

# Members of DSNY and Department of Corrections honored at annual Iftar Dinner on Staten Island

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Several members of the Department of Sanitation and Department of Corrections received applause and appreciation at the sixth annual Iftar Dinner at the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center. (Kayla Simas/Staten Island Advance) Kayla simas

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**By**

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Several members of the Department of Sanitation and Department of Corrections received applause and appreciation at the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center’s sixth annual Iftar Dinner held Saturday night in Tompkinsville.

The event, hosted by Assemblyman Charles Fall, Staten Sen. Jessica Scarcella-Spanton and Attorney General Letitia James started with a moment of silence for [Officer Jonathan Diller, who recently lost his life in the line of duty.](#)

Next, Fall’s daughters, Maimouna and Naila led the Pledge of Allegiance, before starting the ceremony, which including comments from the three hosts.



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“What gives me hope is I celebrated Good Friday and tomorrow Easter. Good Friday is when Jesus Christ was sacrificed on the cross celebrate tomorrow when he rose,” said James. “I also recently celebrated with my Jewish brothers and sisters, and today I celebrate with all of you.

“The three great faiths all come together at this great period. And the one thing I got the privilege to celebrate in all of this, is love and faith.”



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James also noted that both members of the corrections and sanitation department are “critical but over looked public citizens.”

Before becoming attorney general, James worked on the board for sanitation, which helped advocate for workers, as well as a public advocate for women in corrections.



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Scarcella-Spanton highlighted Ramadan as a time of spiritual growth, but also connected it to honoring the men and women who work in sanitation and corrections.

“These individuals work tirelessly,” she said, “This is a beautiful celebration, to reflect and celebrate. It’s a time for us to continue to encourage passion and service.”



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Fall highlighted that during the height of pandemic, the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center opened its doors for the Iftar Dinner, where each year sees different honorees who work in service to the city.

“We’re here today to recognize our strongest and our boldest,” said Fall. “These are two critically important agencies. For far too long, we hear complaints, but never hear recognition, so that’s why we are here today. The work they do is important. This event is not just about breaking bread and reflection, but to take time for the community.”

Councilwoman Kamillah Hanks was in attendance and noted that no one should “discriminate because of the uniform. Only have love for everyone who works for the city and wears the uniform. If we live by the principals of our faith, there will be peace on Earth.”



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