



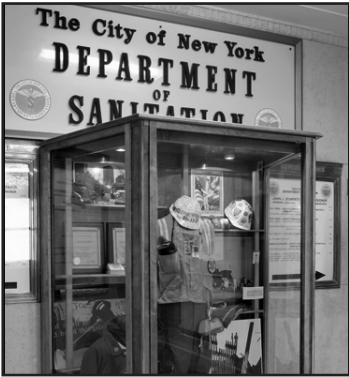
# sanitation news

Vol. 7 No. 2

[www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation)

Summer / Fall 2011

## DSNY ROLE AT WTC REMEMBERED



It was a brilliantly clear day on the East Coast of the United States. New York City's Tuesday morning routine was nothing unusual: parents taking their children to school, commuters juggling their cups of coffee and morning paper. By 8:45 a.m., those routines – and the city's heart – were shattered. That morning, there were many heroic men and women who responded to the disaster at the World Trade Center; among them

were members of the Department of Sanitation of New York City. Within hours of the attacks, hundreds of sanitation workers and officers were mobilized downtown. The streets were impassable to first responders until Sanitation vehicles cleared paths through the debris. All the heavy equipment first on the scene was brought in by the DSNY.

The weekend after the attacks, Sanitation personnel—working with mechanical brooms, flushers, and hand brooms—went through lower Manhattan block by block, curb by curb. Because of them, the New York Stock Exchange opened the following Monday, not even a week after the towers fell. Working around the clock for the next ten months, hundreds of Sanitation workers and officers were assigned to Ground Zero, but the agency's daily task of collecting household refuse and recycling was never relaxed.

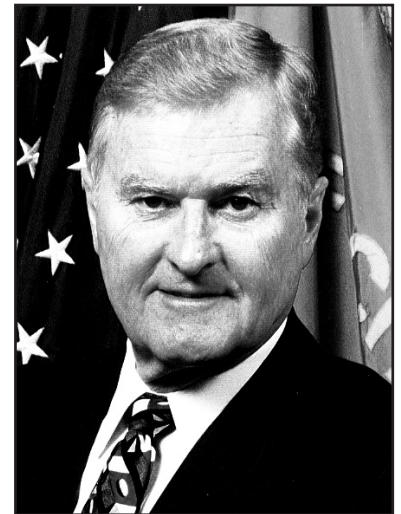
Sanitation officers at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island had a good view of the Twin Towers fourteen miles away. They watched as the buildings were hit by the two air lines and later also watched as the towers collapsed. Before the call came to ready the landfill's tallest mound, they knew the wreckage would come to them. There was nowhere else in the city big enough that could be secured for what became a ten-month criminal investigation.

The landfill, scheduled to close that year, had received its last load of trash in March of 2001, but the closure process was lengthy, and the landfill was still staffed. The first Trade Center wreckage arrived by truck just after midnight on September 12th. Vehicular transport proved slow, however, so transfer stations were used to move material to Fresh Kills by barge. They were loaded by DSNY personnel and by workers from four different companies responsible for different quadrants of Ground Zero. The barges were tugged to Fresh Kills, where a complex contingent of law enforcement agencies worked with the DSNY and with Phillips & Jordan, a private disaster relief company, to inspect, sort, and meticulously search every ounce of Trade Center material. Any recognizable object was taken as evidence or as a personal item to be returned to families. Most steel was recycled.

Today, Fresh Kills Landfill is in its final closure stages. An international design competition brought hundreds of ideas about how to transform it into the most ambitious park creation project since Central Park was built in the 1860s. Freshkills Park will include a September 11th memorial.

## COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank the hundreds of men and women of the Department – both uniformed and civilian – who coordinated efforts and worked tirelessly proving once again that Sanitation can rise to any challenge and keep the well being of the City of New York and its 8.4 million residents as its mission.



After Hurricane Irene churned its way up the East Coast and battered New York City, the eventual cleanup of the city commenced. The Department, in conjunction with OEM, FDNY, NYPD, Parks and other city agencies, began the task of returning the city back to normal after one of the hardest hitting storms in the city's history. The Department conducted many tasks to help bring the City back to normal, such as collect refuse and recycling from low-lying flood zone areas prior to the storm; turning over thousands of empty litter baskets to prevent them from becoming flying projectiles; conducting storm debris removal operations, such as clearing dozens of truck loads of beach sand from streets in the Rockaways, and collecting broken tree limbs citywide.

I have a great sense of pride in our Department. Because of your hard work and dedication to this City, Hurricane Irene proved no match for this great Department and City.

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## SANITATION HELPS CLEAN UP THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE IRENE



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DSNY FELs clearing sand blown onto the streets by the hurricane in the Rockaways section of Queens; and broken tree limbs being collected in Brooklyn, where it will be taken to a Parks Department facility for final disposal.

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## DRAMATIC SALT SPREADER CRASH AT CRS MAKES WORLD HEADLINES



One of New York's Strongest is lucky to be alive today. On August 17th, Auto Mechanic Robert Legall, Support Services, was driving a Corrections Department salt spreader in the Central Repair Shop (CRS) to have it winterized for the upcoming snow season, when the truck accidentally went halfway through the 5th floor of CRS. Hanging inside the cab of the truck for nearly an hour, Mr. Legall was rescued by FDNY and sustained no injuries except shock. CRS's wall is being repaired. The incident was featured by the news media all over the country and around the world.



## BRONX DISTRICT 4 GARAGE NAMED AFTER FALLEN SANITATION WORKER NELSON DIAZ

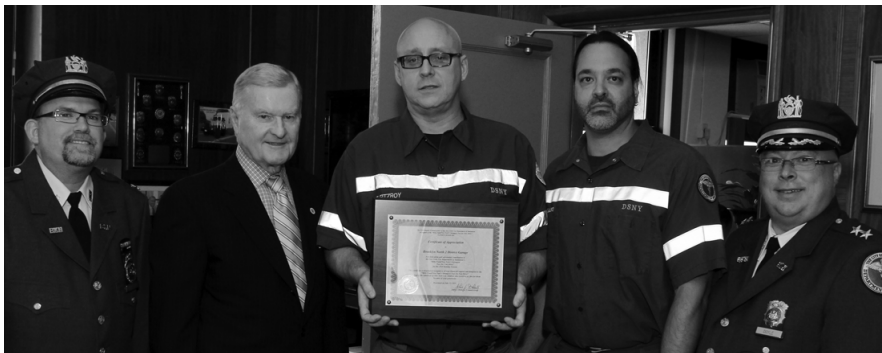


The Department renamed the Bronx District 4 Garage the “Nelson Diaz Garage” after Sanitation Worker Nelson Diaz, who died of a heart attack while collecting refuse on August 11, 2008.

“Sanitation Worker Diaz will forever be remembered not only by his family members, but also by his coworkers at Bronx District 4,” said Commissioner Doherty. “He was a 23-year veteran of the Department and he performed his daily duties of keeping our beloved city clean and safe with pride and honor. With the garage renamed in his honor, Sanitation Worker Diaz’s contributions to the Department and city will never be forgotten.”

Aside from serving the city, Sanitation Worker Diaz also served his country with valor. He was a heroic Vietnam War veteran and was awarded the prestigious Purple Heart for injuries received while serving as a tank operator in the First Cavalry Division of the United States Army.

## 2010 BILLY FUND/NY’S STRONGEST TOY DRIVE



Pictured from left to right are District Superintendent Thomas Walsh, Brooklyn North 2 District Garage, Commissioner John J. Doherty, Sanitation Worker Terrance Fitzroy, Sanitation Worker Robert DeStefano, and Assistant Chief Thomas Doyle, Brooklyn North Borough.

DSNY employees, both uniform and civilian, once again showed their kindness, generosity, and spirit of the holiday season by donating to the 2010 “Billy Fund/New York’s Strongest Toy Drive,” named after the late Billy Manzo, a Bureau of Waste Disposal employee who started the holiday drive in the 1970’s. The locations that raised the most money were: Brooklyn North 2 District Garage (\$4,000), Queens West Borough, Bureau of Waste Disposal, Brooklyn South 9 District Garage, Bronx Borough, Safety and Training, the African-American Benevolent Association, Brooklyn North 3 District Garage, Lot Cleaning Division, and the Medical Division.

## DSNY HONORED AS AGENCY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR”



Pictured from left to right are Commissioner John J. Doherty; Assistant Commissioner Ronald Blendermann, ACCO; Deputy Commissioner Robert Orlin, Legal Affairs; and Santo Cimino, Director of Compliance, ACCO.

The Department was honored as Agency Advocate of the Year at the Department of Small Business Services’ 5th Annual Citywide Procurement Fair. This honor recognized the Department for going above and beyond with outreach and transparency initiatives, as well as exemplifying leadership by taking proactive steps to strengthen the City’s M/WBE program.

## TWO DSNY MEMBERS HONORED AT DCAS CEREMONY



Deputy Chief Albert Durrell, FIAT Director, and Felicia Burch-Small, Capital Budget, recently graduated from the Department of Citywide Administrative Services’ executive development program and were honored at DCAS’ Executive Development Recognition Ceremony. Pictured from left to right are First Deputy Commissioner Bernard L. Sullivan; Felicia Burch-Small, and Deputy Chief Durrell.

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## BROOKLYN CYCLONES AND S.I. YANKEES HOST SEPARATE 'DSNY NIGHT' FOR NEW YORK'S STRONGEST



Pictured left is Commissioner Doherty at the Staten Island Yankees game, and the DSNY Emerald Society Pipes and Drums Band leading the way at the Brooklyn Cyclones game.

This summer, both the Brooklyn Cyclones and Staten Island Yankees minor league baseball teams hosted separate 'DSNY Night' for New York's Strongest. Fun, food, and baseball was had by all.

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### NEW PSA HITS THE AIRWAVES

Stacy Justich, widow of Sanitation Worker Frank Justich of Queens West 1, who was killed in the line of duty in an accident last year, recently appeared in a public service announcement for Queens Public Television to highlight the dangers Sanitation Workers encounter everyday, and to appeal to the public to "Slow down when you pass around" collection trucks. The emotional PSA also appeared on NY1 and WNYC TV.

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### Collectors Items

**Congrats...**to the Bureau of Engineering for receiving the Public Design Commission of the City of New York's 2010 Award for Excellence in Design for the construction of the salt shed at 297 West Street in Manhattan; to Brooklyn South District 14 Garage Superintendent Daniel Stine, Supervisor John Vlachich, and Supervisor Anthony Vitale, who received certificates of appreciation from Brooklyn Community Board 14; and to the Department for being number 20 on the Top 50 Corporate Teams list for the 2010 March for Babies. No other City agency came in higher than DSNY. **Happy retirement...**to Sandra McCaffrey, R.N., Medical Division, on her years of dedicated service to both the Department and the City of New York.

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### CITY COUNCIL PRESENTS AABS WITH 75th ANNIVERSARY PROCLAMATION

The Department's African American Benevolent Society (AABS) received a proclamation from the City Council celebrating their 75th anniversary as one of the oldest fraternal organizations among the City's uniformed agencies.

City Council President Christine Quinn and City Councilmember James Sanders, Jr. presented the proclamation at City Hall to AABS President Vincent Murdock, Vice President Gerard Morency, and members of the AABS Board of Directors. Among the members of the City Council in attendance was Chairperson of the Council's Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Committee Leticia James.

In the proclamation, the AABS was praised for its charitable work, strength and unity in the face of opposition, and longevity for having withstood the test of time.

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## sanitation news

is a publication of the Bureau of Public Information and Community Affairs,  
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