

# The Sit Rep

Newsletter of the NYC Office of Emergency Management

## Building Bridges, Breaking Silos: First Deputy Exchange



Engine Company 271 in Brooklyn, NY. Photo by Michael Nagel from the New York Times.

Upon Mayor Bloomberg's election to his third term, he implemented a first deputy commissioner swap as an effort to strengthen the relationships between City agencies that regularly work together.

The Mayor hoped to break down barriers between agencies and inspire new ideas among executive staff. OEM's own First Deputy Commissioner, Calvin Drayton, experienced the exchange first hand from February 22 to March 18, when he was assigned to the Fire Department.

In the same three weeks, First Deputy Police Commissioner Rafael Pineiro came to OEM and Fire's First Deputy Don Schacknai worked at the Police Department.

"I had my doubts about the program at the start. I thought this might be better suited to subject matter experts like Planning, GIS, or Communications staff. But by the end, I

understood the program's value," said Calvin.

A highlight of the assignment was experiencing an authentic firehouse meal of linguini and clam sauce and salad with FDNY's counterterrorism team at Fort Totten. What did Calvin see as the recipe for effective interagency dialogue?

Perhaps Calvin was the perfect subject for this executive trade as he found common ground at FDNY immediately. Calvin recalled rising up in the civil service ranks with Fire Commissioner Sal Cassano and saw many other familiar faces.

"I have worked with the Fire Department in the field for many years and I know their suppression and EMS operations well. What I hadn't seen was the administrative side of this large, complex agency," Calvin said.

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## Editor's Note

Summer is here and the softballs are flying. It's okay to take your eye off the ball for a minute to enjoy the summer issue of The Sit Rep. This quarter has been marked by drills and potential labor strikes, but mercifully free of major activations.

The feature story is about the First Deputy Exchange program, where OEM loaned one Calvin Drayton to the Fire Department in return for a Rafael Pineiro from the Police Department. Check out what Calvin had to say about the swap. I'll leave it to you to figure out who got the better deal.

Also within, the Legal team breaks down the dos and don'ts of NYC parks to help staff stay out of trouble this summer. I'm sure Felix appreciates the help.

Finally, the Sit Rep launched a new feature this issue called After Hours, which takes a look at the lives of OEM staff outside of the office. Turn to page four for more.

The back page features the faces from OEM Kids Day 2010. Smile back at them while you try to figure out who belongs to whom.

If you don't know about the OEM softball team, now you know. Talk to Rex Asiedu to get a spot in the batting order and join us for a catch in the sunshine.

# Building Bridges, Breaking Silos: First Deputy Exchange

*(continued from page 1)*

By viewing FDNY from the inside out, Calvin identified many avenues for improving teamwork between the agencies. For example, not only can OEM assist FDNY in the field, we can also support Fire's public relations, social media, and training efforts. In the coming months, Calvin will encourage FDNY to use OEM as a broader resource.

In his report to the Mayor, Calvin suggested regular first deputy meetings

with the Fire and Police Departments and OEM. He also sees room for more routine training and exercise collaboration. Calvin is hopeful his experience at the Fire Department will be a model for future relationship building across public safety agencies.

"Down the road OEM will continue to be an asset to Fire and other City agencies, but we need to show other agencies that OEM is more than just an incident command tool," he said.



## OEM On The Road

April 26-29, Calvin Drayton and Dina Maniotis traveled to San Diego, California, to attend "Pathways to Disaster Recovery," a FEMA conference about individual assistance. The conference gave local, state, and federal administrators an opportunity to share ideas about how to provide the best possible level of service to individuals and families affected by disasters.

## OEM Holds Court at the Long Island Emergency Management Conference

On June 3, Commissioner Bruno, Deputy Commissioner for Planning and Preparedness Kelly McKinney, and Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs Christina Farrell sat on expert panels at the New York—Long Island Emergency Management Conference in Melville, NY. Commissioner Bruno spoke about regional coordination with representatives from the state and federal government on a panel

moderated by Kelly McKinney. Christina spoke about the City's response to the H1N1 outbreak of 2010.

## OEM Builds CERT Program in Haiti

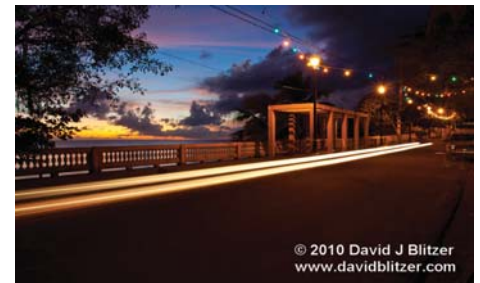
On June 5, Herman Schaffer and Christian Quintinilla, along with seven NYC firefighters and two representatives from the NYC Health Department deployed to Haiti for two weeks to help build a Community Emergency Response Team program. Check out OEM's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/nycemergencymanagement](http://www.facebook.com/nycemergencymanagement)) for updates about their trip.

## Regional Catastrophic Planning Team Awarded

On June 21, the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team for New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania will receive an honorable mention for Outstanding Regional Partnership at the 2010 National Urban Area Security Initiatives (UASI) Conference in New Orleans. The National UASI committee recognizes partnerships around the country for their contributions to planning, training, and exercises that increase homeland security.

## MILESTONES

On May 2, Dave Blitzer held his first gallery showing at 112 West 44th Street in Manhattan. Dave is a professional nautical photographer when he is not processing information in Watch Command. If you missed it, his work can also be seen at [www.davidblitzer.com](http://www.davidblitzer.com).



On May 30, Craig Bonney married Stephany Krauz at Bubby's in Brooklyn. Many of you may have enjoyed the leftover chocolate and candy hearts from the event. If you did, please sign the registry and leave a wedding gift in Craig's office.



## Legal Logic: Play It Safe In the Parks by Will Davidson and Patricia Emrich



NYC Parks Department detains a performer for a noise violation.

**A**t 11:50 PM, two friends met three acquaintances at a park in the Bronx. They began walking through the park enjoying the solitude of a cool fall evening. As they walked, they came across a police officer who asked them to walk towards him.

When they reached him, he asked for IDs and also checked the bag of one of the acquaintances who had a half-finished bottle of Captain Morgan in a plastic bag. The officer issued all five people two summons each: one for "open container" and the other for being "in park after dark."

This group had to appear in court in December. Had the group known some of the following rules they could have avoided their tickets and court date.

- City parks are open from 6 AM until 1 AM unless other hours are posted.

- In an effort to keep the parks and beaches clean and beautiful DO NOT litter—use the provided receptacles. Pick up after your dog, cat, python, or whatever other animal you prefer to walk on a leash. Properly licensed AND vaccinated dogs may be off their leashes between 9 PM and 9 AM.

- Speaking of leashes, pools are for people ONLY. Make sure your animal is leashed and stays out of the pool.

- If you want to smoke, make sure it is a legal leaf. It is illegal to possess, distribute, solicit, or consume marijuana or any controlled substance. Remember the only kind of grass allowed in the park is the kind you lie on.

- If you have to go, you must hold it! You cannot urinate or defecate in any park or on any structure within a park,

except in a facility specifically designated for such a purpose. Find a Porta Potty!

- Legal knows about tanning, so sunbathe responsibly and with some clothes on. No, just your socks are not considered enough. Like a photograph, don't be overexposed.

- There is nothing like a cold one on a warm summer's day, but consuming any alcoholic beverage in any park, playground, beach, pool, or other park property is prohibited except where specifically permitted by the Parks Commissioner. We will investigate these locations and keep you updated.

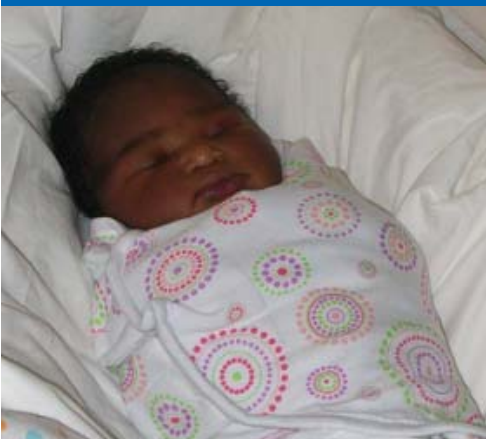
- While we all recognize the necessity of being green, allow the Parks Department to do its job. Don't plant a garden or a tree in a City park.

- Keep it down! Even though they are public, be respectful of your fellow patrons. No person shall make or cause or allow an unreasonable amount of noise to cause a public inconvenience, annoyance or harm.

- Finally, while we are all desperate to pass out Ready New York material this summer, you need a permit to do so in a City park! Amber and Keisha will not give you a Ready New York credit if you distribute without a permit.

- A full list of City park rules and regulations can be found [here](#).

## Baby Boom



Arianna Arinola Ayomide Adekoya  
5/24/2010, at 9:04 AM  
8 lbs., 11 ozs.  
Born to Hassan and Adetokunbo Adekoya

Miles Xavier Post  
6/1/2010, at 4:11 PM  
5 lbs., 15 ozs.  
Born to Amy and Andy Post



# After Hours: A Look At OEM Staff Outside the Agency

**H**ave you ever wondered what your colleagues did before they joined OEM or what they do after they leave at night? One of the reasons OEM is a great place to work is because of the interesting mix of people who make up the agency. Whether working nights as an EMT or weekends in the National Guard, OEMers stay busy in and out of the office.

*This issue focuses on two of the six former Peace Corps volunteers employed by OEM, Justin Land, who served in Dakar, Senegal from 2006-2009, and Rachel Sulaymanov, who served in Pahtakor, Uzbekistan, from 2000-2001.*

## Why did you join Peace Corps?

**JL:** The first time somebody suggested the Peace Corps I laughed. I didn't fit the stereotypical mold of a Peace Corps volunteer. Over time, however, I realized the ideals that Peace Corps stood for and the opportunities it provided were ones I believed in. Joining seemed like the right thing for me to do.

**RS:** I wanted to be a Peace Corps volunteer since I was a kid. When I was working for Congress in D.C., I felt I really needed a better perspective on the world. So I followed through on my childhood dream.

## Where did you live?

**JL:** I lived in Dakar, the capital of Senegal, with approximately 2.5 million other people, not your typical village. I lived with a host family for two years and in my own apartment during the third year.

**RS:** I was in a small town called Pahtakor which means "cotton picker" in Uzbek. The town is appropriately surrounded by cotton fields. I lived with a host family—mom, dad, and two sisters; also chickens, sheep, goats, rabbits, cats, and dogs. We didn't have running water and the electricity was spotty.

## What did you do?

**JL:** I was an urban agriculture volunteer working at the Centre Hospitalier National Universitaire de Fann, the national teaching hospital. I worked with hospital staff and patients in the infectious diseases ward,



*Kalyan Mosque in Bukhara, Uzbekistan, near Rachel Sulaymanov's village.*

HIV/AIDS Outpatient Center, and Psychiatric Ward. I taught urban agriculture, project management, and promoted alternative therapies for people living with HIV/AIDS.

**RS:** I worked as a health educator with students and women. I also received grant funding to open a resource center where people could come for information and where I could run classes. With my fellow volunteers, we began a countrywide HIV/AIDS peer-to-peer training curriculum that is still in operation.

## What did you speak?

**JL:** I spoke Wolof, the language of Senegal and the Wolof people, about 75% of the time. I also spoke French and English.

**RS:** Uzbek...sort of. Russian, eventually. And English, especially in the cities.

## What did you eat?

**JL:** Some of the best food I've ever had was in Senegal. If you can handle a lot of rice, peanut oil, and MSG, you would love the food. I have dreams about thiebou yapp (rice with meat and some vegetables), and thiére (couscous with meat and sauce followed with a concentrated milk mixture). One time I was having soup with my host family and I when I got to the bottom of the bowl a goat eye was staring back at me; I still don't know what to think about that.

**RS:** Meat, meat, meat. The food is good. The national dish is 'plov', which is a rice pilaf with meat that's traditionally cooked by the men in a huge cauldron over coals.

You can find really good Uzbek food in Brighton Beach or Rego Park. Just know that it's an honor to be offered the eyeball when you're the guest at someone's house. I pretended to be vegetarian a lot. They have 30 different types of melons that you can't top for taste anywhere in the world. My favorite was black on the outside and hot pink on the inside.

## Best memory/moment?

**JL:** The birth of Mouhamadou Hakim Land Sane on May 20, 2009 is one of the best. Holding a baby almost immediately after it is born is an incredible thing. Hakim is the son of Aliou and Fatou Sane, some of the best friends I could ever ask for. He was born less than a month before I left Senegal and after three years in Dakar, his birth was an amazing send-off. The Sanes honored our friendship by including Land in his name.

**RS:** Meeting my husband :)

## Worst memory/moment?

**JL:** Intense rioting inside and outside of Dakar's main soccer stadium in 2008 following the Senegal National Team's tie with Gambia, which eliminated them from qualifying for the 2010 World Cup. This was the only time my life has literally flashed before me.

**RS:** Being emergency evacuated after 9/11.

## Would you do it again?

**JL:** I just turned in my two weeks notice.

**RS:** Definitely... if I were 22 again.

# OEM Kid's Day 2010

Can you name them all?

