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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter Strickland, Commissioner

WEEKLY PIPELINE EXTRA

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DEP Employees of the Month for December 2013

The 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 daily 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 Pipeline, 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.

The Employees of the Month for December, featured in this Weekly Pipeline Extra edition, were honored at a breakfast on January 31 with Commissioner Strickland, received a certificate, and had their names added to the Employee of the Month Board on the 3rd and 19th floors at Lefrak and at the Kingston Office. These men and women set a standard for all of us to emulate and appreciate.



Water and Sewer Operations - Luis Baerga

Luis began his career with DEP in April, 1975. He has been with the Bureau's Field Operations Division for 35 years and has a wealth of knowledge about sewer maintenance in Manhattan, Queens, and Brooklyn. Luis is currently tasked with investigating chronic sewer back up locations, or Hot Zones, in South Brooklyn. Hot Zone investigations can be extremely complex and Luis has developed invaluable step by step resolution instructions that have helped his team reduce response and completion times.



Environmental Planning and Analysis - Alan Cohn

Alan began his career with DEP in June, 2009 and is the resident in-house expert on climatic conditions. His responsibilities include directing the Department's multi-million dollar contract to study the effects of climate change and population growth on the city's wastewater and drainage systems. As part of this project, Alan has led the collection of data and provides detailed risk assessments and evaluations of various strategies used around the world. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Alan was also charged with representing DEP in the development of the city's Special Initiative for Rebuilding and Resiliency. This latter effort is an inter-agency effort being led by the New York City Economic Development Corporation and the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability.

Alan has demonstrated tremendous expertise in conveying complex meteorological and scientific data to laypeople both inside and outside the Department and he often coordinates data and informational exchanges with colleagues from around the world as part of climate resiliency planning efforts.



Facilities Management & Construction - **Karen Murphy**

Karen joined DEP in September, 2007 and serves as a Staff Analyst I for the Archives. Karen has a deep passion for DEP's mission and an innate ability to create order out of chaos, both of which make her the perfect person to both preserve and provide access to the agency's historical records. After Hurricane Sandy hit the region, Karen rolled up her sleeves and worked to organize and label records that had been damaged at the Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Plant. She identified document recovery vendors, sought input from the NY State Archives and recommended the best options for restoring the records. Karen also plans and directs inventory projects which have included the Board of Water Supply construction design computations, engineering subject files, and Water Supply working drawings. She also created a database to manage the Catskill and Delaware era construction photographs that number in the thousands. Karen diligently responds to information requests by doing extensive research and getting the records scanned and out to users. Her work supports important DEP projects such as the Delaware Aqueduct repair. She also has developed important guidelines including Document Security Policies, Scanning Guidelines and a DEP Archive Disaster Recovery Plan.



Water Supply - **Michael Reid**

Michael began his career with DEP in September, 2003. Recently, he was tasked with the development of an Animal Waste Composting Facility on DEP property for the disposal of animals that are collected under the trapping program related to the Hillview Administrative Order. Michael independently researched the State registration process and worked with the Bureau's Operations staff to develop a composting site which was approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in July, 2011. In addition to taking the lead on coordinating with DEC, Michael works effectively with West of Hudson Operations staff in conducting site visits and "tool box" training sessions with Operations personnel to ensure proper use of the facility.



Wastewater Treatment - **Roger Alava and Matthew Berardi**

Roger Alava and Matthew Berardi are both Sewage Treatment Workers. Roger started his career with DEP in June, 2006 and Matthew in December 2010. This past fall, the Bureau conducted an extensive six-week Sewage Treatment Worker Orientation Training program for 72 new employees. This was the largest orientation program that the Bureau has undertaken to date! The training program covered specific topics including pipe fitting and repair, pump theory, operational techniques and occupational health and safety principles. Roger, who works in Collections Facility North and Matthew, who works at a wastewater treatment plant, agreed to spend most of the month of December sharing their skills, knowledge and expertise with these new employees. Both Roger and Matthew made sure that their new colleagues were thoroughly prepared and ready for duty.

Commissioner's Award:



Water Supply - BEC Air Team

The Bureau of Environmental Compliance's Air and Noise Enforcement Unit is responsible for administering the city's air pollution and noise codes. Hurricane Sandy's record storm surge flooded many buildings in lower Manhattan and damaged their electrical and heating units. With temperatures dropping it was important to bring in portable generators and boilers to provide the buildings and their residents with heat and electricity. However, these generators run on diesel fuel and produced a new source of localized air pollution. BEC's Enforcement Unit quickly deployed throughout lower Manhattan and in less than two days inspected the equipment at 142 locations to make sure it was operating properly and inventoried it for future inspections. Thereafter, in order to maintain compliance with all applicable air pollution codes, members of the Enforcement Unit monitored the equipment regularly to ensure compliance.

Thanks to their efforts the following Air and Noise Enforcement Unit employees are being recognized for their outstanding service:

Joseph Acosta, Jean Belizaire, Anthony Benino, August Buffa, Jr., Hossein Hajari, John Hernandez, Oscar Hodgson, Mohammed Khokhar, Junior Lewis, Olurotimi Onabanjo, Joseph Scafidi, Curt Simon, Michael Venable and Olga Zubkova.