



THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



K9 Simms



JULY- 2025

THE ROLL CALL

Issue No - 07

A MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER MAGINLEY-LIDDIE

Dear Boldest Family,

The New York City Department of Correction has always been a do-it-all agency. Running a city within a city has always pushed our jurisdictional boundaries to include responsibility for things like a power plant, fire safety unit, transportation fleet, maintenance and communications teams, among many other roles. The members of service who perform these functions work alongside our incredible core staff who provide care, custody and control inside our jails.

What most inspires me is not the range of jobs staff perform, but the quality of their performance. Everywhere I look, I see exceptional people doing tremendous things. That's why it was such an honor to celebrate our colleagues at an employee recognition event at headquarters. Some were honored for individual achievements, and others for their contributions to their teams.

Yet all were recognized for demonstrating excellence, day-to-day reliability and sustained consistency — creating a model for others to follow. Excellence is more than a one-off event; it's a daily practice. Tour after

tour, the awardees shape the culture of this department and inspire others.

Please continue to nominate your colleagues. I know there are many additional deserving candidates.

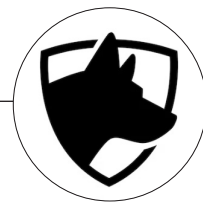
What's more, as a do-it-all Department, there are always opportunities to grow. That is why I'm so excited to announce the Undergraduate Certificate in Correctional Leadership (UCCL), in collaboration with John Jay College.

There is more information about the program and how to apply in this issue. This exciting

initiative reflects our continued commitment to offering education and skills development opportunities. I hope everyone who is eligible will apply.

Growth makes the department stronger, and it can break down barriers to help us realize our full potential. Because I have seen this department do it all, I know there is nothing we cannot achieve together.

I look forward to our individual and shared growth in the coming months and years — and to more opportunities to celebrate our achievements.



K9 WEEK

One of the Boldest helped lead part of a week-long training for canine officers exploring explosives detection techniques.



K9 Simms and C.O. McArdle in a state police helicopter

Correction Officer Lawrence McArdle from Canine (K9) Operations joined a group of law enforcement partners from NYPD Transit to help lead part of the training at the 5th Annual New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Canine Week, from April 28 to May 2 in upstate N.Y.

McArdle helped facilitate a section or "lane" of the training about 'transportation safety and explosive screening.'

The conference included approx. 60 explosive detection K9 teams from NYS public safety agencies, with some of the focus on the upcoming 2026 World Cup.

McArdle and his dog, K9 Simms, usually tackle narcotics detection. Simms was at the event, and even rode with McArdle in a New York State Police helicopter, but McArdle was the standout, working with the assembled officers from around the state on K9 management.

McArdle was able to impart techniques that can help make dogs more effective

searchers, what he has learned from 11 years working with K9s to detect contraband in the jails.

This included ways of helping dog handlers from overcome hesitancy about bringing their dogs close to people out of concern that the dogs could become too aggressive, said McArdle. He explained he was more used to checking people closely from his work in the facilities than some of his counterparts and was able to share how to do so safely.

Participants also went beyond the classroom to simulated scenarios, including vehicle and passenger checkpoints, sweeps of mass transit like trains and buses, and a live scenario at a Utica train station, said McArdle.

There was additional training in searching boats and air vessels, said McArdle.

McArdle is a 20-year DOC veteran.

He has been a NYS certified K9 Narcotics Instructor for 6 years.



K9 Simms



BIG BOLD BBQ!

Department of Correction staff took to the grill to show their Independence Day gratitude to their Boldest family by cooking up meals that were delivered to facilities.

The cookout produced approximately 5,000 meals that were sent to staff working in the jails. In addition to serving some staff at the A.C.T. trailer, courts and other remote commands picked up boxes of food to bring to staff at their posts.

Dozens of members of service volunteered to cook, serve, package or deliver the meals in two shifts on July 3.





RECOGNIZING DOC

Nearly 70 members of the Boldest were honored during an employee recognition breakfast celebrating staff who go above and beyond for the department.

"Showing up to this job and meeting the demands of what it is to be a member of this department is nothing short of heroic," Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie said. "Day after day, we do the work that others cannot. Yet it is here, in a community of heroes, that you stood out."

The employee recognition winners represented facilities, courts, headquarters, the academy and transportation, among other commands and units.



Staff members were nominated by colleagues for extraordinary achievements as well as for consistent excellence in their performance. The honorees were celebrated at a breakfast event at headquarters on June 30.

"The main thing is to be a team player. It is a team effort to be successful and safe," said Officer Oppenheimer, who serves at G.R.V.C. "It's an honor to be a member of New York City's Boldest."

The Employee Recognition Program was revived in 2025. All members of staff — both uniformed and non-uniformed — can nominate any Department of Correction staff member by filling out a ballot (available at collection locations or in memo book insert 2261R-D) and dropping it into the orange ballot box located at each command and at headquarters, Suite 160, Human Resources. Nomination forms are also available online on the DOC website or intranet.

Commissioner Maginley-Liddie told the winners on June 30, *"What your colleagues saw — and I know this to be true — is that excellence is more than a one-off event; it's a daily practice. Tour after tour, you are setting a model for others to follow and shaping the culture of this department for years to come."*





GROUNDBREAKING DOC NARCOTICS INVESTIGATION THWARTS COURTHOUSE SMUGGLING PLOT

The New York City Department of Correction helped build a first-of-its-kind narcotics smuggling case that resulted in a 17-to-22-year prison sentence.

The scheme was uncovered by DOC investigators from the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) through phone calls made by the defendant, Adam Kamagate, while he was held on Rikers Island. Using intelligence gathered from those calls, investigators disrupted attempts to smuggle fentanyl, cocaine, and PCP into the Supreme Courthouse of Staten Island via drug-soaked court documents.

The investigation, conducted in partnership with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office, uncovered two earlier smuggling attempts by Kamagate and co-defendant Curtis Braswell.

At the time, Kamagate was in custody on Rikers Island for the fatal overdose of his infant son.

"This is another strategic recovery from New York's Boldest and a clear example of how the men and women of DOC work every day to keep New York City and our jails safer. When our DOC investigators uncovered this plot, they prevented violence, protected people from dangerous substances, and made it crystal clear to anyone seeking to do the same that we will find you," said Commissioner Maginley-Liddie.

"The lives of every staff member and every incarcerated person is endangered when fentanyl enters the facility, and I have zero tolerance for anyone who attempts to smuggle dangerous substances into our jails. I commend DA McMahon and his team for their effective prosecution and thank the court for sentencing Mr. Kamagate proportionately to the harm he sought to cause."

Kamagate pleaded guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree. He was sentenced to an indeterminate term of five to ten years for manslaughter and a consecutive determinate term of twelve years for drug possession — totaling 17 to 22 years in prison.

Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon said, *"His actions displayed a profound and unforgivable disregard for human life — first, by exposing his 16-month-old child to dangerous drugs, ultimately leading to the child's death, and then, by continuing to endanger others while in custody on those charges through the introduction of fentanyl-laced documents into a correctional facility — an action that not only jeopardized the lives of staff and fellow inmates but also highlighted his continued willingness to engage in criminal activity with potentially deadly consequences ... Thanks to the diligent and unwavering efforts of our partners in the NYPD and Department of Correction."*





CALLING ALL LEADERS— A BOLD FUTURE NEEDS YOU

The Training and Development Division is pleased to announce the launch of the first cohort of the Undergraduate Certificate in Correctional Leadership (UCCL), in collaboration with John Jay College.

The UCCL is a two-year, four-semester, 12-credit program tailored for outstanding correction officers seeking to advance their leadership skills. Through coursework, workshops and cohort-based projects, the program develops leadership, ethical decision-making and conflict resolution skills to meet the complex challenges of correctional work.

By selecting some of the best uniformed officers in the Department and providing them with leadership development opportunities, the agency aims to build a cadre of skilled officers who can support change efforts within the Department.

The UCCL is a Department-sponsored program in collaboration with John Jay College. Participants are required to attend weekly classes and complete all associated coursework. Commanding officers are expected to ensure selected members are scheduled in a way that allows them to meet their academic program requirements.

The DOC has invested significant resources into building continuing education and skills development opportunities for staff. This includes the Advanced Certificate in Corrections Management (ACCM), an intensive, two-year program for outstanding uniformed employees at the captain, assistant deputy warden, deputy warden or deputy warden in command ranks.

"Participating in the ACCM program at John Jay College was a pivotal experience in my career," said Capt. Amanda Heeralal, who currently serves in the Senior Deputy Commissioner's Office.

"It gave me the tools to lead more effectively, think critically about departmental challenges and contribute to meaningful change. Continuing education is not just about earning credits — it's about elevating the profession and preparing ourselves to be the leaders our agency and city need. I encourage all eligible members to apply. Investing in your growth will benefit not just you, but the entire Department."

Capt. Ali Fayad, Investigation Captain at E.M.T.C. and another ACCM graduate said, *"[The program] not only challenged me academically, but it also pushed me to think beyond the immediate demands of daily operations and embrace a more strategic, leadership-driven perspective on corrections. Through rigorous coursework and dynamic discussions, the ACCM program sharpened my decision-making, strengthened my confidence, and provided me with the essential tools to lead with purpose and integrity. It helped me grow both professionally and personally, enhancing my ability to support my staff, advocate for positive change, and navigate complex challenges within the Department."*

The application period for the UCCL program will run from **July 18 through Aug. 8, 2025**. To be eligible, applicants must have successfully completed probation and meet all John Jay College enrollment requirements. Selected candidates will join the inaugural UCCL cohort, which begins in fall 2025 at John Jay College.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

- **DOC Scholarship Unit**
- **718-707-2397**
- **scholarships@doc.nyc.gov**

APPLICATIONS CAN BE OBTAINED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

ONLINE:

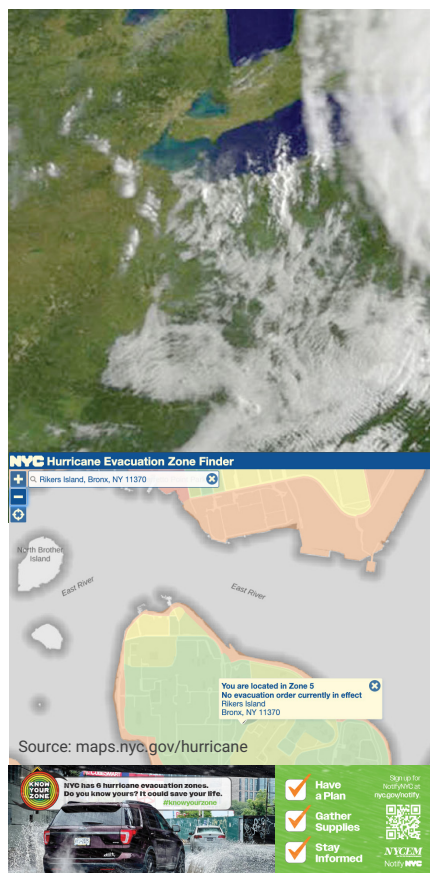
URL: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/jointheboldest/officer/correction-leadership.page>
Email: training.development@doc.nyc.gov or scholarships@doc.nyc.gov

IN PERSON:

- **Metro Correction Academy front desk**
- **G.M.D.C. front desk**
- **C.A.R.E. front desk**

*All application materials must be submitted in full by the close of business on **Aug. 8, 2025**.*

Hurricane Sandy from above. Source: NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM)



STORM DUTY:



How essential city workers can prepare for NYC's coastal storms

When coastal storms strike New York City, the ability of essential employees to travel to and from work becomes a critical concern.

Whether it's a slow-moving nor'easter or a more intense hurricane, these events are characterized by **prolonged exposure** to challenging conditions, including heavy precipitation, strong winds, and potential flooding. Given the frequent occurrence of coastal storms affecting the region annually, essential personnel must be exceptionally prepared for these potentially debilitating phenomena.

The cumulative impact of coastal storms can be substantial, often causing widespread damage, power outages, and debris on roadways. For essential workers, this translates to potential disruptions in public transportation—subway tunnels and bus depots are vulnerable—and hazardous driving conditions. Therefore, proactive and preemptive measures are crucial to ensure continued service delivery during these events.

COASTAL STORM PREPAREDNESS FOR NYC ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES

To ensure you're prepared to travel during a coastal storm, follow these steps:

- **Know your zone and plan your route:** Before a storm hits, find out if your home or workplace is in a **hurricane evacuation zone** (these zones are relevant for all coastal storms). Visit NYC.gov/knowyourzone or call 311. Identify multiple safe routes to and from work, considering potential flooding, downed trees, and public transport disruptions. Have backup plans for how you'll get to work if your primary method is unavailable.
- **Pack a 'go bag' and stay informed:** Prepare an emergency **go bag** with essentials like hand sanitizer, extra face coverings, medications, a portable phone charger, and any necessary personal items. Sign up for **Notify NYC** to receive real-time alerts and instructions from the city via email, text, or phone. Stay tuned to local weather forecasts on a battery-operated radio to monitor storm progression.
- **Secure your home and communicate:** Before the storm intensifies, secure any loose outdoor items that could become projectiles. If you live in a flood-prone area, have materials like sandbags ready. Inform your family and supervisor of your preparedness plan and potential communication challenges. If you have a disability or need assistance, arrange help from family, friends, or service providers in advance, ensuring your unique needs are addressed during a storm event.





JOIN THE BOLDEST

Connect With DOC Recruiters

Looking to speak to someone about becoming a NYC Correction Officer?

OUR RECRUITMENT TEAM IS HERE TO HELP.

Call (718) 707-2420 or e-mail careers@doc.nyc.gov

to become a step closer to joining The Boldest.

Our recruiters also visit events throughout the Tri-State area to share career information and answer hiring questions.

Be sure to also ask them when they will be visiting a community near you.



THE ROLL CALL

The New York City Department of Correction

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