, citing her procurement background and thorough knowledge of the agency.

"We've given Gwen assurances of our full and active support," Lipsky said, "but, it's her mission to fulfill."

In an interview with *MTA Report*, Williams said she wants to use her first 30 days in office to identify "in great detail what the issues are." Although she had observed Procurement from outside the department, she plans to spend time with employees to learn about all the issues.

"At this morning's staff meeting, I asked them to send e-mails identifying the challenges they individually face in doing their jobs efficiently and effectively," Williams said. "I want to give them an opportunity to be heard and to give me information."

Next week, Williams plans to meet with Procurement managers and then with the managers and their staffs. She also intends to have frequent all-staff meetings to keep employees abreast of progress.

"I'm going to do the best I can," Williams said. "There's a lot of healing that needs to take place."

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