

The Roll Call



In celebration of National Men's Mental Health Month, DOC held their 2nd annual Men's Health Conference.

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A Message From Commissioner Maginley-Liddie

Dear Boldest Family,

As members of the Boldest, and as men and women who perform the hardest job in law enforcement, you are charged with supporting others in their time of need. What you do is important, but it can also be a heavy load to bear. Working here means that you are forever part of the Boldest family; no matter how tough the job is, you are never alone. You are also part of building an amazing future - for yourself, for your colleagues, and for the people in our care.



This month, we held our 2nd annual Men's Conference, which focused on the unique wellness needs of our male staff. The event featured resources on physical and mental health, expert speakers, an interactive theatrical performance to engage viewers in critical conversations about depression and self-harm, and athletic activities to raise the energy and introduce some friendly competition. These activities made space for the men who attended to share how they process the challenges that are inherent to the job and the mix of internal and societal pressures that men universally face. These were not easy conversations, but our male staff bravely shared and encouraged their colleagues to open up about their experiences, too.

Our men's and women's conferences are just two of the many opportunities for DOC staff to think about and improve upon their wellness. In recent months, we have opened six wellness centers at commands throughout the agency and continue to make the city's EAP available for everyone. Anyone in need of immediate support can also call Copline, a free, confidential crisis hotline for and staffed by law enforcement. The number is 1-800-COPLINE (1-800-267-5463).

As Members of Service and civilian DOC employees, you dedicate so much of yourself to this City. I want you to know that your health is important because you are important. Taking care of your physical and mental wellness supports you, your families at home, and your families at DOC, too. The more we take care of ourselves, the more we encourage others to do the same. Supporting staff also means ensuring appropriately staffed commands. I am proud to share that we brought 182 new recruits into the department last month! Additionally, this month two of our boldest members graduated from the NYPD's elite Emergency Service Unit Specialized Training School!

Speaking of reasons to celebrate, this month also saw a record 64 students graduate from our very own East River Academy! This is the largest graduating class from ERA since 2014, and what these students have achieved is largely due to the culture our staff have created at RNDP. I am so proud of these young people and thankful to RDNC, Programs Staff, and our partners at DOE who enabled their success! Every day, this Department and its members of service continue to rise as individuals and as a family. I am so proud to be a part of it.

BON VOYAGE VCBC

The city announced its long-awaited plans for the site of the Vernon C. Bain Center (VCBC). Mayor Eric Adams revealed on June 9 that the city will remove VCBC from Hunts Point and issue a request for proposals to clear the site for a new marine terminal.

“As DOC modernizes and develops, we bid farewell to the retired Vernon C. Bain Center,” said Commissioner Maginley-Liddie. “We thank the many people who bravely served at the facility over the past three decades and who dedicated themselves to keeping our city and the people in our care safe.”

The five-story facility – which had 16 dormitories and 100 cells – has been decommissioned since 2023. Plans for life after the jail barge has been part of the ‘Hunts Point Forward’ community planning process.

VCBC was part of a fleet nautical jails that were launched in the 1980s during the Koch administration when the population in city jails exploded upward, eventually surpassing 20,000 people in custody.

The city put four floating jail barges into operation, including the Bibby Resolution; its sister ship, the Bibby Venture; and two converted Staten Island ferries, the Harold A. Wildstein and the Walter B. Keane.

In 1989, the city contracted with Avondale Industries to build what would be VCBC, the largest of the fleet.

Soon after its arrival in 1992, the 800-bed, 47,326 ton barge was named for Warden Bain, a beloved member of service who was tragically killed in a traffic accident in 1985. Warden Bain joined the department in 1963 and rose to lead the Correctional Institution for Men on Rikers Island.



VCBC will soon be removed to make way for the future marine terminal, which is estimated to create 400 construction jobs, 100 permanent jobs, and \$3.9 billion in economic impact over the next 30 years.

In a message to staff, Commissioner Maginley-Liddie wrote, “While the facility has not been active since 2023, the service of those who worked there is forever written into the legacy and history of the Department. I want to thank everyone who has helped us maintain VCBC, who supported this transition and, most of all, who dedicated themselves over many years to providing safety, security, and support to those who worked and resided there. The impact of your work is bigger than any building or facility.”



A CHECK UP FROM THE NECK UP: MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Heroes need support too. Yet, people working in corrections and other law enforcement occupations face unique barriers to addressing mental health needs – including stigma or concerns about confidentiality.

COPLINE can help. COPLINE is a free hotline exclusively for law enforcement personnel and their families. It is NOT associated with ANY correctional facilities or related agencies.

A COPLINE listener, Shelly Moore, who was a U.S. Capital Police Officer for 28 years, visited Rikers Island during National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. Moore spoke to officers at roll calls and throughout facilities on May 7: COEW's Wellness Wednesday.

“What I really wanted to get across is that we are confidential -- that is so very important for law enforcement, especially when they want to call in,” said Moore.

Moore added that when a call occurs, the listeners have absolutely no information about who is calling. It is totally anonymous.

The service can refer callers to counseling – including marriage or financial counseling – Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous and more. All clinical referrals to therapists and programs are vetted through law-enforcement, said Moore.



Moore said that often times the officers who call know they are having difficulties but find it hard to speak to someone fearing potential impact on their personnel records. Anonymity and the fact that callers are talking to other law enforcement officers can break through that resistance.

COPLINE's vision is to remove the stigma that often causes officers to keep emotions inside for fear of retribution or retaliation. COPLINE provides a safe place to talk.

The hotline connects to retired law enforcement professionals for immediate support. The trained listeners have undergone strenuous vetting and training. They understand your challenges, and the job you do.

**REACH COPLINE AT 1-800-COPLINE
(1-800-267-5463). IT IS 24/7, AND
CONFIDENTIAL.**

A MAN TO BE REMEMBERED: CHIEF LARRY W. DAVIS, SR.

Former Chief of Department Larry W. Davis, Sr. was posthumously honored on Friday, May 23rd with a ceremony at GMDC.

The remembrance included the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the renaming of the Transportation Division in his memory.

Over 150 people – including current and past staff, and the Chief's family – attended the ceremony, honoring a man who mentored generations of service members, and was remembered as an accessible boss who was respected and well-liked.

Over a 31-year career from 1980 to 2011, Chief Davis influenced many people.

Commissioner Maginley-Liddie said that few people had done more to make the DOC a family than Chief Larry W. Davis, Sr.

“There are hundreds of staff who remember Chief Davis as someone who formed their professional and personal development,” said Commissioner Maginley-Liddie in remarks. “Over his three decades, he mentored and befriended staff in a way that fortified their dedication to the agency's mission.”

Davis was recalled as an exemplary leader who had a rare ability to recognize and develop unrealized potential.

The talent the chief cultivated lives on at the department today, and his children and family have and continue to serve.

Captain Paul Davis, the chief's son, said he often considers what his father would have done before acting.



The captain said that his father cared about everyone, and that for his entire life, people have told him stories about what his father meant to them.

His younger brother Paul S. Davis told a series of stories about the chief illustrating the value of perseverance, attendance and focus on doing well for others.

Larry W. Davis III, a grandson, said that his grandfather loved his job, and recalled him as 'firm but fair.' He said Chief Davis was someone who always taught him to run toward difficulty and give it his best.

“Our family is humbled by this honor, and glad that his legacy will live on,” his grandson said.

NY'S BOLDEST ESU MEMBERS GRADUATE FROM NY'S FINEST ESU TRAINING SCHOOL



Two members of the Boldest graduated in June from the NYPD's elite Emergency Service Unit Specialized Training School, which is designed to push its participants to the brink and prepare them for every scenario.

"This training was very challenging, but it was a great experience," said Officer McMillan, one of DOC's graduates from the program. "The instructors were amazing and it's invaluable the amount of knowledge that we learned from them,"

McMillan – who has been on the job for eight years, with six of those in ESU – completed the program with Correction Officer Ksepka.

The Boldest participated in a graduation with 30 classmates at Floyd Bennett Field on June 13.

DOC Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie and NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch presided over the ceremony.

The two graduates have spent the past eight months, training in search and rescue, tactics, emergency medical treatment, hostage situations, special weapons and more.

"I wanted to do this training to expand my knowledge and skills. It's important to keep training, learning and advancing in this field," said Ksepka, a nine-year DOC member of service who has seven years of service in ESU. "This training was a big commitment, it was intense and a lot of hard work, but we learned so much. I loved it."

"This is a great accomplishment," said Officer McMillan. "ESU is an elite unit, and I love it. We're a family and I made the commitment to complete this training to help become a better Officer and continue to be of service to the Department."



2025 IS TOP OF THE CLASS

At the start of the school year, the Warden Chester, the Principal of NYC Public Schools' East River Academy on Rikers Island and the RNDC Learning Lab Team held a meeting to discuss their goals for the coming school year.

For a student body that can face any number of disruptions to their instruction – including case resolutions, discharge, or transfer to other facilities – setting realistic targets is notoriously difficult. However, the group decided at the September meeting that they needed a target, and they wanted to set it high.

They settled on a goal of 50 graduates. “We just made a commitment that we were going to go big this year,” said Capt. Lewis of the RNDC Learning Lab. “We set that expectation, and we wouldn’t let that expectation down” On June 17, DOC and NYC Public Schools’ East River Academy celebrated the graduation of 64 people in custody.

With 757 enrollments this year, the Class of 2025 is the largest class of people to earn their high school diploma or equivalency (GED) since 2014, when the average daily population hovered at nearly 11,000.

Officer Elliott, who received a litany of ‘thank yous’ and shout-outs of appreciation from the graduates, said every member of the team was focused on getting the students to the ultimate goal. “A lot of the guys were nervous earlier in the school year,” she recalled. “But I said, ‘don’t worry about it. We’re all family here.’ It’s great to finally get to the endpoint.”



At the graduation ceremony, Commissioner Maginley-Liddie honored the RNDC Learning Lab Team with a Unit Citation. “This year’s record-breaking graduation is a powerful testament to the determination of our students and the tireless efforts of our staff,” she said.

The record number of graduates was also a reflection of the department’s commitment to education. The Educational Services Unit, part of the Department’s Division of Programs and Community Partnerships, has expanded access to learning opportunities over the past by year growing the available classroom space on RNDC’s main school floor; re-establishing the “old” Annex school at RNDC; training and assigning steady school officers; advocacy for faster access to the computer-based GED programs and a new Learning Lab Captain at RNDC making a direct impact on the school’s daily production.

NYC Public Schools’ Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos said, “Every student deserves access to a high-quality education, without interruption, and I also commend our District 79 team and the Department of Correction for their ongoing collaboration and partnership as we continue to support our students in the coming years.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

The Department swore in the largest class of recruit officers since before the COVID pandemic.

“I am so proud to welcome these men and women as they embark on a rewarding career in corrections. This is the largest class of correction officer recruits since February 2019, and I applaud them for stepping up to serve our city,” NYC Correction Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, said of 182 new recruits.

“The training and support they will receive from our Boldest Family over the coming months will enable them to serve with integrity, professionalism, and courage. We’ll be there to cheer them on at the end of this journey.”

Their training will include lessons from nationally recognized corrections professionals, de-escalation techniques, conflict resolution, suicide prevention, defensive tactics, law, jail procedure, firearms, CPR, Narcan administration, fire safety, and more.

The extended 15-week training will also include additional preparation using real-world scenarios to augment classroom instruction.

The swearing-in was held at the New York City Police Academy in College Point, Queens.



The Roll Call



R.I.P TO FORMER DOC COMMISSIONER BERNARD KERIK



City leaders bid a final farewell to former DOC Commissioner Bernard Kerik.

Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie, Executive Leadership and DOC Officers joined representatives from across the country to pay their respects at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan on June 6th.

Mr. Kerik joined DOC in 1994 and the following year was appointed to First Deputy Commissioner. In 1997, he was appointed to lead the agency and made incredible strides over his tenure to reduce violence, modernize operations and enhance Department infrastructure.

In 2000, he was appointed Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, where he oversaw the police response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

May he rest in eternal peace.



JoinTheBoldest



Members of The Boldest joined Mayor Eric Adams and community leaders at Gracie Mansion this month to celebrate Juneteenth.



DOC Scholarship Unit

The Scholarship Unit provides resources to DOC staff interested in furthering their education and professional development. A list of schools that offer discounted rates and external scholarship list is available upon request. We maintain an email distribution list to share updates about schools, scholarships, and professional development training.

If anyone has additional resources related to education or scholarships, we would be happy to get involved and assist in any way that benefits our DOC members. Over time, we have been involved in various internal and

external promotions related to schools, scholarships, and professional development training. We are currently still circulating announcements regarding the Excelsior Scholarship and Enhanced Scholarship from the state.



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MEN'S CONFERENCE 25'



CYCLONES GAME NIGHT





9/11 MEMORIAL



C.A.R.E HEALTH FAIR

