

Extreme Makeover: DEP

After a whirlwind of activity over the first 10 days of January, the 19th floor of Lefrak has seen a transformation reminiscent of a reality show-type makeover. The end result is “the bullpen” which is modeled on the administrative hub in City Hall, transformed by **Mayor Bloomberg** into an open-door, transparent workplace. “It’s a great way to facilitate decision-making,” said Commissioner **Cas Holloway**. “It makes senior managers open and accessible and allows us to work in a way to make decisions and resolve things quickly.” Deputy Mayor for Operations **Edward Skyles** visited the 19th floor last Wednesday to see the renovation.

The bullpen is located in the area which used to be the Commissioner’s office, the First Deputy Commissioner’s office and the Chief of Staff’s office. The conversion of the space was possible thanks to the herculean effort required to impose



order on the logistical chaos that always comes with knocking down walls, patching ceilings, relocating switches, laying new carpet, measuring, wiring, and moving furniture in and out. By Monday morning January 11, it was move-in ready for senior management.

Oversight and implementation required a substantial collaborative effort across many bureaus and units led by Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources Administration **Zoe Ann Campbell** and her team. Architect **Scott Johnson** designed the project and the director of

(Continued on reverse side)

Spotlight on Safety

Ladder Safety

Falls account for more than 16% of workplace injuries and almost 13% of workplace deaths. Ladders are involved in many of those accidents. Here are a few tips on how to properly set up and safely work on a ladder.


How to set-up a ladder properly:

- Place ladder on a level surface; use wide boards under it if on soft ground.

- Anchor the top, and tie the bottom or have someone hold it.

How to work on a ladder safely:

- Only have one person on a ladder at a time.
- Wear shoes with clean, nonskid soles—not leather.
- Keep your own movements on a ladder slow and cautious.

For the complete list of ladder safety tips, visit Weekly Pipeline 

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 EH&S liaison how they can help. If you’ve still got questions, you can call the EH&S 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.

Commissioner’s Corner



that DEP has made in water quality and the Mayor’s proactive PlaNYC agenda to create a sustainable City.


Friday morning began at the January meeting of the Water Board where I thanked the members for their support of the DEP

Last week was another great week at DEP – much was accomplished and momentum continues to build as we look to develop ways to better serve the 9 million New Yorkers who rely on our work.

Last Wednesday, Deputy Mayor for Operations, **Ed Skyles** visited Lefrak to tour the newly renovated executive floor as well as to discuss some of the Agency’s major initiatives including progress on the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) initiative. 

The next day, Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability, **Carter Strickland** and I met with **Judith Enck**, the new EPA Region 2 administrator, and her senior team. It was a welcome opportunity to discuss our common priorities and how we can work together to achieve them. Among the topics covered were the significant investments

environmental health and safety programs and policies that enabled us to achieve the important milestone of coming off Federal probation and federal monitoring as of December 31, 2009.

Later in the day, **Matt Mahoney**, Associate Commissioner for Intergovernmental Affairs, joined me for a meeting with Borough President **James P. Molinaro** at Borough Hall in Staten Island to discuss the success of Staten Island’s Bluebelt program,  the Brookfield remediation project and ways we can work together to serve the residents of Staten Island.

I look forward to continued meetings with both our community and government partners, and working cooperatively with them in making progress on DEP’s environmental and legislative agendas.



As part of **Mayor Bloomberg’s** initiative to encourage fresh thinking, fresh energy, and closer collaboration among City Agencies, we welcome Parks Department First Deputy Commissioner **Liam Kavanaugh** to DEP. For the next 3 weeks, DC Kavanaugh will work with senior managers at Lefrak and in the field as part of the Agency’s senior management team.

DEP’s CFO, **Steve Lawitts** will serve as First Deputy Commissioner at the Schools Construction Authority.

Focus on the Field



Ed Coleman is the Acting Assistant Commissioner for Operations at the Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO). Ed is a life-long resident of Queens, and in September will have worked at DEP for 40 years. During that time he has worked in the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens, but has had projects in every borough. Ed finds his work interesting and rewarding, particularly the distribu-

tion of clean and potable water to New Yorkers, as well as ensuring that fire hydrants are in working condition; he is also involved with the sewer collection system.

Ed, who is as soft-spoken as he is tall, beams when speaking about little known marvels. "Right now," he says, "we are working on a valve survey to ensure that water pressure conforms to the borough's planned distribution system. Most people are amazed to learn that gravity is the source of energy that delivers the billion gallons of water New Yorkers use each day. It is also a significant source of the energy to transport waste water to the sewer treatment plants."

Contest to Name New Meeting Spaces at Lefrak

NAME THE BREAKOUT ROOMS AND GET A CHANCE TO SEE THE WORLD - ACCORDING TO DEP!!

The newly redesigned "Bullpen" on the 19th Floor at Lefrak also includes four new meeting spaces. All employees are invited to submit names for the new meeting spaces.

This is your chance to be creative, so start thinking and get your entry in to newsletter@dep.nyc.gov by 2/1/10.

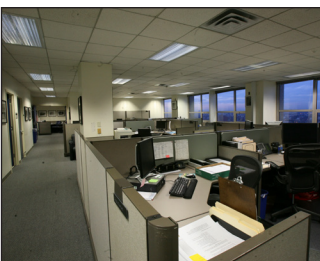
The employee whose entry is selected to name the new space will win a tour to visit a different part of the vast DEP system from the one in which they work.

So put on your thinking cap and send in your entry!

DEP: Then & Now



Then: The Commissioner's Office on the 19th Floor of Lefrak. For almost 20 years, DEP's Commissioner, First Deputy Commissioner and Chief of Staff worked in a traditional office environment: 4 walls, a desk and a door.



Now: As of January 11, 2010, the Commissioner and his senior management work in a bullpen resulting in improved communication and collaboration.

Ask Cas

askcas@dep.nyc.gov

Q. I was hired about 4 months ago as the OIT liaison to help in upgrading many aspects of BEC's HAZMAT IT infrastructure. As a new employee, I'm interested in learning about your goals for improving the information technology agency-wide. (Submitted by **Theo Xavier**, Computer Specialist, BEC)

A. Thanks for your question. Robust technology infrastructure is integral to running DEP, and my priorities are to make sure that our IT investments are advancing DEP's core mission to supply, distribute and treat more than a billion gallons of water every day. Right now, Assistant Commissioner **Cecil McMaster** and his team in OIT are focused on three key initiatives to do that: installation of Automated Meter Reading, a new Customer Information System for billing that will support Automated Meter Reading, and a new database to track capital project delivery. BEC recently implemented a new electronic filing system for asbestos projects, and we'll continue to prioritize the IT tools that we need to better serve New Yorkers.

Milestones

Best wishes to the following DEP staff on their upcoming retirements: **Carol Salli** BWSO, **Aida Molman** BWS, **Yashavant Shah** BEDC, **Pietr Sulikowski** BWT

Congratulations to **Elviro Villani**, BWSO on 49 Years of Service at DEP, and to **John Bolembach**, BWT and **Anne Whalen**, BCS for 30 Years of Service each.

(Extreme Makeover: DEP - continued)

Facilities Management Construction Services, **Sue Dennis**, was instrumental in the planning and development of the bullpen structure. Carpenter supervisor **Larry del Grosso** and supervisor of electricians **Joseph Lubrano** were the leads on the construction.

Assistant Commissioner, OIT **Cecil McMaster**, directed

his technology team -- **Keino Leitch**, Director, Networking & Telecommunications, **Michael Weinberg**, Director, Technical Support & Operations, and **Michael Shum**, Data Security Manager -- in the installation of the technology infrastructure. The project team was also assisted by **Frankie Camardella**, Bureau Administrator for the Office of the Commissioner.

Did You Know?

Did you know that the Port Richmond Wastewater Treatment plant sends its sludge through a six mile long tunnel beneath Staten Island to the Oakwood Beach plant, where the sludge is dewatered?

Earthquake Relief for Haiti Victims

Donations may be made through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, which will direct 100% of your donations to emergency relief organizations directly serving victims of the Haiti earthquake.

You can send a check or donate directly on line by visiting their website at www.nyc.gov/fund.

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