

The Roll Call



A Message From Commissioner Maginley-Liddie



Dear Boldest Family,

I was pleased to see so many of you at our many March celebrations. Last month marked our third annual women's conference and I was proud to join you at this yearly celebration of resilience, brilliance, and excellence of the women of DOC.

March also saw 103 new recruits join our ranks, many of whom are children or siblings of current and former members of our boldest family. One of the things that continues to amaze me about this place, and about all of you, is the way we show up for each other and the way we continue to care about each other.

This is what attracts our next generation of officers and is what will continue to keep us strong well into the future.

In more difficult news, I also want to take this time to remember the lives and legacies of two fallen members of our boldest family, Correction Officer Horen Sterling and retired Correction Officer Bruce Boyd.

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Over 100 new Recruits Join DOC

The Correction Department swore in 103 new correction officers last month, along with 13 new deputy wardens.

"I am so proud to welcome a new class of dedicated, skilled officers into our Bold family," said NYC Correction Commissioner Maginley-Liddie. "The members of service entering or rising in the department are joining a legacy of outstanding leaders who have promoted safety through supervision and mentorship for 130 years. Every single member of service taking an oath is a force for change for the people in our city, and I thank them for their commitment to our mission."



The speakers at the ceremony included Deputy Mayor Kaz Daughtry who said, "For 130 years, these dedicated public servants have upheld a proud legacy. Honored to welcome the newest correction officers as they join this tradition of professionalism and courage."

The graduation was held on Friday, March 21 at Queens College's Kupferberg Center.

The new correction officer recruits are now receiving an additional eight weeks of field training inside New York City jails – in conjunction with veteran field training officers – where they will obtain critical hands-on experience.

The event also featured the swearing-in and appointments of new senior agency leaders.

FOOD PANTRY AT GMDC

Nutrition is a core component of staying healthy, but it can be hard to stick to a balanced diet. So Correction Officer Raishamaraj ‘Ray’ Persaud is trying to make it easy.

Officer Persaud – assigned to Transportation Division / Environmental Health Unit (EHU) – has operated a food pantry on Wednesdays at GMDC that provides free food for staff to cook healthy meals at home.

The five-year-old employee-led effort uses donated food and volunteers to bring the food to the island.

The idea, explains Correction Officer Persaud, is to address both food insecurity and to provide hardworking DOC staff on Rikers Island all the necessary ingredients and the recipes to cook nutritious meals without any hassle.

Staff can grab the food, go home and cook, said Persaud, adding that this spares them a trip to a busy grocery store or searching around to find the right recipe to cook a specific dish, putting the focus back on their work and their families.

The giveaway provides HelloFresh food kits – which have all the ingredients to cook healthy nutritious meals, and the directions for the cooking – as well as additional fruits, vegetables and dry goods.

The food pantry has also held holiday-themed food distributions in the past. For example, just before Thanksgiving 2024 the pantry distributed over 300 turkeys on Rikers Island to help DOC employees have a happy holiday.

If a staff member wants to, they can share the food with friends and neighbors in greater need, said C.O. Persaud.



“Everyone knows someone in need,” said C.O. Persaud. “It is a good feeling to know that you can help someone.”

The food giveaway project on Rikers Island is part of a larger effort in the community known as the Persaud Community Affairs Pantry, which officer Persaud runs with his wife Jeany Persaud and additional volunteers, and which focuses on donating food to first responders and others in need.

Correction Officer Persaud began his career with DOC in 2009, and worked during his career at AMKC, GMDC, Transportation Division and EHU, he said.

Women's History Month

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JEMILE GILLIAM: OFFICER HEADMASTER



A group of students at the East River Academy was preparing to record speeches for a citywide debate competition. A tall, lean young man stepped to the podium, put his cue cards on the lectern, and looked directly at a small audience of city officials and began his remarks. He confidently spoke the first few sentences. However, his nerves soon started to get the better of him. After stopping and beginning the speech several times, Officer Gilliam stepped in and took the young man aside to give him one-on-one encouragement. When the young man returned, he was calm and confident, and delivered a powerful address.

"I'm here to help them believe in themselves and be great out there," said Officer Gilliam.

Officer Gilliam is a 20-year veteran of the department. For the last eight years, he has worked with the emergent adult population first at GMDC and now at RNDC.

Officer Gilliam considers himself to be an 'old school' Correction Officer and credits the structure that he learned early on with his ability to work with young adults. Gilliam believes it's not about flexing muscle or authority; the key to being a successful Correction Officer is being yourself.

"These kids look at you like a father figure, and just like a father would, sometimes I have to give them a pep talk to get them out of bed and off to school."

Although he didn't think he had the patience for it, working with the young adult population has been the most rewarding aspect of his career. He is particularly proud at graduation time.

"When graduation comes around and you see them walk across that stage, you're proud," he said. "It warms me when they're introducing me to their families."

Gilliam's supervisor Captain Lewis said that Officer Gilliam is a mentor to the staff and doesn't hesitate to step in when needed to offer wisdom and advice to his coworkers.

"He is very motivational," said Lewis. "I wouldn't be able to do my job effectively without him."

IN MEMORIAM: C.O. STERLING & C.O. BOYD



The New York City Department of Correction mourns the loss of hero Correction Officer Horen Sterling, who passed away last month while on military deployment in Virginia.

NYC Correction Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie said, "The Department of Correction tragically lost a member of service who was bravely serving our country on military leave. Whether serving the city or nation, our Officers are heroes, and this loss weighs heavily on his Boldest Family. Our prayers are with Officer Sterling's family, fellow Officers and friends."

Officer Sterling's colleagues at the Otis Bantum Correctional Center fondly remembered the seven-year veteran as a man who lifted his colleagues with a positive attitude and humor. He loved to travel, try new foods, offer dining recommendations, and was deeply devoted to his family.

Officer Gordon recalled, "Officer Sterling was very dedicated to helping people ... There was never a time that he wouldn't be there for his family and co-workers. He was also always striving to do more in life and that's part of the reason why he joined the Navy. He knew he could help and have opportunities on an even bigger level."

The viewing was held at the Union Baptist Church in Hempstead, NY on Monday, April 21st. Funeral services were held at the same location on April 21st.



Retired Correction Officer Bruce Boyd – a first responder on 9/11, the crash of American Airlines Flight 587, and a 24-year veteran of the DOC – passed away on April 4. Officer Boyd served at various facilities on Rikers Island, mentored staff as an instructor, and served in the department's elite Emergency Service Unit.

"Officer Boyd was a beloved member of the Boldest family and known throughout the department as a mentor and a leader. Our hearts are with his family, friends, and fellow officers. May he rest in eternal peace," said Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie.

Retired ESU Captain Rizzo, also a 24-year DOC veteran and 9/11 hero, shares his memories about our fallen brother in blue.

"I got promoted to Captain in 1997 and I was assigned to the Central Punitive Segregation Unit and that's when I met Officer Bruce Boyd. CPSU was a pretty tough area to work in and Bruce was always someone who I could rely on and trust. He was level-headed, very dependable and professional," Captain Rizzo recalled. "In ESU, I watched him grow to be an outstanding Officer. He's a 9/11 hero, we worked together on the pile and he really became a role model for other ESU Officers. He was truly one of the elite Officers in this Department and he will be missed."

The viewing was held at the Union Baptist Church in Hempstead, NY on Friday, April 25th. Funeral services were held on April 26th.

The Roll Call



Members of the NYCD Boldest Football team gather together on the field with teammates from Philadelphia public safety agencies, and the Wexford Eagles.



NYCD Boldest Football team player (pictured wearing an orange helmet) on the line of scrimmage against the Wexford Eagles during the St. Paddy's Showdown on Sunday, March 16.



NYCD Boldest Football player in possession of the ball during the game. Pictured is #26, C.O. W. Harris, running for a touchdown.

The NYCD Boldest Football Team played for the first time outside of the United States in Wexford, Ireland on Sunday, March 16. NYCD Boldest joined together with players from the Philadelphia Blue Flame Football team for the St. Paddy's Showdown, a special game played against the Wexford Eagles, an Irish team that plays American Football. The Boldest/Blue Flame took home the win on the field, but more importantly, everyone won as the Boldest/Blue Flame donated \$10,000 to the Irish Cancer Society after the game. The final score was NYCD Boldest/Blue Flame 30, Eagles 0.

JoinTheBoldest



DOC's celebration of Women's History Month culminated on March 31 with a special program of empowerment at the Rose M. Singer Center. The celebration featured words of motivation from trailblazer Collette V. Smith, the first African American woman to coach in the NFL. Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddle also honored retired Commissioner Jacqueline McMickens with a citation from Mayor Eric Adams.



These extraordinary men exemplified what it means to be a DOC hero. Each went above and beyond, for their boldest family and for their country. At just 29 years old, Horen Sterling was both a correction officer and a member of the U.S. Navy. Bruce Boyd's distinguished career with DOC included taking part in the rescue and recovery efforts following the terrorist attacks on 9/11 and following the crash of American Airlines flight 587 and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Following their passing, each man was remembered not just for their incredible bravery, but also for the light they shone into our community.

As a community, we are now responsible for carrying on the legacy of Officer Sterling and Officer Boyd. We will do that through our actions, through our service, and through our love for our boldest family. This is not a responsibility I take lightly, but it is one I take on enthusiastically in their names.

That said, it is normal and natural to feel grief and sadness in the face of these losses. If you feel that you need extra support, I urge you to be a hero to yourself and call 988 from any phone, which will connect you to an independent, confidential mental health helpline. 1-800-COPLINE is another free resource, staffed by retired law enforcement officers, who are uniquely qualified to address the needs of correctional staff.

Being a member of this Department means experiencing incredible highs and very low lows, sometimes in the same tour. This is the toughest job in law enforcement and it is certainly not for everyone. We do this work because we are bold enough to face it, and we do it because it is our calling. I am proud to wake up every morning and do this work alongside you, my boldest family, and I look forward to doing it again tomorrow.

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WOMEN



History **MONTH CONFERENCE**



