

## Commissioner's Corner



Earlier this month I had the opportunity to join City Council Member **Donovan Richards** in southeast Queens to provide the community with an update on DEP's plans for stormwater management. For many decades, the commercial

and residential development of this part of the city outpaced the build-out of critical support infrastructure, including catch basins and storm sewers. As a result, many parts of the neighborhood suffer chronic roadway flooding and ponding during rain storms. DEP has been working hard to plan, design and build a comprehensive drainage system for the area, but under **Mayor de Blasio** that work got a jolt of new energy when he committed \$1.7 billion in the budget to prioritize these critical projects.

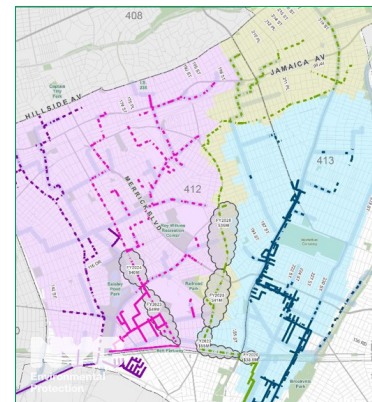
Joining me at the meeting were BWSO Acting Deputy Commissioner **Tasos Georgelis**, BWSO Director of Capital Programs **Angela DeLillo**, Sustainability Deputy Commissioner **Angela Licata** and BPAC Deputy Commis-

sioner **Eric Landau**. Together we laid out our comprehensive plan for the neighborhood, including green infrastructure, Bluebelts, trunk sewers, early-action sewer connections and public outreach and education.

We will complete the design work for roughly 200 curbside rain gardens to intercept stormwater and keep it out of the sewer system in 2017. Design work will also get underway for the installation of green infrastructure at four City parks, two City schools and two NYCHA developments. Bluebelt projects in southeast Queens will also help to manage stormwater, including Springfield Lake, Baisley Pond, Twin Ponds and Brookville Triangle.

The bulk of the funding, \$918 million, will go towards the construction of the large trunk sewer spines, including 150th Street, Guy Brewer Boulevard, Farmers Boulevard and Springfield/Laurelton. This work will take place through 18 separate projects, the first breaking ground as early as next year. In addition, dozens of standalone sewer construction projects will connect each neighborhood to the trunk sewer spines. Some of those projects have already begun, with additional shovels in the ground in 2017.

Based on reports to 311, we have also identified 50 priority grids in southeast Queens and through engineering analysis are developing specific solutions for each area. This could include a sewer



extension, regrading of the roadway, green infrastructure or private property improvements.

The thorough presentation was well received by both Council Member Richards and the community. After many years of slow but steady progress, and the anticipation of a significant acceleration of critical construction, there was a great sense of appreciation for DEP's commitment to the neighborhood.

Many thanks also to **Corinne Martin**, **Denise Hubbard**, **Frank Fontana**, **Eva Lynch** and **Bruce MacDonald** with BPAC; **Joe Negrin** with OIT; **Tom Anello**, **Milton Velez**, **Evan Pilachowski**, **Christopher Scheuer**, **Kieran Quigley** and **Jose Ramirez-Charles** with BWSO; and **Floren Poliseo**, **John McLaughlin**, **Teddy Geberemariam**, **Alan Cohn**, **Vlada Kenniff**, **Melissa Enoch** and **Mikeal Parlow** with BEPA.

## Spotlight on Safety

### EHS Accomplishments

As we approach the end of 2016, let's take a moment to reflect on some of DEP's important Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) accomplishments:

- worked with subject matter experts from different bureaus on EHS policy revisions and distributed a revised Emergency Planning Policy
- held a successful "EHS Forum" to foster professional development for on Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
- released an Active Shooter Computer Based Training to better prepare DEP employees for emergencies
- to improve efficiency and build a facility profile, implemented a new facility assessment questionnaire

- integrated the use of tablets for all EHS auditors to improve efficiency
- improved statistical analysis of audit data as a leading indicator for understanding agency-wide EHS performance
- continued to track and share EHS regulatory updates to ensure agency-wide compliance

What's coming in 2017?

- a new EHS Reporting and Investigation Policy
- revision of the EHS Continuous Improvement Policy
- a new EHS Field Handbook
- a new agency-wide system for reporting and tracking all EHS audits, incidents, near misses and unsafe conditions



From left to right; Karen Ellis, Joe Negrin, Jose Ramirez, Bruce Macdonald, Eva Lynch, Kieran Quigley, Denise Hubbard, Christopher Scheurer and Frank Fontana.

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 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [PIPELINE](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.



## DEP Holiday Spirit



Holiday party co-chairs Renee Alfieri and Kyle Simmons give their opening remarks.

DEP's holiday party held last Wednesday night at Russo's On The Bay, in Howard Beach, Queens, was a bash to remember. Approximately 230 people attended the gala, which was organized by the Quality of Work Life Committee. After some brief words by Acting Commissioner **Vincent Sapienza**, attendees dined and danced the night away as they welcomed the holiday season and looked back on a successful 2016. Current staffers, former colleagues, and retired employees mingled among friends, both old and new, as they swapped stories about life and the agency. Special thanks to **Renee Alfieri** (OD&HR Director of Employee Engagement) and **Kyle Simmons** (President, Local 924), who were the co-chairs of the holiday party and their team of committee members, including **Marcia Jones**, **Andrea Shivcharran**, **Wanda Roldan**, **Kevin Goyette**, **Kim Vann**, **Lisa Polimine** and **Lenora Smith**. Please forward any photos from the party that you wish to share to [AAllen@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:AAllen@dep.nyc.gov) by tomorrow for inclusion in the photo gallery that will soon be placed on [The Source](#).

## Fight Off Holiday Stress

A note from **Kaitlyn Maceira**, LMHC, CASAC, with the NYC Employee Assistance Program (NYC EAP).

I'm not sure if it's because life has seemed extra busy lately or that my mind is somewhere else, but 2017 has really snuck up on me. The good thing about this absent-mindedness is that I haven't had time to feel the annual "old year out, New Year in" stress, that is, of course, until I realized I hadn't realized it! Nevertheless, no matter how on the ball we are: when our resolutions are set or our parties are booked, the holiday season is notorious for overwhelming stress and time consuming tasks. But this year, I have a new task for you: the New York City EAP wants you to fight off stress by doing less! Your life still goes on during the holidays so make sure you continue to stick to your daily routine. Don't take on more than you can handle and don't forget

to prioritize you! If your daily routine includes meditation, exercise or just walking rather than using public transportation, stick with it. Exercise gives you endorphins and endorphins make you happy. Try to keep an open, positive outlook on 2017. The holidays and the New Year can be difficult times for many, and if old traditions bring on sadness and grief over lost loved ones, try something new. Make a new tradition, maybe one that pays it forward and helps others. That way, your new tradition can be done in honor of those that are gone by giving to those that are here. However you de-stress while 2016 comes to an end, keep it happy, healthy and kind. And remember, if you or a loved one is in need of support or information, free and confidential problem solving services are available at NYC EAP. Contact us by phone at (212) 306-7660 or email at [eap@olr.nyc.gov](mailto:eap@olr.nyc.gov).

## Blood Drive Hits A Milestone



Congratulations to **Alexandria Gibson**, who works in OD&HR's Workforce Development & Training, on being DEP's 23,000th donor to the New York Blood Center. The milestone, covering DEP's involvement with the Blood Center since 2000, was hit on the afternoon of Dec. 8 when Alex stopped by Lefrak's 6th Floor Training Room to donate. In recognition of the achievement, she received a gift basket with an array of goodies including gift cards and swag from the New York Blood Center and DEP. Overall, DEP employees provided the New York Blood Center with 539 pints during the December blood drive, and our total for 2016 was 2,126 pints! Thanks to Alex and everyone else who made a difference by generously donating blood.

## Working On The Holidays



Maintaining and protecting DEP's vast network of infrastructure, keeping the high-quality drinking water flowing, making emergency repairs, and treating wastewater are all 24-hour jobs—even during the holidays. A hearty thank you to the agency's employees that worked this past weekend in order to better serve the residents of New York City. Your around-the-clock efforts are greatly appreciated! To view a short thank you [video](#), click the photo above.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**