



# sanitation news

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## COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE

**T**hese past few months, this Department has shown compassion and true professionalism toward events that extend beyond our normal day-to-day duties. First, the efforts of all who coordinated and participated in the emotional funeral and Mass for baby Destiny Hope, the newborn found by BK3 workers in the trash, really captured the 'heart' of New York's Strongest and made me extremely proud to say that I am a part of this great organization.

Secondly, the men and women of this Department made the City shine during the Republican National Convention. Despite the strict security, you were able to keep the safety zone around Madison Square Garden free from trash, garbage and commercial waste, thereby showing the world that New York can provide everyone with a clean, safe, and healthy environment. Furthermore, we continued to provide our daily cleaning and collection services without interruption citywide. Mayor Bloomberg recognized and applauded your efforts.

This has been a time of emotion and triumph for our Department and I would like to thank you all for your dedication and diligence in serving this City.

*Congratulations and keep up the great work!*



**JOHN J. DOHERTY**  
Commissioner

## DSNY 2003 Employees of the Year Annual Winners

The Annual Employee of the Year winners for calendar year 2003 were selected from among the 68 Quarterly Award winners for taking exceptional pride in the performance of their duties. Each winner unselfishly placed the needs of the Department before their own. They serve as great role models of what truly dedicated employees should be. For their outstanding efforts, they were awarded an engraved plaque, a certificate signed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Sanitation Commissioner John J. Doherty, and a check for \$500 from the Sanitation Employees Community Fund.

The 2003 Annual Award Winners were:

- General Superintendent I, Gary Ruffino, Bronx 1
- Supervisor Carlos Ramos, Manhattan 4
- Sanitation Worker Marcos Ramos, Bronx 5
- Sanitation Worker Juan Rivera, Bronx 5
- Madelynn Liguori, Agency Attorney I, Bureau of Legal Affairs

## BABY 'DESTINY HOPE' CONTINUES TO TOUCH THE HEARTS OF NEW YORKERS

### *A Letter from a grateful New Yorker*

*Dear Commissioner Doherty:*

In these days of one "Bad News" story after another, what I saw on TV the other day was one of the most heart warming in a heck of a long time.

I'm referring to your workers having a religious service for the "Garbage Can" baby and a decent funeral after a turn out of your workers – rivaling one for a prominent socialite or a politician.

I know your workers supplied the money to give this poor child a decent burial on her way to Heaven.

I wish I could thank all of your workers personally, but the best I can do is ask God's blessing on your "Wonderful Sanitation Workers."

Sincerely,  
John E. Fleming



### Sanitation's Sleek Garage Design Wins Art Commission's Award of Excellence

The Art Commission of the City of New York presented an Excellence in Design Award to DSNY's Michael Freidlander and staff, for their sleek and modern design of the new Queens East District 14 Garage and Salt Shed to be built at Alameda Ave. and Beach 51st St., Far Rockaway, Queens. The award was presented at the 22nd Annual Awards for Excellence gala at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

The new 75,000 square foot Queens 14 garage will provide accommodations for climate-sensitive vehicles, offices, personnel space, truck washing, snow plow mounting, vehicle repair and maintenance. The front façade consists of a sleek curved glass curtain wall with both clear and shimmering shadowbox and spandrel glass bands atop a limestone base. A double open-ended salt shed will allow two loading operations to simultaneously access the 10,000 tons of rock salt. The salt shed will be constructed using a translucent fabric structure atop cast concrete push-walls. When lit at night during snow operations, the translucent fabric shell will glow and appear to hover over the salt.

The Art Commission was established in 1898 as the City's design review agency. The Commission reviews and approves works of art and architecture on City-owned property.



### MARNI AARON: SANITATION'S IRON-WOMAN

Sanitation's "Strongest" aren't only on the streets of New York collecting garbage and cleaning the streets. Marni Aaron, Deputy Director of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling, recently participated in a triathlon - - swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles, and running 26.2 miles at the Lake Placid Ironman competition. Marni started with the Department in 1990 working in Community Outreach. She left in 1991 to attend graduate school, and returned in 1998.

Marni, 39, began training for this event two years ago and said it took total commitment for her to complete her conquest. Working out seemed more of a second job, as she was attending the gym before and after her full-time job with the Department. Marni said she exercised seven days a week and on weekends eight hours each day. From running eight to 15 miles twice a week, to biking one to three hours three times a week, Marni exhibits the strength and endurance of some of our well-toned Sanitation Workers.

Crossing the finish line in 14 hours and 27 minutes was something she will never forget. "People on the sidelines cheering you on, who don't even know your name, as you cross the finish line will be a lifelong memory of mine. It was the greatest part of the whole experience," she said.

Well done, Marni! What a fantastic representation for "New York's Strongest."

### DSNY OATHS OF OFFICE

Over the summer, Commissioner Doherty administered the Oaths of Office to a total of 23 uniformed General Superintendents in various supervisory ranks, as well as 410 new Sanitation Workers.

The promotees were:

**General Superintendent III**  
Patrick Collins

**General Superintendent II**  
Raymond Haywood

**General Superintendent I**  
Vincent Allard  
Anthony Bergen  
Patrick Bolger  
Joseph Bugliaro  
Robert Callahan  
Vincent Caruso  
Charles Casillo

Charles DiGiacomo  
William Doak  
Gian Fatuzzo  
John Ferner  
Wilfredo Gomez  
Michael Gonzalez  
Dennis Hyde  
Michael Lorenzo  
Mathew Malloy  
David Palmentiero  
Anthony Pasquale, Jr.  
James Quinn  
Thomas Walsh  
Thomas Walz

# MEDALS OF HONOR

During the Department's Annual Awards Ceremony for calendar year 2003, several well deserving Sanitation employees were presented with Medals of Honor for their courage and Meritorious Action. The highest, the Gold Medal of Honor, is a prestigious medal given to employees who clearly risk their own physical safety to come to the aid of another employee or human being. Described below are the 2003 winners of this admirable award and their heroic tales:

**Sanitation Workers James McFarlane and Steven Mincelli, Queens West District 5** - As they were beginning their lunch break from their recycling collection duties, they noticed smoke coming from a two-family home in Queens. SW Mincelli ran up the porch steps to attempt to open the door, but the knob came off in his hand. Thinking quickly, he spotted a plastic flower pot and threw it through the window. His partner, SW McFarlane, then dove through the window with SW Mincelli following close behind. Once inside, they searched the building as flames erupted on the second floor. They saw a very nervous dog on the first floor that SW Mincelli scooped up and handed to SW McFarlane. While searching the basement, the two Sanitation Workers found a nineteen year-old girl asleep. They awoke the girl and told her of the impending danger, reassuring her that they would lead her safely outside. After a brief statement to the police and the Fire Department, the Sanitation Workers completed their route without a break.

**Sanitation Workers Charles Judge and William Ruocco, Queens West District 6** - While on collection duty, Sanitation Workers Judge and Ruocco smelled smoke and saw flames coming from a nearby three-family house. Stopping the truck, they ran up to the house and attempted to enter, but the flames kept them back. They saw Mrs. Madona Rosenfeld on the smoldering roof of her home. She had crawled out of her window and onto the roof to avoid the flames inside the house. People in the neighborhood did not react to the emergency. Thinking quickly, Sanitation Workers Judge and Ruocco got a ladder from a house. They climbed the ladder and guided Mrs. Rosenfeld down to safety.

**Sanitation Workers William Whalen and Steven Urcinoli, Staten Island District 1** - While on collection duty, Sanitation Workers William Whalen and Steven Urcinoli observed flames shooting out of the window of a three-family home. Immediately, they stopped their truck, kicked down the door, and ran inside to tell the people to get out. Unbeknown to Mrs. Pietromonico, who lived next door, the fire had begun to spread. The Sanitation Workers urged Mrs. Pietromonico to come out but she had two infant children and a parrot that she could not leave behind. Without hesitation, Sanitation Workers Whalen and Urcinoli went into the house and assisted Mrs. Pietromonico to gather up the two infants and the pet and led them all to safety. Shortly, afterward both houses were consumed in flames.

Silver and Bronze Medals of Honor and Distinguished Service Certificates were also awarded to those Department employees who clearly went beyond the call of duty to assist other employees or human beings. Those awarded were:

## **Silver Medals of Honor**

Sanitation Worker Damian Harris, Manhattan 12  
Sanitation Worker Desmond McNamee, Manhattan 2

## **Bronze Medals of Honor**

Sanitation Worker Joseph Carannante, Staten Island 1  
Sanitation Worker William Smedman, Staten Island 1  
Sanitation Worker Joseph Federici, Queens West 1  
Sanitation Worker James Padula, Queens West 1

## **Distinguished Service Certificates**

Lieutenant Anthony Colaianni  
S.P.O. Angelo Gentile  
S.P.O. Hector Vasquez  
S.P.O. Thomas Gee  
Supervisor Norman Caridi, Brooklyn South 6  
Sanitation Worker Darren Dinkins, Manhattan 2



Commissioner Doherty with  
Sanitation Workers James McFarlane and Steven Mincelli



Commissioner Doherty with  
Sanitation Worker Steven Urcinoli



Commissioner Doherty with  
Sanitation Workers Charles Judge and William Ruocco

# Collector's Items

**Our Condolences . . .** To the families of Sanitation Workers Francis Hopkins and Al Parra; former Director of Motor Equipment for BME Operations Richard Vela; Supervisor Herbert Duquesnay; and retired Sanitation Police Sergeant Robert J. Lauria. Also, our condolences to Chief Russ Taormina, President of the Chiefs Association, on the loss of his father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. **Our apologies . . .** To Harshad Shah for misidentifying him in the last newsletter. Harshad Shah, the Director of Engineering Audits, lost his son, Samir Shah. Once again, we offer our sincerest condolences on your loss. **Best wishes . . .** to Sanitation Worker Jason Falconer of Manhattan 2 and Deputy Chief Gary Falconer of Brooklyn North who respectively became father and grandfather to a baby boy, Jason, on September 22, 2004. We wish you the best! **Congratulations . . .** To all involved for the Scorecard for FY '04. The citywide 89.8 percent acceptably clean rating is the highest ever with no section below 67. Remember, for FY '05, the section target has been raised to 70. Keep up the great work! **Kudos. . .** To Sanitation Police Officer Louie LaTorre who carried the Athens-bound Olympic Torch from 62<sup>nd</sup> St. to Myrtle Ave in Queens. You made us proud! **Great job. . .** The DSNY's Pipe and Drum Band received a certificate of appreciation from the Cooley's Anemia Foundation for their participation at the Annual Queens Chapter Football Classic and for their financial support. **Author! . . .** To Sanitation Worker Anthony Cardieri, SI 2, on the release of his novel, "Our Own Worst Enemy," available for order online at [www.1stbooks.com](http://www.1stbooks.com). We commend you on this outstanding accomplishment. Good luck with all your future literary endeavors!! **Way to go! . . .** The Manhattan 8 Golf Outing raised \$20,965 for the Ronald McDonald House of New York.



The money will help fund numerous programs for the parents and children served by this organization. **Fast tracks. . .** The DSNY would like to congratulate all of those who participated in the Michael Hanley Memorial Run. Sanitation Worker James McFarlane, Queens West 5, was the fastest DSNY male runner completing the 3.1 mile run in 20:00 minutes flat. Sanitation Worker Pauline Perry, OCO, was the fastest DSNY female employee completing the same run in 25:07 minutes. (See Photo left) **FYI. . .** For those wishing to contact the Equal Employment Office, please note their new phone numbers: Fernando L. Camacho, Director – (917) 237-5212; Teresa Neal, Deputy Director – (917) 237-5213; Eduardo Camarano, Investigator – (917) 237-5208; and Chuck McCarthy, Executive Coordinator for Training and Development. **Thank you. . .** To all those who coordinated and participated in the emotional



## "Queer Eye" Cleans up Sanit Guy

Deputy Chief Al Durrell, Bureau of Cleaning, recently appeared on the critically acclaimed television show "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" on the Bravo network. The Fab Five decided that Chief Durrell had committed all his time to maintaining the City's cleanliness, and had overlooked himself and his apartment. From completely transforming his home, giving him a make-over lesson, to teaching him how to wine and dine his leading lady, the Fab Five swept away and recycled the image of this DSNY Deputy Chief.

funeral and Mass for "Destiny Hope," the baby found by BK 3 workers in the trash. The love and compassion exhibited by this Department, especially Sanitation Worker Fredrick Johns, BK 3, who spearheaded the collection of funds for Destiny Hope's funeral, makes us extremely proud to say we are a part of this organization. Thank you all for your love, kindness, and support and for dutifully honoring the short life of Destiny Hope.

## sanitation news

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**Vito A. Turso**  
Deputy Commissioner

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