

Commissioner's Corner



Vincent Sapienza
Commissioner

This past Monday, I joined with **Mayor de Blasio**, DSNY Commissioner **Kathryn Garcia** and other city officials to release the City's Roadmap to Eliminating Childhood Lead Exposure—following a 90-day review of all agencies' policies related to lead prevention.

The LeadFreeNYC plan will—for the first time—screen every apartment for potential lead hazards, eliminate lead risks in NYCHA apartments and family shelters, target unsafe consumer goods, provide children

with dedicated nurses, and link together all City agencies responding to lead exposure.

The Roadmap's approach is twofold: prevent exposure to lead hazards in the first place, and respond quickly and comprehensively if a child has an elevated blood lead level. To protect New York City kids, the City will increase resources and support for children, parents, and healthcare providers to make sure every child under 3 is tested for lead exposure—and any child who does test positive gets the services they need.

Under LeadFreeNYC, New York City will:



- **reduce the amount of lead in paint and dust that triggers remediation and abatement** to the lowest level of any major U.S. city
- **proactively test** and remediate all lead sources in shelters
- **require annual inspections of apartments in 1- and 2-family homes** previously excluded from the City's lead paint regime
- **establish a new Lead-Free Designation** for homes where all lead has been eliminated
- **expand the use of stop work orders** from the Department of Buildings when the Health Department finds lead exposure risks during construction
- **publish a Lead Products Index** of consumer goods like spices and ceramics that contain lead, consolidating Health Department rules to protect retailers and consumers
- **ensure children are immediately provided with blood lead level testing** in any home where housing inspectors identify a lead paint hazard
- **expedite service line replacement** beginning with low-income homes
- **provide a dedicated nurse** to any child with an elevated blood lead level to coordinate care
- **reduce lead exposure risks from soil** by offering free clean topsoil to community gardens and surveying NYCHA playgrounds to cover exposed soil when needed
- **launch ad campaigns** promoting testing for children in communities with low testing rates, to raise awareness about free water testing kits provided by the City, and promoting awareness of harmful consumer products containing lead
- **test all 135,000 NYCHA apartments** where lead has not been ruled out

In addition, the City has also launched a new website, [Lead-FreeNYC](#), to provide information and guidance for parents, tenants, landlords, and all New Yorkers. The City will also hire a Citywide Lead Compliance Officer and expand an advisory board to help ensure the City stays on track to meet its goals to eliminate lead exposure in New York City.

I thank **Mayor de Blasio** and **Commissioner Garcia** for their leadership on this issue as we continue the important work of ending childhood lead exposure.

Spotlight on Safety

National Burn Awareness Week

National Burn Awareness Week will take place next week, February 3–9. This is a good time to remind employees that work areas near steam pipes, electrical arc flashes, hot machine components, fuel, and chemicals are sources for potential burn injuries. Always remain aware of your surroundings, follow safe work practices, wear proper PPE, and report hazardous conditions to Bureau EHS. If you sustain even a minor burn you should do the following:

- cool the burn with running cool (not cold) water for at least 5 minutes
- remove all jewelry, watches, rings, and clothing around

the burned area as soon as possible

- cover the burn with a sterile gauze bandage or clean cloth and wrap loosely
- seek medical attention immediately if the burn is serious, does not heal or becomes infected
- do not apply ice
- do not use home remedies on the burn
- do not break any blisters

In a situation where your life is in danger, call 911 immediately. For more information on burn safety and National Burn Awareness Week visit the [ABA 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. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Focus on the Field: Value Ambassadors for Diversity

This month, Weekly Pipeline celebrated DEP's core value of Diversity with the Value Ambassador program. As part of the program, we are highlighting four DEP employees, nominated by their peers, who through their work best represent Diversity at DEP. Over the next few months, Weekly Pipeline will continue to showcase DEP's core values.



November: Innovation



December: Support



January: Diversity



February: Service



March: Integrity



April: Sustainability



May: Transparency



June: Safety

VERONICA ANDREASSEN has been a Regional Engineer for BWS Source Water Operations in the Shokan Region for more than five years. Veronica embodies DEP's diversity value by embracing and encouraging all of those around her. In her day-to-day functions, Veronica covers a diverse set of tasks that involve interaction with staff of all backgrounds, talents, and functions. Her personality fosters a culture of inclusion and creativity that encourages staff to bring their authentic, whole selves to work every day, which leads to unstifled critical



thinking and overall mission accomplishment. Veronica was nominated by **Anna Bily** of BWS.

ADRIENNE BLANFORD, a Recruitment/Intern Coordinator for OD&HR, has been with DEP for more than 30 years. Ms. Blanford has enthusiastically served as a member of DEP's Diversity Committee for almost a decade. In this capacity, she has helped to successfully coordinate many events that celebrated and spotlighted workplace diversity and inclusion. She also demonstrates value for diversity in her artistry, as her inclusive decorations can be seen at various workplace events and around her workstation. Ms. Blanford plays a critical role in expanding DEP's employee engagement initiatives and advancing diversity and inclusion as a DEP priority. Accordingly, Ms.



Blanford's contributions to DEP and her fellow employees exemplify a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, and make her deserving of recognition as a Diversity Value Ambassador. Adrienne was nominated by **Darlene Martinez** in EEO.

JOANNE NURSE, Deputy Director of the Division of Emergency Response and Technical Assessment for the Bureau of Police and Security, has been with DEP more than 30 years. In her current role as Deputy Director, she pioneered using webinars to reach out to a diverse segment of New York businesses who are required to file with the Right-to-Know Program. Her efforts not only extend to large corporations in NYC, but she also makes a great effort to reach out to small business owners, who often don't speak English or have access to computers, to help them with their filings. Her team of multilingual personnel help small businesses file for themselves, while saving considerable expeditor



fees. This multi-faceted approach has helped the Right-to-Know Program succeed in reaching out to more than 11,000 diverse NYC businesses and facilities. Joanne was nominated by **Harry Mayer** of BPS.

VICTORIA RUBINO is an Environmental Compliance Specialist in BWSO and has been with the agency for more than four years. Vicky is a volunteer for the [Emerging Leaders Network \(ELN\)](#), a DEP affinity group focused on connecting DEP employees by hosting networking and social events. Part of ELN's mission is to foster these opportunities for all DEP employees, and with Vicky's assistance as communications liaison, she has helped to grow the membership of the group tremendously by reaching out to new and current employees. Vicky is always careful to consider everyone's ideas in the group, which has led to a wide variety of social events that appeal to a diverse group. Because Vicky pays careful attention to inclusion,



the ELN group has been very successful in attracting DEP employees from all bureaus regardless of age, ethnicity, or interests. For her dedication to diversity and inclusion Vicky was nominated as Value Ambassador for Diversity by **April O'Neil** in the Commissioner's Office.

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday 22 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Purnima Dharja with BEDC; **Curtis L. Knight** with BEPA; **Tommy Lin** with BPAC; **Jonna C. Robbins** and **Alex J. Santos** with BWS; **Desai A. Baptiste**, **Jourdan K. Betts**, **Nehemiah DeJesus**, **Andrea Gallina**, **Louis E. Greenberg**, **Thomas J. Martino**, **Timothy J. McAlpin**, **Ignacio A. Morgades**, **Matthew D. Moszczynski**, **Anthony Scollo**, **Shavon L. Small**, **Christopher T. Soriano**, **Harold P. Weidmyer** and **Anthony M. Williams** with BWSO; **Mary Montanez** with CS ; **Lana C. Yang** with Exec./EEO; and **Elizabeth D. Kelly** with Sustainability (MO).

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