

**From:** [Strickland Jr., Carter H.](#)  
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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor  
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY

# PIPELINE

EXTRA

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## DEP Employees of the Month for November 2013

**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 November, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on December 16 with Commissioner Strickland, 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.



### Wastewater Treatment - **Marc Burgess**

Marc began his career with DEP in September 2009 and serves as a Motor Vehicle Operator in the bureau's Residuals Transportation Unit. Marc's primary job is to drive large DEP vehicles to transport grit and screenings from the treatment plants to a central processing facility. The containers that are used for this operation sustain daily wear and tear, and their decanting mechanisms require regular maintenance. Marc recently helped develop strategies to improve asset monitoring and maintenance for these containers and their dollies. The protocols he helped to initiate have improved the overall effectiveness of the Unit's maintenance and container improvement program, allowing small problems to be promptly addressed before they result in the need for more significant repairs. As a result of Marc's improvement ideas, the bureau was able to eliminate a costly repair contract.



### Environmental Compliance - **Rajeshwar Harilal**

Rajeshwar (Raj) began his DEP career in December 2006 and currently serves as an Industrial Hygienist with the Asbestos Control Program (ACP). Raj has consistently displayed his commitment to environmental health and safety. He performs critical emergency response functions including responding to 311 calls from the public about the improper removal of asbestos during the overnight hours. As a result of Raj's exemplary performance on this task, he was recently given the high profile task of overseeing the clean-up of non-friable asbestos containing shingles in the Breezy Point section of Queens. This task is a \$5 million FEMA funded clean-up project that will eliminate the threat of asbestos exposure to the public. Raj was part of the ACP staff who identified approximately 12,185 cubic yards of disaster related non-friable asbestos containing materials which was in the sand in Breezy Point as a result of Hurricane Sandy.



### Water & Sewer Operations - **Dushyant Patel**

Dushyant began his DEP career in November 1988 and serves as an Engineering Technician. Dushyant consistently is depended upon to respond to emergencies and water distribution events 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This year, he has assisted with the activation of City Water Tunnel No. 3 and in September helped to address a significant distribution pressure issue that arose on Staten Island. During the course of investigating that event, Dushyant located a significant leak in the distribution system, which prevented millions of gallons of water from being wasted.

Most recently, on the night of November 19, he was called in to assist with a water main leak on the Brooklyn side of the Staten Island siphon pipe. He was able to guide field operation forces to close appropriate valves and stop the leak. The siphon pipe had recently been reconstructed and was not yet mapped, which made it very difficult for the bureau's Field Operations forces to shut the main down. Dushyant's knowledge of the location and quick response were critical in getting the main shut down. He is knowledgeable, always prepared, and comes to work every day with a spirit of cooperation and dedication.



### Legal - **Joya Cohen**

Joya began her career with DEP in October 2011 and serves as an Agency Attorney in the Bureau of Legal Affairs. Over the summer, searching for a way to support a healthy work environment, Joya, a trained yoga instructor, began a yoga wellness program at work under the Quality of Work Life umbrella. Since July 2013, employees have been enjoying yoga sessions with Joya on Fridays from 12-1pm.

Taking a break during the workday with yoga has proven to provide many benefits including:

- improving the immune system and overall health, resulting in decreased absenteeism and illness
- increasing productivity, motivation, and work performance
- improving decision making and creativity
- improving morale, job satisfaction, and positive thinking patterns
- reducing muscle tension and pain due to sedentary working positions
- improving flexibility and physical strength

Joya provides a valuable service and has made yoga at DEP a tremendous success.



### Water Supply - **Wounded Warrior Team**

This Wounded Warrior Team took the lead in organizing a hunt on City-owned watershed land. In coordination with a local partner, The Ruffed Grouse Society, several employees, including **Paul Lenz**, **John Staby**, and **James Goodrich** (not pictured) from the Bureau of Water Supply, and **Edmund Klan**, **Tavan Novi**, and **David Wiswall** (not pictured) from the Bureau of Police and Security coordinated a two-day activity for six service veterans on November 30 and December 1. They took the initiative and devoted significant time to arrange the hunt. The hunt was successful in several ways. First, it highlighted the use of City-owned recreational resources in the watershed, an important strategic plan goal (#31) to expand recreational opportunities on City lands. In addition, we were able to support and provide an opportunity to honor our military service veterans.

## **Commissioner's Award:**



### **Air Code Team**

The Air Code Team consisting of **Russ Pecunies** and **Erin Callahan** from the Bureau of Legal of Affairs, and **Gerry Kelpin** and **Alyssa Preston** from the Bureau of Environmental Compliance, are receiving the Commissioner's Award for their tireless work revising the NYC Air Pollution Code ("Air Code").

On September 24, 2013, DEP sent a proposed update of the Air Code to the City Council which, if enacted, would be the first comprehensive revision of the Air Code in 38 years. This milestone is the culmination of years of painstaking work, and will significantly improve the City's air quality in the years to come.

Ground work for the new Air Code began in 2009 with a series of meetings with critical stakeholders to develop overarching themes that would be used as a template for the work going forward. Based on these early stakeholder meetings, in January 2011, DEP began to draft a straw proposal covering the following major topics:

1. Broader fuel types, to be more flexible
2. Allow additional fuel types by rule and require emissions testing
3. Establish discretionary and ministerial permit requirements
4. Develop new ventilation control requirements for businesses in mixed use zones
5. Add sections to limit emissions from other sectors that can adopt cost effective controls

From January 2011 until April 2012 the team engaged all major stakeholders both in the private and public sectors. This included all invested City agencies along with the Law Department. Their work culminated with a draft proposal that was presented to the Deputy Mayor. With his approval, work started on the next phase of the rewrite. For the next year, this team exhaustively revised sections and further refined details in the draft code. Ultimately, they reached a point in which a final version could be shared with the Law Department for review.

Since April 2013 until its introduction in September, this same team answered questions from stakeholders, discussed new issues, and reviewed and revised language. This process was very detail oriented and at times seemed unending. However, through their perseverance they were able to work with the Law Department to turn the draft code into a final bill, which ultimately was transmitted to the City Council. The time and effort invested in this endeavor is a testament to their dedication to DEP and to improving the environment for the citizens of this city.

This team met hundreds of times with stakeholders, spent thousands of hours over four years, in a tireless effort to meet the Mayor's PlaNYC objective of having the cleanest air of any major US city. They also fulfilled one of DEP's critical strategic goals.