

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



Amy Peterson
Director of the Mayor's Office of
Housing Recovery Operations

It is perhaps a little-known secret that the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations (HRO), the office that manages the Build It Back program, has been a part of DEP since soon after Hurricane Sandy struck our city. Now, as we mark the sixth anniversary of the storm, I would like to take a moment to share how far we have come since that unprecedented event—and to thank the HRO team for their diligent work.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funds, Build It Back provides assistance to homeowners after

all other forms of disaster assistance have been exhausted. Through Build It Back, the City has prioritized homeowners and waterfront communities—ensuring that these New Yorkers have the resources necessary to recover and make their homes and communities more resilient.

As of the sixth anniversary, 96 percent of 8,300 homes housing 12,500 families are finished—these families' homes have been repaired, elevated, rebuilt, or purchased. Of those, 1,350 homes are elevated and protected against storm surge, and another 800 homes have been purchased by the City and the State providing for more open space, coastal protection, and opportunities for newly elevated homes across our city. The projects remaining are among our most complex,



including the Courts in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, where HRO is working in partnership with the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations to provide new water and sewage infrastructure.

Today, 99.9 percent of homeowners have been served and 99 percent of City-managed construction is complete. To get there, HRO's Construction Team—working in partnership with the Department of Design and Construction and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development—has managed a total of \$1.2 billion of individual construction projects across the five boroughs, with the majority in Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island—including the delivery of more than 100 modular homes in Queens and Staten Island.

In support of this work, HRO's Borough Operations team is on the ground in each neighborhood, talking with homeowners, civic organizations, community leaders, and elected officials to ensure smooth operations. The Homeowner Services group has helped each individual homeowner through the program, answering questions, assisting with moving, storage, and finding temporary housing, and turning over the keys to their homes at the end of the process. HRO's Planning and Technical Services group has contributed innovative suggestions to ensure that our City's

waterfront communities are more resilient for future disasters, including providing Elevation Certificates to all rebuild and elevation applicants to help lower their flood insurance premiums. Finally, HRO's Legal, Administration, IT, and ACCO teams, and Office of Engineering Audits have created an agency that is making sure that our City is better prepared to face whatever the future brings.

Thank you to everyone at HRO who has worked hard to bring recovery and resiliency to New York City's neighborhoods.



And a note from DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza:

"On behalf of the DEP family, I'd like to thank Amy for her tremendous efforts to bring recovery and resiliency to neighborhoods across the five boroughs. We wish her continued success as she takes on the added responsibility of Director of the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, where she will connect New Yorkers with high quality jobs."

Spotlight on Safety

OSHA's Top 10 Most Cited Violations

With all of the statistics OSHA releases, the Top 10 violations give us a clear idea of potential issues to be aware of in the workplace. The Top 10 for 2018 are:

1. Fall Protection—General Requirements
2. Hazard Communication
3. Scaffolding
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Lockout/Tagout
6. Ladders
7. Powered Industrial Trucks
8. Fall Protection—Training Requirements

9. Machine Guarding
10. Eye Face Protection

Fall protection tops the list as the most frequently cited violation for the eighth year in a row. One noted change since last year is fall protection training requirements moving up from number nine to number eight. Let us use this list as a reminder of hazards we should avoid in our daily operations.

For more information, visit [Safety & Health Magazine](#). Remember to report all hazards and unsafe conditions to your supervisor or bureau EHS representative.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Deputy Mayor Tours Training Facility



Laura Anglin, Deputy Mayor for Operations, joined last week with Deputy Commissioner **Tasos Georgelis** for a tour of BWSO's Training Facility in Queens. The facility recreates the infrastructure of an actual New York City street, including sewers, catch basins, hydrants, hoods, hangers, and valves. Apprentices begin their careers at the center where they receive operational and safety training on equipment used by BWSO crews in the field.

\$158 Million Catskill Aqueduct Rehab



Work has begun on a [\\$158 million project to rehabilitate the Catskill Aqueduct](#), which has delivered drinking water from the Catskills to New York City for more than a century. The multi-year project includes a variety of work inside the aqueduct and at connected facilities. These upgrades will happen on the northernmost segment of the 92-mile aqueduct, specifically the portion that carries water from Ashokan Reservoir in Ulster County to Kensico Reservoir in Westchester County. DEP will rehabilitate this 74-mile stretch of the aqueduct by cleaning the inside and repairing a number of leaks, replacing 36 valves at chambers connected to the aqueduct, and performing other structural and mechanical upgrades to ensure proper function of the structure for generations to come. To safely perform this work, DEP must shut down the Catskill Aqueduct annually for 10 weeks during the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Each of the shutdowns will begin during autumn to coincide with the annual period of lowest demand on the water supply system. The first shutdown began yesterday (Oct. 29).

#Sandy



Six years ago, Hurricane Sandy, the worst natural disaster in New York City history, made landfall and caused a record 14-foot storm surge. DEP employees heroically worked through the storm clearing flooded roadways, treating wastewater, securing our infrastructure, and preparing for the daunting recovery effort. More than 1,100 DEP employees lived in the flood zones and were directly affected by the storm but, nonetheless, worked tirelessly through many long days and nights to secure the city. In the days following Sandy, DEP crews cleared downed trees and other debris, pumped flood waters, provided drinking water to residents in Breezy Point, monitored air quality, and helped other utilities restore power and water to millions of New Yorkers. Thank you, once again, to all the employees who worked so hard during the storm and in the recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Green Playground for Park Slope



Commissioner Sapienza and City Council Member **Brad Lander** joined NYC Parks Borough Commissioner **Martin Maher**, P.S. 282 Principal **Rashan Hoke** and students on Monday to cut the ribbon on a new "green" playground at P.S. 282 in Park Slope. The former asphalt lot has been transformed with the addition of green infrastructure and trees that can capture nearly 1 million gallons of stormwater annually and help to improve the health of the Gowanus Canal. The playground improvements include a turf field, running track, spray shower, drinking water fountain, basketball hoop, and benches. Council Member Lander provided \$250,000 in funding and DEP allocated \$350,000.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.