

Commissioner's Corner

The past few weeks have seen an historic cold spell hit New York City and, as always, DEP employees stepped up to the challenge to ensure that our critical services continued without any major interruptions. In addition, some employees assisted the Department of Sanitation with the effort to clear public roadways and numerous personnel helped clear snow at DEP facilities. Across the five boroughs and throughout the watershed, DEP employees demonstrated their commitment to serving the more than 9 million New Yorkers who rely on us each day.



Bureau of Water Supply staff braved the frigid wind chills to gather and test water samples, and the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations worked through extremely difficult sce-

naros to investigate numerous water conditions across the five boroughs and make any necessary repairs to the City's water delivery system, in addition to staff ensuring that our rain gardens ab-

crews from the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment worked around the clock helping to protect the health of our waterways, and marine staff continued to make necessary sludge boat trips during challenging weather. The Bureau of Police and Security protected all of DEP's critical infrastructure and responded to hazardous materials emergencies, the Bureau of Customer Services was responsive to all of our customers' concerns, and Bureau of Environmental Compliance inspectors worked through the freezing cold to respond to air, noise, and asbestos complaints.

At all levels of the agency, DEP employees demonstrated that we are prepared to deal with any emergency and ensure we continue to serve our customers. Again, thank you all.

Spotlight on Safety

Staying Healthy in the New Year

At DEP, health and safety on the job is a top priority, and with the start of the New Year, it is a great time to start considering what we can do to improve our overall health. Many employees spend significant time doing tasks that are sedentary in nature, such as prolonged sitting at desks. Research indicates that people who spend more than four hours per day sitting may be at greater risk for chronic health conditions. It is important to fit in at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day. Winter weather can also lead to increased time spent indoors, but there are other ways to fit in physical activity.

Here are some steps to take while on the job:

- Plan for alternative work activities during the course of the workday to avoid prolonged sitting time.

- Walk down the hall to speak with a colleague about work instead of calling or e-mailing them.
- Stand or stretch at your desk when you are doing a task, such as talking on the phone.
- Take advantage of DEP sponsored health and wellness programs or start a lunch time walk when the weather gets warmer.

It is important to remember that mental health is just as essential as physical health. The New York City Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides free counseling services to employees. To learn more about EAP and other programs at DEP, visit the [WorkWell NYC website](#). Also, for more information on physical activity options and guidelines, visit the NYC Parks Department [BeFitNYC website](#) and the [CDC's website](#).

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 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [PIPELINE](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.



sorb as much snow melt as is possible. At the wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations,



Kudos Corner



After Hurricane Maria made landfall on Puerto Rico back on Sept. 20, much of the Caribbean island was devastated and left without running water, electricity, and access to food or healthcare. The DC37 union organized a relief effort, and a team from the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations left on Oct. 4 to help administer humanitarian aid. District Supervisor **Milton Velez** was joined by **Angel Carballo**, **Hector Adorno**, **Richard Morantus**, and **Dave Thomas** as they [spent 10 days on the hurricane-ravaged island](#), sleeping on cots inside a makeshift headquarters set up inside the Roberto Clemente Stadium. The five men worked tirelessly to help set up a water filtration system for the stadium, clear debris-covered roads, load supplies at a distribution warehouse, deliver food and water to an orphanage, and assist doctors and nurses distribute medication. "Our takeaway from volunteering was that you should always be willing to help out a neighbor, whether he's across the street or in another country," remarked Velez. Great job guys!

Welcome Aboard



Yesterday, 23 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from **Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**, Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources and Administration **Zoe Ann Campbell**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott**, HR Specialist **Grace Franco**, Recruitment Coordinator **Briana Lomax-Day** and HR Generalist **Conor Bulger**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Claribel Abreu with BEDC; **A vessie M. Amedome**, **Jeffrey J. Cosack**, **George Matusick III**, **Antheya Mely** and **Gabriella Scandariato** with BWS; **David C. Camaio re**, **Carlos A. Dale**, **Dyalon D. Daley**, **Erik A. Muniz**, **Kristin Phillip**, **Patrick Pyle**, **Eric A. Scribner** and **Philton M. Weekes** with BWSO; **Eric A. Joseph**, **Ragavan Padmanathan** and **Dhaval kumar V. Vaidya** with BWT; **Alphonsine L. Ouedraogo**, **Elizabeth D. Warth** and **QingQing (Becky) Wu** with CDBG/BIB; **Jossen I. Narvaez** with CFO/OIT; **Juanita E. Perez** with OD & HR; and **Kim-Lin Ramsawak** with Sustainability.

2017 Highlights from the Watershed



The Bureau of Water Supply continued to send high-quality water to the City every minute of all 365 days last year. Here are just a few numbers to highlight 2017:

- 334 billion...total gallons of drinking water sent from the reservoirs to customers in New York City.
- 40 billion...total gallons of drinking water consumed by upstate communities that are connected to the City's water supply.
- 219 billion...gallons sent from the Delaware System.
- 143 billion...gallons sent from the Catskill System.
- 12 billion...gallons sent from the Croton System.
- 50,300...water samples collected by BWS water quality scientists, both in the watershed and in the City.
- 617,000...laboratory analyses performed on those samples by chemists, microbiologists, and other BWS staff.
- 1.2 million...water quality analyses performed by the growing network of robotic monitoring buoys in the watershed.

Out of the Archives



As the city and state have been hit with record low temperatures and below-zero wind chills this past week, it was also freezing cold exactly 69 years ago when, on Jan. 4, 1949, ice covered the flooded 40-foot wide outlet of the Downsview Dam diversion tunnel during construction. The dam now impounds the waters of Pepacton Reservoir.

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