

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****#39-17****NYC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS NEW COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) GRADUATE PEGGY-ANNE FORDE AND HER COMMITMENT TO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

Peggy-Anne Forde's passion for emergency management knows no borders. From Antigua, to Trinidad, to New York, Peggy-Anne has been set on a path to raise awareness about the importance of community preparedness. Her most recent endeavor into the field of emergency management led her to NYC Emergency Management's CERT program, where she graduated in July after completing the 10-week training program for disaster preparedness and basic emergency response skills. Peggy-Anne's training included lessons in fire safety, search and rescue, traffic management, basic first aid, and triage. Peggy-Anne says she hopes to build a stronger more prepared community through her work with CERT.

"My goal is to build a culture of safety and resilience through public awareness and education. I believe it will help reduce the risks and consequences of disasters."

Peggy-Anne is a registered nurse who began her work in emergency management a number of years ago in the island of Antigua.

While there, she worked at St. John's Ambulance Association of Antigua & Barbuda where she was tasked with developing an emergency operations plan for the agency."

Peggy-Anne's emergency management experience did not end in Antigua. In 2013, she moved back to her native country of Trinidad where she searched for more opportunities to become involved in her community. She eventually became a volunteer for the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management. There, Peggy-Anne was involved in youth emergency preparedness, providing valuable and life-saving information to children ages three to sixteen.

Peggy-Anne eventually moved to Brooklyn in 2016, and she took her passion for emergency management with her. Her interest in preparing communities for potential emergencies led her to CERT.

"The CERT program is something I wanted to be a part of," **she said**. "The training equipped me with the skills to identify, evaluate, and react to a wide spectrum of emergencies. I am better prepared to handle emergency situations and help improve the safety of my community."

Peggy-Anne Forde is currently pursuing her Bachelors of Arts degree in Emergency Management. She hopes to continue to use her education and experience in emergency management in conjunction with her medical background to work in government agencies providing emergency relief to communities throughout the country.

**Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) in New York City**

The New York City CERT program started in 2003 with 106 volunteers. The new Cycle 28 CERT graduates will join more than 1,500 credentialed CERT volunteers representing more than 50 teams throughout New York City. The 91 graduates received training from a number of the City's highly trained emergency responders, including 20 FDNY instructors, 8 FDNY/EMS instructors, 6 NYPD instructors and 17 Emergency Management liaisons.

For more information about the CERT program, or if you are interested in becoming a CERT volunteer, call 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov/emergencymanagement](http://www.nyc.gov/emergencymanagement).