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**FULL CIRCLE:** Deldreana Peterkin, a Director of Workforce Development at the Department of Probation, was honored Dec. 11 at the Hundred Year Association's Isaac Liberman Public Service Awards. The veteran civil servant began her career helping teens find jobs at the Summer Youth Employment Program, then years later began assisting job-seekers once again. 'It's something I felt I wanted to do long term, so I've been chasing it ever since,' she said.

## 'Accidental' Agency Veterans Who Found Niches Honor Five Civil Servants Who Typify 'What Makes City Government Great'

By CRYSTAL LEWIS

Deldreana Peterkin, a Director of Workforce Development at the Department of Probation who has worked in civil service for 21 years and was honored at the Isaac Liberman Public Service Awards Dec. 11, described her career as "full circle."

When she first arrived in the city from North Carolina, she dreamed of attending the Fashion Institute of Technology and working as a clothing designer.

### Found Work She Loved

"But I quickly realized that I needed a job," she said. Ms. Peterkin wound up finding a job helping teens at the Summer Youth Employment Program—and she fell in love.

"It's something I felt I wanted to do long

term, so I've been chasing it ever since," she said. After working for the city Workforce Investment Board, six years ago she made the jump to the Department of Probation to once again assist job-seekers because she "missed the human connection" of helping others.

"I never stepped foot into FIT," she added.

Since 1958 the Hundred Year Association, a group of businesses and nonprofits that have operated for at least a century, has honored outstanding civil-service employees for their dedication to the city with the Isaac Liberman Public Service Awards. The Association also granted \$21,000 in scholarships, known as the E. Virgil Conway College Scholarship, to 14 children of city workers.

Citywide Administrative Services Commissioner Lisette Camilo and Deputy Mayor

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**HOPE REWARDED:** Police Officer Steven Bennick (third from left) was honored with a \$1,000 prize presented by this newspaper’s publisher Edward B. Prial (to his left). The Domestic Violence Prevention Officer, who has been on the job for five years, was celebrated for implementing the ‘Hope Rings’ initiative that provides cell phones to domestic-violence victims so that they have access to help at all times.

## Civil Servants Who ‘Make City Great’

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for Operations Laura Anglin spoke during the ceremony held at One Police Plaza.

### ‘You Embody Best of City’

“Each of you embodies what makes city government great. You take pride in your work, and always remember that it is an honor and privilege to serve others,” Ms. Camilo said.

Five civil servants were honored, and two prizes worth \$2,500 each were given to Ms. Peterkin and Denise Guess, an Administrative Community Relations Specialist at the Housing Authority.

Awards of \$1,000 were given to Stephanie Argamaso, a Production and Event Coordinator at the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, and Police Officer Steven Bennick, whose prize was sponsored by this newspaper. The Domestic Violence Prevention Officer, who has worked for the Police Department for five years, last year established the “Hope Rings” initiative that provides cell phones to domestic-violence victims so that they have access to 911

at all times.

The final winner of a \$1,000 prize was Seth Goodwin, the Deputy Director of Citywide Marine Operations at the Department of Parks and Recreation.

He said that he was surprised when he found out that he was nominated for the prize. “I was just excited to have an opportunity to talk about the work that we do in the marine division; we’re sort of a small, not very widely known unit even within our own agency,” he said.

### A ‘Temporary’ Pastime

Mr. Goodwin, who attended the now-defunct Music & Art High School, picked up a traveling hobby in college—and he began working on ships to pay for his trips.

“That led into a maritime career that I think for many years I thought I was just doing temporarily, and then I go back to whatever my real life would be,” he said.

After working in both the commercial-maritime field and maritime education, he landed a job with the Parks Department as a Dock Master in 2007. He currently serves as a liaison for the

Coast Guard and NYPD Harbor Unit, and supervises safety. The agency oversees about 15 marina facilities, as well as “countless miles of waterfront, piers and dock structures,” Mr. Goodwin noted.

“We’re responsible for safeguarding people, and that’s not something your typical civil servant is tasked with outside of law enforcement,” he said.

Winners of the 2019 E. Virgil Conway College Scholarship were: Jonathan Huang, Anmol Singh, Brandon Davidson, MD Fahim, Kyle Coleman, Kenneth Rodriguez, Olufunmilayo Akeredolu, Naya Carbon, Brianna Lafalaise, Ashliee Lema, Huyen Lam (a three-time recipient), Gabriel Torres, Kellie Williams and two-time winner Teja Deonarine.

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