



sanitation

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CONTACT: pressoffice@dsny.nyc.gov

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NYC Sanitation Holds First Socially Distanced Awards for Excellence Ceremony

Uniformed and Civilian Employees Recognized for Heroic Deeds and Professional Achievements in 2020

The NYC Department of Sanitation today recognized employees for heroic deeds and professional achievement at its annual Awards for Excellence ceremony. To be mindful of safety, this year's ceremony recognized employees in an online format, with honorees across the city meeting virtually for the event.

"Celebrating our successes from 2020 is a great way to begin 2021," said Sanitation Commissioner Edward Grayson. "These Awards for Excellence honor the truly outstanding work by our employees. Especially in crisis, the Department of Sanitation pulls together. Our units work together, and our Department gets stronger. I know that no matter what we face during these winter months – blizzards or the changing streetscape – we will succeed."

The Department presented **Medals of Valor** to employees who have gone beyond the call of duty to help someone in need. Medals of Valor were presented to employees for heroic actions such as rescuing a nearly drowning woman, helping coworkers suffering acute medical issues, helping utility workers involved in an underground gas line explosion, helping the victim of an assault, and helping apprehend people involved in a quality-of-life issue who turned out to be wanted for armed robbery/burglary and a murder suspect.

The annual awards also include **Sanitation Crew of the Year, Supervisors of the Year, Superintendents of the Year, Sanitation Enforcement Employee of the Year, and Civilians of the Year**. These employees were responsible for work such as securing PPE; bridging the gap between technology and real in-the-field situations; and ensuring employees could continue to perform their public service by quickly establishing a teleworking structure, among other accomplishments.

The Department bestowed the **Awards for Excellence** in seven categories, including:

- The **Award for Excellence in Sustainability** was presented to an employee responsible for earning nearly \$100 million in grants for the Department's environmental work.
- The **Award for Excellence in Innovation** was presented to a Superintendent who reorganized Supervisor staffing that overhauled the Department's previous system.
- The **Award for Public Engagement** was presented to three employees who worked to

educate the next generation by building enthusiasm among students for DSNY programs, and explaining the Department's essential services.

- The **Award for Managerial Excellence** was presented to the Chief of Mechanics who successfully managed teams of tradespeople and has technical expertise that ensured transfer stations open on time and operate efficiently.
- The **Award for Excellence in Advancing Safety** was presented to a group from the Bureau of Information Technology who lead a multi-agency safety initiative and created a process to inspect for lead exposure in housing developments and track remediation.
- The **Award for Excellence in Snow or Emergency Response** honored Department units whose outstanding work allowed DSNY, and the City, to succeed during historic 2020 challenges. The honored groups include: the Health Care Facility; Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Human Resources; the Bureau of Information Technology's Desktop Team and Wireless Team; Fiscal Services; the Customer Service Unit; the Carpenters Team, the Custodial Staff, and the Clean Fuels Technology Division with the Training Unit from Support Services; the Enforcement Unit; Collection Operations; the Lot Cleaning Unit; and the Administration team of the Bureau of Cleaning and Collection.
- The **Humanitarian Award** recognized Sanitation employees who were reassigned to efforts to keep New Yorkers from going hungry due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, GetFoodNYC and the City's Grab and Go meal program have distributed nearly 200 million meals to New Yorkers. Teams recognized for this award include: the Bureau of Recycling and Sustainability; the Bureau of Legal Affairs; the ACCO's Office; Enforcement; the Bureau of Public Affairs; and the Bureau of Information Technology.

Finally, the Department presented the **Award for Distinguished Public Servant** to two long-time employees who have dedicated their career to serving others. The Department's Deputy Director in the Personnel Management Division, who has served for 38 years, had a crucial role in developing the Department's civilian workforce. The second, an employee in the Department's Payroll Unit has served for 40 years, preparing paychecks for distribution and built a system that enabled distribution during COVID.

About the New York City Department of Sanitation

The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) keeps New York City healthy, safe and clean by collecting, recycling and disposing of waste, cleaning streets and vacant lots, and clearing snow and ice. The Department operates 59 district garages and manages a fleet of more than 2,000 rear-loading collection trucks, 450 mechanical brooms and 705 salt spreaders. The Department clears litter, snow and ice from approximately 6,500 miles of City streets and removes debris from vacant lots as well as abandoned vehicles from City streets.