

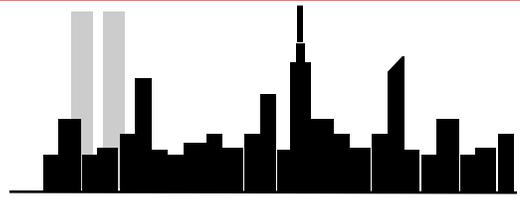
DECEMBER 2009

**VIEW**  
P O I N T



**Metro Tech**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT



# Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano Appointed Next Fire Commissioner

**M**ayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced on Dec. 21 the appointment Chief of Department Salvatore J. Cassano as New York City's 32<sup>nd</sup> Fire Commissioner.

Chief Cassano, a 40-year veteran of the FDNY, is the Department's highest-ranking uniformed officer, a position he has held since 2006.

"He has a lifetime of unmatched experience and will be an outstanding commissioner for the FDNY," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said during a press conference at City Hall.

Chief Cassano added: "My goal as Fire Commissioner is to build upon the successes of the last eight years and to make the Department stronger and better than ever before."

The Chief has served the FDNY as a firefighter, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, deputy chief, deputy assistant chief and assistant chief. He has been cited for bravery five times for rescuing victims from burning buildings.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center, Chief Cassano was named Chief of Operations (the second-highest uniformed rank in the FDNY), succeeding Chief Daniel Nigro, who was



*Chief Salvatore Cassano addresses the crowd at City Hall after Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced he will be the Department's 32<sup>nd</sup> Fire Commissioner.*

appointed Chief of Department following the line-of-duty death of Chief Peter Ganci.

In the last eight years, he has played a crucial role in rebuilding the Department. He also has worked to bring significant changes to the FDNY, creating a better prepared, better trained and better equipped FDNY.

With this new role, Chief Cassano said he plans to increase the Department's focus on fire prevention and emergency medical services, continuing to increase the diversity of the Department's personnel and increasing firefighter safety, which is his top priority.

He will replace Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, who has served as Commissioner since 2002 and announced in October that he would resign at year's end. Chief Cassano will begin his role as Commissioner on Jan. 1, 2010.

"Commissioner Scoppetta left a great legacy that [Chief Cassano] can take to new heights," said Mayor Bloomberg.

Chief Cassano is a U.S. Army veteran with combat experience in Vietnam. He joined the FDNY immediately following the conclusion of his military service in 1969.

He attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice, where he attained a Bachelor of Science degree in Fire Science.

Chief Cassano has lived in the Huguenot section of Staten Island for the last 40 years and resides there with his wife, Theresa. They have five children and three grandchildren, including his daughter Katie LiVolsi, who is a former member of the FDNY and is married to FDNY Lt. Christopher LiVolsi. Chief Cassano is a native New York City resident, born in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn.



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## A Statement from the Incoming Fire Commissioner, Salvatore Cassano



*(The following remarks are taken from the Dec. 21 press conference delivered by Chief Cassano in the Blue Room at City Hall, when Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced his appointment as the Department's 32nd Fire Commissioner.)*

I have spent the better part of my life, the last 40 years, working to protect the lives and property of the citizens of New York City. Working for the FDNY – the world's greatest Fire Department, in the world's greatest city – has been an honor and a blessing. And I have held every uniformed rank in the Department, including firefighter, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief, deputy chief, deputy assistant chief and assistant chief.

I am grateful the Mayor has the confidence in me to be Commissioner and to lead the Department as we go forward, and work to continue the quality of the life-saving work our fire and emergency medical service personnel provide to 8 million New Yorkers and the millions more who visit our city each day. And I will do my very best to build on the many successes we've achieved in the last eight years.

I would also like to thank Commissioner Scoppetta for the leadership he has given to the FDNY in the most critical time in the Department's 144-year history.

Devastated by the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> attacks and the loss of 343 members, his guidance these last eight years in rebuilding the Department, implementing new initiatives, as well as expanding and introducing new training programs has vastly improved the Department. The proof of that is evident in our city today. During the last eight years, New York City has had the fewest fire-related deaths on record; we've reduced fires to the lowest levels in 50 years; our Fire and EMS response times are the fastest ever before; and – especially important to me – firefighter burn injuries have never been lower.

In particular, I am grateful to the Commissioner for the confidence he showed me and all members of the uniformed staff by making us full partners in the rebuilding and management of the Department. That partnership made a difference and has led to the many successes achieved, making the Department the best trained, the best equipped and the

best prepared fire department in the world.

My goal as Fire Commissioner will be to build upon the extraordinary successes achieved in recent years, and to seek ways to make the agency even stronger, so we can do an even better job serving the public. My top priority – always and foremost – will be the safety of our personnel, and the safety of the public. There is no better way to protect both firefighters and the public than by preventing fires from starting in the first place. Preventing fires through a new "risk based" system of conducting inspections will be a tremendous step toward reducing the number of fires in our city, and I look forward to implementing this program citywide next year.

I also am committed to improving the life-saving pre-hospital emergency medical work done by our EMS personnel and our firefighters. Whether utilizing new technology, innovative operational procedures or additional training, I will seek to improve the EMS services we provide the city.

I look forward to working collaboratively with the Mayor, and Deputy Mayor Ed Skyler and the Commissioners of all city agencies, particularly the NYPD and OEM, on all aspects of public safety in our city.

This is a big Department and so many people deserve credit for all the good work that has been achieved. I'd like to thank everyone in the Department – all of our uniformed and civilian workers – for the work they have done to make this the best Fire Department in the world.

Finally, I would like to thank my family, my wife, Theresa, and my children, Salvatore, Lisa, Katie, Theresa and Joseph, who have supported me throughout my entire career. The sacrifices they have made the last eight years have allowed me to devote many hours away from home to help with the rebuilding of the Department.

## Top Prize

### FDNY Civilian Receives Public Service Award

**A**n FDNY member who works behind the scenes to promote safety was awarded for her outstanding efforts on Dec. 16, with a Hundred Year Association of New York Isaac Liberman Public Service Award.

Kristin Eng, a Program Producer in the Department's Audio/Visual unit, was one of only 10 civil servants across the city to receive the prestigious award.

"I would like to thank you for your dedicated service, your hard work and your creativity," Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott said during the ceremony at NYPD Headquarters. "We really appreciate all you do for this great city."

Martha Hirst, Commissioner of the Department for Administrative Services added: "[The award recipients] are people who are behind the city's successes. These individuals take public service seriously."

Ms. Eng works as a videographer and editor for the Department, helping pro-

duce training videos that keep firefighters and EMS members safe. She recently worked on a video regarding wind-driven fires in high-rise buildings, which will lead to new safety procedures in departments throughout the country.

"I know it's rare for civilian employees to be honored in this way, so I greatly appreciate my agency, the 100 Year Association and DCAS for recognizing my work," said Ms. Eng. "The best part of my job is working with the uniformed members of the FDNY and have tried my best to be conscientious and diligent because I know full well that my efforts may ultimately impact their safety as well as the safety of



*Kristin Eng (center), a Program Producer for the FDNY, receives her Public Service Award.*

the citizens of this city."

Two children of FDNY members also received college scholarships, including Scott Gordon, son of EMT Howard Gordon, who is attending Adelphi University; and Sasha Ortiz, daughter of Firefighter Benicio Ortiz, who is attending Queens College.

## BIOPOD 2009

### FDNY Distributes H1N1 Vaccine during the Seventh Annual BIOPOD Drill

**A**t the FDNY, preparation is essential. So the Department held its seventh annual BIOPOD drill from Nov. 5 through 8, during which all first responders were offered the H1N1 influenza vaccine.

The exercise is part of the Department's ongoing initiative to plan for its response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive incidents.

"Our reason for BIOPOD is obvious: Our city is only safe if our first responders are safe," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "And we want to know that if there is an emergency need to vaccinate our members, we can do so quickly and efficiently."

To reach all the FDNY's first responders, there were 10 fixed points of distribution (PODs) and three mobile PODs located throughout the five boroughs, which provided vaccinations from 6 a.m.



*A firefighter receives the H1N1 vaccine during BIOPOD 2009.*

to 10 p.m. for four days.

This year, the Department also deployed its Incident Management Team

to coordinate the exercise.

"This will not only test our preparedness, but also provide our members with a critical inoculation," said Dr. Kerry Kelly, the FDNY's Chief Medical Officer.

Dr. Kelly urged all members to take the flu vaccine to protect their health as well as that of their coworkers and families. And during the four day operation, more than 10,300 members cycled through the distribution sites and more than half accepted it.

The drill is conducted by the FDNY Bureau of Health Services in conjunction with the FDNY Bureau of Operations and is part of the City's overall emergency response plan that combines the efforts of the Fire Department with other city agencies, including the Police Department, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Office of Emergency Management.

## Honoring a Hero

### Hundreds Gather for Lt. Robert Ryan Plaque Dedication

Hundreds of firefighters, family members and friends fought back tears as Lt. Robert Ryan, Jr., of Engine 155 in Staten Island was remembered during a plaque dedication ceremony at his firehouse on Nov. 23.

Lt. Ryan was fatally injured on Nov. 23, 2008, while operating at a second-alarm fire on Van Buren St. in Staten Island. He was transported to Richmond University Medical Center on Staten Island, where he succumbed to his injuries.

"For Bobby, being a firefighter was more than a job, it was a calling," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "He was honest, dedicated and hard working – he was a role model in every sense of the word."

Lt. Ryan was assigned to Engine 155 for more than two years. He was previously assigned to Engines 228, 280 and 282 in Brooklyn; Engine 6 and Battalion 4 in Manhattan; and Battalion 22 in Staten Island. He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in March 2001.

He was known as a dedicated 17-year veteran of the FDNY, who beat all odds and battled back after receiving second



Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano stand with the Ryan family, including his wife, Kathleen; mother, Carol; son, Chris; and daughter, Kayla; as Monsignor John Delendick blesses the plaque honoring the life of Lt. Robert Ryan, Jr.

and third degree burns in a Brooklyn fire on Oct. 3, 2007. He spent eight days at the Staten Island University Hospital Burn Center and nearly a year in rehabilitation before he was able to return to the job on Sept. 26, 2007.

During his recovery, he started a holiday toy drive for children at the hospital, a tradition his firehouse continues.

"We are here today to show the Department hasn't forgotten and will never forget," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Nov. 23 is etched in our memories. It was a day when the Department lost a tremendous firefighter and a great man."

Chief of Department Salvatore Cas-

sano added that the lieutenant "dedicated and committed himself to the Department and the public. He'll forever serve as an inspiration to anyone who comes through the firehouse doors."

Lt. Ryan was survived by his wife, Kathleen; son, Chris, 18; daughter, Kayla, 13; stepson, Alex, 11; and stepdaughter, Emma, 9.

His sister, Diane Spallanzani, thanked the members of Engine 155/Ladder 78 for taking care of their family. She added that she's found peace since his passing, "I don't sweat the small stuff anymore; instead

I carry Bob's goodness in my heart. Not a day goes by that I don't think of him."

Firefighters who worked with Lt. Ryan remembered him for his leadership, eclectic taste in music, love of firefighting drills, quotes of the day and skill as a painter.

"He was a captain's dream, he put his whole heart into the job," said Capt. Brian Gorman of Engine 155. "His loss has left a hole that will never be filled."

Firefighter Edward Puccio from Engine 155 added, "What I admired most about Bob was how hard he worked. He was a true firefighter and I wish we were still responding to fires together."

## Continuing his Legacy

### Members Organize SI Burn Center Toy Drive in Memory of Lt. Ryan

Firefighters helped Santa give away Legos, radio-controlled cars, markers, soccer balls and even plastic fire trucks to dozens of smiling children at the Staten Island University Hospital's Dr. Jerome L. Finkelstein Burn Center on Dec. 15.

And it was all in memory of Lt. Robert J. Ryan of Engine 155, who died in the line of duty on Nov. 23, 2008.

"This is what the holidays are all about," said Chief of Department Salva-

## A Bright Future, Cut Short

### Plaque Dedicated for Probationary Firefighter Jamel Sears

Firefighters gathered at the Fire Academy on Nov. 10 for a solemn plaque dedication ceremony honoring Probationary Firefighter Jamel M. Sears.

The 33-year-old firefighter collapsed while at the FDNY Training Academy on Nov. 10, 2008. He was transported to Mt. Sinai Hospital, where he died the following evening.

"Here at the Academy, Jamel showed us the kind of firefighter he would be – dedicated, thoughtful, strong and brave," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "He was known as the best of the best."

Firefighter Sears' mother, sister and aunts sat in the front row during the ceremony. His wife, New York City Police Officer Sherita Sears, and two children, Mahlek, 12, and Jya, 8, were not able to attend.

"He had a deep love for his family and devotion to duty," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "We need to look at this ceremony not as a remembrance of his death, but as a celebration of his life."

Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano added: "Jamel would have been a great firefighter. His memory will inspire firefighters for years to come."

Firefighter Sears spent four years as a member of the U.S. Navy, on board the U.S.S. Alaska. He began his training at the Fire Academy on July 1, 2008.



Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano, FDNY Chaplain Rev. Stephen Harding and a ceremonial officer stand with Probationary Firefighter Jamel M. Sears' mother, Jonnie, and sister, Charmaine, as a memorial plaque is dedicated in the firefighter's honor.

On what would have been his graduation day in December 2008, a seat was left empty in his honor. He was posthumously assigned to Engine 218, where he spent a week during training and said he someday wanted to work.

"He was dedicated and well loved, and he will always be loved and remembered," said Lt. Roddy McGibbon of Engine 217, who has supported the Sears family since the firefighter's death.

Many of the friends and family attending the dedication remembered Firefight-

er Sears as funny, smart and supportive.

Firefighter Roy Ciofalo from Engine 23, a member of Firefighter Sears' squad at the Academy, said he shared a locker with the firefighter. When training ended, he took the piece of tape that listed Firefighter Sears name on the locker and placed it on his locker at the firehouse.

"There has not been one tour I worked that I didn't think of him," he said. "He defines the word 'heart.' And even though our friendship and brotherhood was short lived, he had an impact on us all."

also donated 100 Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head toys to the drive.

"I'm sure he didn't expect [the drive] to become as great as it has," said Diane Spallanzani, Lt. Ryan's sister. "This shows how much he was loved. Each toy represents a life he touched in some way."

Lt. Ryan received treatments at Staten Island University Hospital Regional Burn Center in 2006, after he endured second and third degree burns to his neck while fighting a fire in Brooklyn. Although his burns were severe, and potentially career-ending, he fought back and was able to return to work in 2007.

Lt. Ryan told his family he was moved by the children he saw receiving treatment at the burn center and wanted to help bring them joy during the holiday season. His fellow firefighters and the Ryan family have vowed to continue the drive in his memory.

"Bobby cared about giving and healing," said Anthony C. Ferreri, President and CEO of Staten Island University Hospital. "His heart went out to the kids here."

Dr. Michael Cooper, Director of the Burn Center, added: "Bob is not forgotten, he's here with us today and always."



Firefighters from Engine 155/Ladder 78 help distribute the toys at the Staten Island University Hospital's Dr. Jerome L. Finkelstein Burn Center.

## EMT Saves Elmhurst Hospital Police Officer

At around 10:30 p.m. on Dec. 18, Elmhurst Hospital Police Officer Nicholas Esposito was buying coffee from the Zion Grocery and Deli on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Moments later, he collapsed, face down on the sidewalk.

Lucky for him, his guardian angel was buying pizza down the street.

Off-duty EMT Jack Lin from Station 49 performed CPR on Officer Esposito moments after the man collapsed and went into cardiac arrest, saving his life.

"This is the best gift," said EMT Lin, when he was reunited with the police officer at Elmhurst Hospital on Dec. 24. "I don't have words for it."

The EMT was flagged down by bystanders after they witnessed the officer fall.

He asked them to call 9-1-1, as he moved the victim to his back. The man, who was covered in the coffee he just purchased, had shallow breathing and no pulse, so EMT Lin began chest compressions.

The EMT was nursing a sprained wrist, an injury he received on the job in November, but said he did not feel any pain as he



*EMT Jack Lin meets Elmhurst Hospital Police Officer Nicholas Esposito on Dec. 24, as his mother, Antoinette, and wife, Carol, look on (far left). The off-duty EMT revived the Police Officer after he went into cardiac arrest near Elmhurst Hospital on Dec. 18.*

did compressions for several minutes before firefighters from Engine 307 arrived and shocked the victim's heart with a defibrillator.

"It was definitely a team effort," said EMT Lin.

The 53-year-old officer – who is bruised from the fall – awakened the following day, when his 11-year-old son held his hand. He said he does not remember anything that

happened that night, but he and his family are grateful for EMT Lin's actions.

"This is the best Christmas ever," the officer's wife, Carol Esposito, said when she met EMT Lin.

Officer Esposito's mother, Antoinette Esposito, turned 81 the day her son collapsed and has lost three daughters to heart attacks in recent years. She brushed away tears as she said, "I'm very happy. I got the best gift of all for Christmas and my birthday."

Doctors say Officer Esposito needs a triple bypass, but is expected to make a full recovery.

"He's one of the lucky ones," said Dr. Deborah Reynolds, Director of the Critical Care Unit at Elmhurst Hospital.

Yet with all this attention, EMT Lin remained humble, saying, "I feel like I'm getting more credit than I deserve."

Officer Esposito stopped him. "You deserve it," he said. "If you weren't there ... forget it."

Since EMT Lin never got to finish his pizza from Louie's on Baxter Avenue that night, the pizzeria gave the EMT Lin a free pie.

## FDNY Members Save 4-Week-Old in Cardiac Arrest

FDNY fire and EMS members are credited with giving a 4-week-old, premature infant a fighting chance after he went into cardiac arrest on Dec. 3.

"The [members] are humble, but it feels nice to know we helped," said Lt. Kevin Smith of Engine 248, speaking of Firefighters Robert Morrison, Richard Mills, Gregory Tracy, Harlan Wank and Stephen Lauren. "All of us have children and you think of your own right away when you see something like this."

Members were called to a home on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in Brooklyn around 8 p.m.

Firefighters from Engine 248 said when they arrived, two young girls directed them to an upstairs bedroom. Their mother was with the infant, whose body was stiff and the area around his mouth was blue.

"The mother was frantic, hysterical," said Firefighter Tracy.

He assisted as Firefighter Mills gave the baby oxygen and Firefighter Morrison began chest compressions.

After doing six or seven compressions, Firefighter Morrison, a former EMT, said the baby started to breathe again.

Soon after Capt. Micael Vetack; Paramedics Glenroy Griffith and Clifton Pennie;

and EMTs Jean Dominique and Arzu Aydogdu arrived and found the baby's heart rate dropping.

"We know what to do, so we just focused and got it done," said Paramedic Griffith.

They hooked him to a monitor and suctioned his mouth. Even though he had a heart beat, they continued compressions to increase his heart rate. He was then transported to Downstate Hospital.

"The child definitely improved," said Paramedic Pennie.

Yet what struck EMS Capt. Michael Vetack was how calm every member remained, "They did a terrific job. Nobody panicked and they delivered the best care possible."

Everyone said this rescue was meaningful, but it hit close to home for Firefighter Morrison. The firefighter recently welcomed premature twins of his own.

"I know everyone in the hospital is doing everything they can for my kids, so it feels good to be able to help someone else's child," said Firefighter Morrison. "[This infant] really hasn't seen anything yet, so I wanted to try everything I could to make sure this kid lived."



***Bravest of the Brave:** Firefighters from Engine 39/Ladder 16 gathered on their firehouse's apparatus floor on Dec. 10 as Liberty Mutual honored Firefighters Justin McNally and Ronald Corsale with Firemark Awards for two incredible rescues. Firefighter McNally of Ladder 16 rescued a man caught in the fast-moving current of the East River on Aug. 17. Firefighter Corsale, also from Ladder 16, took part in a similar rescue on Oct. 12.*

## Firefighters Rescue Two from Brooklyn Fire

Firefighters gave one family a wonderful holiday gift on Dec. 23, when they rescued a father and his adult daughter from an apartment in Brooklyn.

"It's a good feeling [to save a life] at this time of year," said Capt. Dennis Murphy from Ladder 105. "It's not every day you make a rescue, so this is a real treat."

At 2:47 a.m., firefighters were called to the scene of a fire on the top floor of 392 Third St., a four-story apartment building in Park Slope.

Upon arrival, firefighters reported flames blowing out the windows of the fire apartment.

Members of Ladder 122 and Squad 1 forced entry to the fire apartment and began to attack the fire, which was in the front of the apartment. Members of Ladder 105, after searching an adjacent apartment, entered the fire apartment and headed toward the rear.



(L to R) Firefighter Rob Mitchell, Capt. Dennis Murphy and Firefighter John Fischer from Ladder 105. The team helped rescue two from an apartment fire in Brooklyn.

The company's forcible entry team, including Capt. Murphy, and Firefighters Rob Mitchell and John Fischer found one unconscious victim, a 29-year-old female, in the hallway and removed her to the

apartment door, from where other firefighters were able to carry her to an awaiting ambulance.

They then returned and found another unconscious victim in the same area, a 58-year-old male, and removed him to the third floor.

"I'm so happy everybody got out okay and everything turned out the way it did," said Firefighter Fischer.

Both victims were transported to Methodist Hospital in serious, but stable, condition.

The fire was brought under control at 3:33 a.m. Fire marshals are investigating the cause, which appears to be an overloaded power strip.

"It's a great feeling," said Firefighter Mitchell. "Christmas is a time for giving – and Capt. Murphy gave [the two victims] their lives back today."

## FDNY EMS Units Save Woman in Brooklyn

EMS members from Station 58 were hailed as heroes on Dec. 1, after they saved the life of a Brooklyn woman in cardiac arrest.

"They did a tremendous job," EMS Chief Stephen Morelli from Division 3 said. "There's no doubt she's alive because of the dedication of these crews."

At approximately 6 a.m., EMTs Chris Robertson and Thomas Scalla responded to a call from a woman who was experiencing pain and coldness in her legs. She said she received vein surgery on Nov. 30.

After the unit arrived and began their

assessment, the patient's condition worsened and she went into cardiac arrest.

The unit radioed for an Advanced Life Support unit, which would be able to administer medications, began CPR and ventilated the patient. They also hooked up a defibrillator, which did not indicate she needed a shock.

Paramedics Scott Weiner and Israel Knobloch, as well as EMS Condition Boss, Lt. James Becker, quickly arrived, and within five minutes they restored the victim's pulse and blood pressure.

She was transported to Kings County Hospital. In the ambulance, the EMS

units reported she began taking spontaneous respirations.

She was later diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism, during which a blood clot dislodges and enters the heart or lungs.

An emergency room doctor later contacted the EMS station and said that because of the EMS members' hard work, "instead of going to the morgue, she'll be released from the hospital within two days."

Chief Morelli added, "To be released within two days of suffering cardiac arrest is no small feat."

## FDNY EMS Members Deliver Baby in Brooklyn

A healthy, happy new Brooklynite was welcomed to the world on Nov. 20, thanks to the skill of four FDNY EMS members.

At 6:36 a.m., EMTs Anthony Marullo, Jr., and Lisa Westover had left the scene of a minor accident when they were flagged down by a frantic woman.

"She was out of breath and banging on the window of the ambulance," said EMT Marullo.

The EMTs understood her to say "baby, mama" as she pointed toward the intersection of Grand Street and Union Avenue.

As they approached, they saw a number of people standing in the street, frantically pointing toward a car.

There they found a woman in labor, her head on the passenger side and her feet on

the driver's seat.

Moments later, Paramedics Justin Young and Sorffly Davius were getting off their shift when they saw the commotion in the street.

"I thought something bad had happened – not something as good as a baby delivery," Paramedic Young said.

He saw the baby's head was out, so he suctioned the mouth and helped complete the delivery.

They transported the mother and baby girl to Woodhull Medical and Mental Health Center.

This was the 18<sup>th</sup> on-duty delivery for EMT Marullo, the 10<sup>th</sup> for Paramedic Young and the first for EMT Westover. Paramedic Darius welcomed a baby of his own to the world just days before.



(R to L) Paramedic Justin Young, EMT Anthony Marullo, Jr., and EMT Lisa Westover. They, along with Paramedic Sorffly Davius, delivered a baby in a car on Nov. 20.

"When you go to work you never know what will happen," said EMT Westover. "This was beautiful."

## Donate Life

### FDNY and New York Blood Center Launch Critical Days Program to Increase Blood Donations

Donating blood at any time of the year is a great way to give back. But between Dec. 18, 2009, and Jan. 11, 2010, the FDNY and New York Blood Center (NYBC) are making your donation even more rewarding.

The organizations have joined to launch the Critical Days Program. During this time, every time a donation of blood, platelets, plasma and automated red cells is made using the group number 4FDNY (43369), \$10 will be donated to an FDNY charity.

"This is a tough time of year for people who need transfusions," Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said at an FDNY blood drive at FDNY Headquarters on Dec. 14. "That's why the FDNY and NYBC are asking FDNY employees, their family and the general public to donate blood today."

At the conclusion of the Critical Days Program, the total amount of money donat-

ed will be evenly split among three charities: the New York City Bravest Scholarship Fund, the New York Police and Fire Widows' and Children's Benefit Fund and the Paramedic Carlos R. Lillo Memorial Scholarship Fund.

This opportunity is available to any member of the public wishing to donate at one of NYBC's New York or New Jersey donor centers or blood drive locations.

"With the Critical Days Program, our donors can literally extend their lifesaving gifts, all to the benefit of the three outstanding charities supported by our firefighters," said NYBC's President and CEO, Dr. Christopher Hillyer.

One person who knows the importance of blood donations is Firefighter Matthew Long from Ladder 43. In 2005 he was struck by a bus in Manhattan while riding his bicycle to work. In the first 40 hours after the accident, he required 68 units of



(L to R) Firefighter Matthew Long, Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, President and CEO of the NYBC Dr. Christopher Hillyer and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano with the poster announcing the Critical Days Program featuring Firefighter Long.

blood, which is six or seven times the number a body holds.

"I'm living proof that every donation counts," said Firefighter Long, who is a regular blood donor. "It's an easy and selfless gift to give. Without it, I wouldn't be alive today."

For a list of NYBC locations in NY and NJ, please visit [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org) and click on the "Locate a Blood Drive" link or call 1-800-933-BLOOD (2566).

## Giving Back

### FDNY Helps Kick off City Harvest Food Drive

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano joined representatives from City Harvest and the New York Daily News, to kick off the 27<sup>th</sup> annual 'Daily News Readers Care to Feed the Hungry' food drive on Nov. 19 at the quarters of Engine 7/Ladder 1 in lower Manhattan.

"The Fire Department is in the business of saving lives, so we're thrilled to join City Harvest and the New York Daily News to save people from hunger," Commissioner Scoppetta said.

New Yorkers can bring non-perishable food products to firehouses, police precincts, the Daily News lobby and Modell's Sporting Goods stores through Jan. 8, 2010.

The food drive is the largest in New York City, collecting more than 350 tons of food last year.

New York City Public Schools are also collecting food as part of the 'Kids Can Help' drive. Last year nearly 500 schools participated in the effort.

Attending the press conference were students from I.S. 141 in Queens, the school was one of the top food collectors for the drive last year, gathering more than 14,000 lbs. of food.

"We need your help to make this drive a big success," said Jilly Stephens, Exec-



Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and Chief of Department Salvatore Cassano join members of City Harvest, the New York Daily News, children from I.S. 141 and many others at the kick off for the "Daily News Readers Care to Feed the Hungry" food drive.

utive Director of City Harvest.

The FDNY partnered with City Harvest and the Daily News on this effort since its inception. Recently other agencies have joined to support the cause, including the New York City Police Department, New York City Public Schools, Modell's Sporting Goods stores, Univision, 77 WABC Radio, 1050 ESPN New York and PIX 11 TV.

To learn more about the project or how to donate food, visit [cityharvest.org](http://cityharvest.org).



# VIEW POINT

DECEMBER 2009  
NEWSLETTER OF THE NYC FIRE DEPARTMENT

**FIRE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK**  
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**FDNY**  
1865-2009  
A 145 YEAR HISTORY  
OF COMMITMENT, COURAGE & COMPASSION