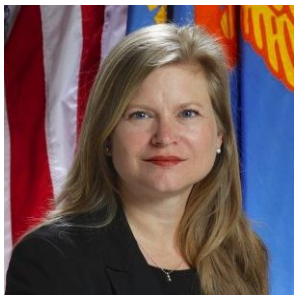
sanitation news online

January 2015

Commissioner's Column



First, I would like to wish a very Happy New Year to everyone in the Sanitation family. I know that 2015 is going to be an exciting time at the Department. As with all New Years, DSNY was the first out of the gate, cleaning up the 48 tons of confetti and party leftovers from the one million spectators at Times Square. I invite you to view pictures and video of your colleagues getting the job done on that cold night.

Sanitation has already made a number of exciting new changes in the first few days of 2015. On January 1st, it became illegal for residents to set out electronics at the curb. This includes television sets, computers, tablets, printers, video games, VCRs, keyboards, and fax machines. New Yorkers can recycle their electronic waste at more than 95 retailer drop-off sites, through community organizations, at DSNY SAFE Disposal events and the e-cycleNYC program to help keep toxic materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury from polluting our land and water. More than 27,000 tons of electronics will now be sustainably recycled in NYC.

We will shortly be releasing the second report on how curbside collection of organics has gone over the last six months, and here is a sneak peak at the results. This year, we expanded the program to more than 100,000 residents, and to date approximately one-third of eligible households have participated in this voluntary program. Surprisingly, the additional service has increased the tonnage of metal, glass plastic, and paper collections in these sections. For example, Brooklyn District 6 Section 4 now has a diversion rate of 36.6 percent compared to the citywide rate of 15.4 percent, and in Manhattan District 9 the participation of just one large complex increased the district's diversion rate by a percentage point.

I again end with a reminder of the importance of safety. Last week, a Sanitation Worker experienced a serious injury that resulted in the worker losing his hand. Please remember that this is a dangerous job, and I ask that you make it your New Year's resolution to think safety first every day.

Kathryn Garcia

DSNY in the News...

Sanitation Worker **Nelson Molina** is curator of the Treasure in the Trash Museum at the Manhattan 11 Garage. He has collected what others have thrown out, and displays his finds at the garage. Click here to view a video from the UK Guardian on his collection.

Welcome Assistant Commissioner

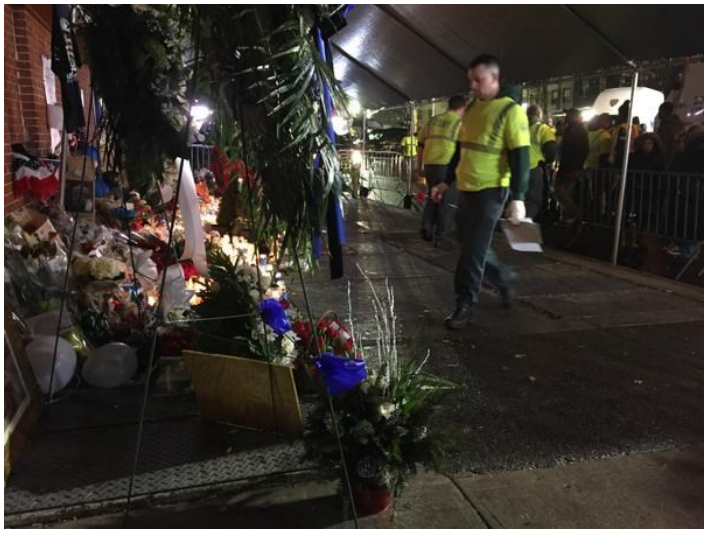
Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia has appointed **Marie L. Jean-Louis** as the Department's Assistant Commissioner for Facilities Planning and Engineering. She replaces retired Chief of Engineering Danny Walsh.

Assistant Commissioner Jean-Louis joins the Department after working at the New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC), where she was Borough Director for Manhattan, and Project Executive for the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project.

She has nearly two decades of experience in engineering and construction in New York City, including working as a project manager with the Department of Transportation and as Deputy Borough Director and Borough Director with DDC.

Assistant Commissioner Jean-Louis is a mother of three college educated children. Along with her spouse of nearly 30 years, she enjoys traveling and experiencing foreign cultures. Welcome aboard!

Remembering Our Uniformed Brothers



Many DSNY workers took a moment to pause to pay their respect to fallen NYPD Detectives Ramos and Liu at the memorial in Brooklyn. Photograph from @KatieLusso from News12.

Helping Others

- The Department's 2014 fundraising campaign for "**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer**" was a success, and $19,000 was raised for the American Cancer Society.
- The DSNY Holy Name Society, represented by Chiefs **Michael Nicosia** (President), **Anthony Pasquale**, **Michael Murphy** and **Joseph Cendagorta** donated some 100 boxes of food, collected from DSNY locations, to the Holy Cross RC Church Food Pantry in time for Christmas dinner for more than 300 families.
- Thanks to your generous toy donations, 350 foster and adopted children received holiday presents this year through Nazaire's United-Family And Children Exceptional Support Association Inc. Organizer **Monik Love** said the children were "overwhelmed with joy." Another 25 families at the Jamaica Family Shelter also were able to receive presents because of the donation.

E-Waste Out of the Trash

Starting January 1, a state law made it illegal for New Yorkers to discard most electronics in the trash. Sanitation Workers can no longer collect electronics left at curbside. Electronics covered by this state law include computers and their peripherals, televisions, fax machines, VCRs, DVD players, printers/scanners, video game consoles, MP3 players, tablets, and small servers. The law does not include appliances, batteries, or light bulbs.

Sanitation Workers who encounter e-waste on their routes should make note of the location on their DS 350 and inform their Supervisor.

PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL TO ALL

Accident Reduction Stats

Congratulations to **Brooklyn North**, **Brooklyn South** and the **Bronx** for surpassing the goal of 10 percent reduction in chargeable accidents for the second quarter of 2014. Overall, the department saw chargeable accidents drop 8.6 percent from the same period last year.

Times Square cleanup; Welcome 2015!

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Have news to share for an upcoming issue? Contact Belinda Mager at bmager@dsny.nyc.gov or 646-885-5020.