

Anthony Schembri, 'The Commiss,' Proves There Really Is Life After Being the Commissioner Again & Again & Again



During his career and in his semi-retirement, Anthony Schembri -- the inspiration for the TV show "The Commish" -- has proved again and again there really is a "life after" having served as Commissioner in real life again and again . . .

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Schembri said he began his career in law enforcement at age 16, when detectives, seeing him hanging the stationhouse and that he could type faster than they, asked him to type their reports. "I

always wanted to be a cop, all my life," he said. "Those detectives, they really knew people."

In 1964, he was appointed a Peace Officer and assigned to the Rackets Bureau in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office where he later served as Deputy Chief of both Narcotic and Homicide Bureaus and Director of Training at the Police Academy.

In 1981, he was appointed Police Commissioner of the City of Rye in Westchester County and served for 13 years. The County Executive appointed him as Chairman of the Country Traffic Safety Board. He served as United Nations Representative of the International Association of Chiefs of Police representing 14,000 Police Chiefs at the UN.

He served as police commissioner in Rye for 14 years before being appointed by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani to be commissioner of NYC DOC in 1994. Schembri resigned a year later, after his NYC address reputedly failed to satisfy the residency requirement.

In 2002, he was appointed by Governor Bush and confirmed by the State Senate to serve as Commissioner on the Florida Corrections Commission, overseeing its Department of Corrections with 70 major facilities. In 2004, Governor Jeb Bush nominated Schembri to lead the largest juvenile justice system in the country and was unanimously confirmed by the Florida Senate.. He also served as Deputy Commissioner in the State of Vermont.

Schembri taught law at Pace University in Westchester and was formerly Dean of the Criminal Justice Program at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. He has served on the faculty of various colleges and universities. As a member of the prestigious Henry Fielding Society at Bramshill Staff Police College in England, he chaired Committees on Crimes and the Elderly and Environmental Crimes for the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Under a Fulbright, he conducted an evaluation

of the National Police Agency of Japan, a 240,000-member department for the U.S-Japan Foundation

All in all, against the foregoing background, Schembri receiving an email in 2019 to serve on India's Center for Criminology and Public Policy Committee to implement research-based law enforcement techniques was far out of the ordinary for this Commish.

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