



sanitation news online

November 2014

Commissioner's Column



On Monday, November 10, the Department will begin night plow operations for the 2014-2015 winter season. As I have told many of you, the men and women of the Department of Sanitation are the first of the first responders during winter weather. Without our tireless effort, the Police and Fire departments would not be able to respond to life-threatening emergencies and activity in the City would grind to a halt. In years past, I have greatly admired the work that the Department has done to keep New Yorkers safe during snow, and I am proud to lead the Department into the 2014-2015 snow season.

This year, we have two exciting new initiatives that I hope will further improve our snow fighting operations. First, we have redesigned snow routes in 18 districts across the City, including all of Staten Island and Manhattan. The sectoring initiative will

improve the effectiveness of our snow fighting operations by cutting the amount of overlapping mileage between routes. The new sector routes also enable us to assign resources to both critical and sector routes early in the storm, providing quicker, more effective service for residents of formerly secondary and tertiary roadways.

Second, we have installed new automated vehicle location (AVL) devices on all pieces of snow equipment used by the Department and by our sister agencies. Along with the new BladeRunner application, the new AVL devices will improve our ability to track and manage resources in near real-time. We have also made updates to the PlowNYC site to better communicate with the public.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate the importance of safety in everything we do. My top priority is to make sure that our men and women come home safely at the end of each day, and that we are keeping the safety of the public at the front of our minds as we do our work. I am confident that we are well prepared to take on the upcoming winter season.

Kathryn Garcia

Welcome First Deputy Commissioner Diggins

Commissioner Garcia has named **Dennis Diggins** as the next First Deputy Commissioner for the New York City Department of Sanitation.

FDC Diggins has worked for DSNY for more than 30 years, starting his career as a Sanitation Worker in Brooklyn. Before becoming FDC, he served DSNY as Deputy Commissioner for Solid Waste Management, where he was responsible for waste disposal and the implementation of the City's comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. FDC Diggins has also served as the Director of the Bureau of Waste Disposal.



"I am confident that under his leadership, the Department's uniformed forces will be positioned to meet and exceed the high expectation New Yorkers have for sanitation and snow-fighting services," Commissioner Garcia said.

Congratulations FDC Diggins on your very well deserved promotion.

Faces of DSNY: Every Employee Matters



DSNY strives to create a work environment which is inclusive of all our employees. This video, by **Jennifer Jones** and the **DSNY Office of Equal Employment Opportunity**, highlights not only the diversity of our workforce, but also the many job titles represented within our Department. Click [here](#) to view the video.

Safety Reminder

SPEED LIMIT 25	On all roadways in the five boroughs, except where a lower speed limit is posted
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SPEED LIMIT 5	At all private transfer stations when entering, exiting, or inside the facility
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Minimum SPEED LIMITS	DSNY trucks travelling on highways should maintain a speed between the posted minimum and the allowable limit
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Ebola Precautions

With the recent Ebola diagnosis in the City, DSNY worked to ensure continued safe conditions for our workforce. Commissioner Garcia met with Local 831 President Harry Nespoli as well as his independent medical expert. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene determined that there is **no risk of infection** involved in collecting refuse or recycling from the patient's address that was included in the trash prior to his becoming symptomatic. Any waste left in the apartment from the day of transport to the hospital was treated as medical waste and handled by a specialized hazardous materials contractor.

In the future, DSNY will require that the waste from a residential building where a confirmed Ebola patient lived be held for at least 24 hours before pickup. This will add an additional measure of protection, as any material would become non-infectious. Out of an abundance of caution, DSNY will also provide face shields and gloves to employees servicing the location of a known Ebola patient.

Employees who may have additional concerns may call 212-437-4878 and a nurse at the DSNY Health Care Facility will be available to answer any questions.

Columbus Day Parade



Commissioner Garcia acted as an Honorary Marshall for the 70th Annual Columbus Day Parade.

Collector's Items

- Wish a fond farewell to long-serving Chief Engineer **Danny Walsh**. We wish him all the best on his upcoming retirement later this month. Thank you Danny for your service.
- The **Emerald Society's** General Meeting will feature guest speaker Harry Nespoli, Thursday, November 20th, at 7 p.m. at the Kowalinski Post in Queens.
- The **African American Benevolent Society's** 79th Annual Dinner Dance is Saturday, November 22nd, at Antun's in Queens.
- It's **Flu Season!** Get your flu shot at a participating pharmacies or by one of 36 Emblem Health Advantage locations across the five boroughs. Keep an eye out for more information.

DSNY in the News...



The latest installment of NY1's "How New York City Works" featured the city's recycling programs. To view the video, click [here](#).

Welcome and Congratulations



DSNY recently held a Environmental Police Officers, Sanitation Police award ceremony to recognize its newest Enforcement Agents new to DSNY, along with more than 100 DSNY employees who received promotions. Medals of Honor and Distinguished Service Certificates were awarded.

Dennis Diggins, First Deputy Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for Recycling and Sustainability Bridget Anderson received their oaths of office. Also in attendance were more than 400 Sanitation Workers,

Officers, Sanitation Police Officers and Sanitation Enforcement Agents new to DSNY, along with more than 100 DSNY employees promoted into new positions, including Chiefs, Supervisors, Environmental Police Lieutenants, Sanitation Police Lieutenants and Enforcement Sergeants.

Photos from the event may be found [here](#).

A Very DSNY Halloween

Sanitation Worker Charles Pannell of Brooklyn North District 5 made this amazing Sanitation Truck Halloween costume for his son, Connor. We hope he "picked up" lots of treats!

