



## DEP Employees of the Month for October

**T**he Employee of the Month program recognizes DEP staff members that have exhibited outstanding personal effort, and have gone above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of New York City.

DEP is a great agency that delivers services that millions of New Yorkers depend on daily. Making good on that promise requires the dedication and hard work of the nearly 6,000 employees at DEP. To nominate someone who has demonstrated uncommon dedication and excellence, fill out the nomination form with some basic information, such as the nominee's responsibilities, examples of extraordinary performance, and ways candidates set an example for others. The form is available on The Source, and you'll need to submit it by the tenth day of each month. For more information, email Herb Roth at [hroth@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:hroth@dep.nyc.gov).

The Employees of the Month for October, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on November 20 with Commissioner Emily Lloyd, during which they received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> floors at Lefrak and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



### Bureau of Wastewater Treatment - **Peter Lanza**

Peter began his DEP career in October 2013 and he currently serves as a Sewage Treatment Worker at the Manhattan Pumping Station. The Pumping Station processes 400 million gallons of wastewater per day, screening and pumping flow to the Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Recently, a quick moving storm drenched sections of Lower Manhattan and North Brooklyn, which are serviced by the Newtown Creek facility. Realizing that a channel and a main sewage pump were out of service for maintenance, Peter jumped into action to guarantee that the treatment plant could handle the sudden influx of wastewater.

The rain event caused an abrupt inflow of debris, such as leaves and trash, which clogged the influent climber screens and caused the forebay to rise to an unsafe level. In addition, the increasing turbulence pushed the screen's cables outside of their tracks, making them vulnerable to damage.

Amid intense radio chatter about the unfolding situation, Peter made a split-second decision to temporarily shut down the climber screens in their safe zone as the throttled gates slowed the flow. He then manually operated the screens as the water elevation within the chamber dropped. These actions safely cleared away the debris and avoided any damage to the power cables and other equipment.

We thank Peter for his quick actions which protected public health and the environment by averting serious flooding, expensive equipment damage and preventable outage time.



### Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations - **Prabesh Adhikari**

Prabesh began his DEP career in September 2006 and currently serves as an Assistant Civil Engineer with the Site Connection Group in the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations.

His responsibilities include reviewing engineering design drawings for site connection applications and ensuring that the engineering designs meet DEP's technical and legal requirements with respect to storm and sanitary flows.

In 2015, there has been a steep increase in the number of site connection applications. Prabesh has risen to the challenge by taking on a new role as Squad Leader, in which he mentors new engineers and streamlines the application review process.

Prabesh has taken the initiative of reaching out to customers to increase their understanding of the application process and to reduce errors. He is very conscientious with respect to meeting application processing targets and improving overall customer service.

Despite his continual success in the role, Prabesh always looks for creative ways to improve his workflow and maintains his commitment to excellence by updating application forms and guidelines regularly. He is integral to improving the efficiency of the entire site connection process.



### Bureau of Police and Security - **DETA Gas Leak Response Team**

Mohamed Abdel-Aal      Peter Chen      Harry Mayer      Laurie Paul  
 Faisal Aldafari      Jeremy Heller

Earlier this year, a natural gas leak caused a valve box explosion, critically injuring a New York City employee. The Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assistance’s (DETA) Gas Leak Response Team was deployed immediately and was present on the scene for over 72 hours.

The Team partnered with Con Edison to identify several gas leaks in the area and ensure that all repairs were conducted quickly and safely. They took command of the scene and used unique testing procedures to verify that the Con Edison repairs were completed successfully and that the area was safe for citizens to return.

Despite fatigue, working under difficult conditions, and complex coordination among multiple City agencies and private sector organizations, the team achieved its mission to protect New Yorkers from a hazardous situation.

Inspired by the team’s successful efforts, the Mayor’s Office and the City’s Emergency Management agency established a Natural Gas Interagency Work Group in which DETA staff proudly serve as advisory members.

We thank the Team for their immediate response, outstanding service and dedication to DEP’s mission by protecting public health and the environment. Their expertise and collaborative efforts helped to avoid a potentially catastrophic situation.



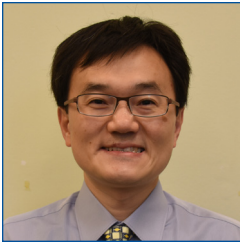
Pictured: Humberto Galan, Commissioner Lloyd, Harry Mayer

### **Good Operator Awards**

Charmaine Berry, BCS      David Wiswall, BPS      Harry Mayer, BPS      Godwin Lowe, BWS      Humberto Galan, Fleet

On November 5, DEP was honored to have five employees receive Good Operator Awards at the 2nd Vision Zero Fleets Forum at the Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. These employees, who operate fleet vehicles on a daily basis as a core part of their job, were recognized by DCAS for driving for at least five years without a preventable collision or violation and for outstanding commitment to safety and work performance.

We congratulate our colleagues for their leadership in prioritizing safe driving and serving as model representatives for the City of New York. Together, we can achieve the citywide goal of zero pedestrian fatalities.



## Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction - **Byron Chen**

Byron began his career at DEP in October 2011. He currently serves as a Computer Associate in the Bureau's Program Management Information System Unit.

Recently, he has been involved in the development of a new data management system and has provided critical feedback for lessons learned and how to best manage the Bureau's information.

Byron is responsible for reviewing and approving monthly reports, maintaining the integrity of the databases, overseeing mayoral data requests, and handling governance reporting. He has used his database skills to manage the existing system and has quickly picked up new technology to adopt into the Bureau's existing environment.

Byron has been essential in the Bureau's data management transition and has taken on a leadership role in the unit. Due to his expertise on the existing systems, and his knowledge of how they were designed, he has become integral in ensuring a smooth changeover.

Byron has been a patient, reassuring, and supportive presence in the unit. He has adapted to the constantly changing environment, helped train new employees, and has maintained the integrity of data collection, even as the new systems evolve.

His professionalism, positive attitude, reliability, willingness to take on new challenges, and his overall contributions are truly outstanding and merit this recognition.

## **Commissioner's Award for October:**



## The Organizational Development & Human Resources' Workforce Development Unit

Director Aimee Edwards

Alexandria Gibson

Briana Lomax-Day

Tasha Gonzalez

Throughout the last two years, the Organizational Development & Human Resources' Workforce Development Unit has substantially increased opportunities for DEP employees to attend training workshops and seminars. These experiences have improved the knowledge and skill set of our staff, allowing DEP to better fulfill its mission.

The Workforce Development Unit drew upon DEP's early supervisory and communication training courses to create a broadened and upgraded series of career development opportunities. The unit analyzed which competencies DEP employees needed to support the Agency's mission, and then created a customized suite of classes that enriched these specific agency needs.

These trainings included a customized "Managing for Excellence" course, a performance coaching and feedback training for supervisors, and a series of well-received basic skills development courses that cover subjects such as Action Writing and Grammar, Reasoning, Business Math, Stepping Up to Supervision, and Fundamentals of Project Management.

One of the cornerstones of this team's success is their reliance on feedback. They regularly analyze evaluations from every course to ensure that the trainings match the developing needs of DEP's workforce.

The unit has also planned and implemented the Manager's Professional Development Day at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park for the past three years, which draws over 400 managers annually. This has been an important forum to promote enterprise priorities, to inspire a shared sense of mission, and to reinforce the principles of "Managing for Excellence." Evaluations of the event have indicated overwhelming satisfaction in the value of taking the day to focus on leadership and management concerns.

The team has also worked to attract younger, diverse New York City students to the Agency. This past summer, the team championed the "Ladders for Leaders" and "Summer Youth Employment" programs to provide early exposure to DEP's vast array of careers to talented high school students enrolled in traditional and STEM programs.

All together, the various skills development courses, workshops, and internship programs have engaged well over 4,000 participants.



## Employee Experience Site Tour Drawing

At today's ceremony, the following awardees and their nominators won passes to participate in one of the upcoming [DEP Employee Experience Site Tours](#).

EOM Awardees: **Mohamed Abdel Aal, Peter Chan, Harry Mayer / Vasilios Zoumboulis** – Nominator, **Byron Chen / Ruth Douzinas** – Nominator, and **Peter Lanza / Anthony Firriolo** – Nominator

Commissioner Awardees: **Briana Lomax-Day** and **Aimee Edwards**