

# The Roll Call



## A Message From Commissioner Maginley-Liddie



Dear Boldest Family,

Spring is here again, and I hope you, like me, are excited for this season of renewal. This department is no stranger to renewal and reinvention. In fact, we thrive on it. Our ability to face new challenges and blaze new trails is what has sustained our work for 130 BOLD years.

Our collective resilience – and the positive impact it has on the lives of those in our care – is especially apparent at as we transition from Black History Month to Women's History Month.

The majority of our leadership roles at DOC are held by people identifying as female, a person of color, or both.

For decades, we've held an impressive record of leadership that broke barriers and pushed open the door for others to join the ranks and thrive.

I am proud to follow in the footsteps of leaders like former Commissioner Jacqueline McMickens – the first Black woman to lead DOC – who fought to bring women into the department and make promotional opportunities available to them. I remain committed to continuing this legacy.

Speaking of legacy, last month we had the opportunity to honor the life of DOC's longest-serving employee. Edwin Felicien served DOC for 57 years, nearly half the agency's entire history. As a jail time calculator, his job was to ensure that the time someone served was not more nor less than what was provided for in the law, and he took this job seriously. His job was to protect the integrity of what we do.

Beyond his dedication to his work, Mr. Felicien was a valued friend to generations of DOC staff and was known to all for his charity and kindness. There is no better place to honor the life and dedication of this special man than a law library, and I am proud our law library at EMTC now bears his name.

This is not an easy job, and I remain grateful to every one of you, my DOC heroes, who renew their commitment to upholding our work with honor and dignity every time you don your uniform or set foot in our facilities. I am so proud of the legacy we are building for the next generation and look forward to triumphing in the work ahead.

## Congratulations Women In Correction



The Women in Correction fraternal organization was honored by state lawmakers on Feb. 16 at the 54th Annual New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus in Albany.

During the 2025 Community Awards Ceremony, state Senator Leroy Comrie and Assembly Member Clyde Vanel presented our officers with the prestigious Honorable Barbara M. Clark Award for demonstrating exceptional commitment and service to the community.

The award is named in remembrance of Ms. Clark, a trailblazer in public service, education and child care advocacy.

NYCD Women in Correction Inc. is a fraternal organization comprised of both retired and current DOC members who advocate, lead community initiatives and support building a sisterhood.

# PAWS FOR PURPOSE

The NYC Correction Department brought back its pioneering P.A.W.S. of Purpose Canine Rehabilitation Program at R.N.D.C. The nine week therapeutic initiative offers both rescue dogs and people in custody the chance to heal, learn, and grow together.

Officer Albanese, a 10-year DOC veteran, was part of the program's first installment at EMTC and now holds a steady post in the P.A.W.S. Unit at RNDC. Even though the program is still relatively new, Albanese says the young men in the housing unit are already benefitting.

"It definitely changes their whole attitude, it really does. It gives them a sense of purpose. They've got to take care of the dog. They want to get him adopted. If you don't do the right thing with him, he could end up going back to the shelter and they don't want to see that."

The star of the program is Luca, a lovable American Staffordshire Terrier, who was found abandoned in the Lower East Side of Manhattan just days before Thanksgiving. Anxious and unsettled in the shelter, Luca struggled to keep weight on and needed near constant attention.

Without a forever-home, Animal Haven Rescue connected with DOC to provide him with a stable environment that offers round-the-clock care.

"I'm here in the morning and after Luca eats, he'll pick a different bed every day to go cuddle with them," said Officer Albanese. "If one of the [people in custody] has to go to work, Luca will go to another bed. You could see it just brings them security. Everyone here loves dogs."

The joint effort between the Boldest and Animal Haven Rescue uses positive reinforcement training techniques to teach dogs like Luca basic obedience and manners while assisting with their care.

The dogs are eventually adopted into loving homes that will continue their training and provide a nurturing environment.

The P.A.W.S. program not only enhances the dogs' adoptability but also equips participants with the tools for personal growth, emotional healing, and successful reintegration into the community.





# RENOWNED RESILIENCE TRAINING IMPLEMENTED AT NYC DOC

The Boldest are one of a kind – but they are not alone in the challenges they face.

Recognizing that corrections is one of the toughest jobs in law enforcement, agencies across the country are working to promote health and provide support to staff. New York City is also now building bridges with regional partners to exchange ideas about successful models.

The NYC DOC Academy recently hosted a two-day workshop with Essex County Corrections Department (ECCD) to discuss concepts from New Jersey's renowned Resiliency Officer Program (ROP), which helps staff manage stress, prevent burnout and build resilience.

“Healthy staff, and the healthy exchange of ideas, support healthier facilities for everyone,” said Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie. “Investing in professional development and wellbeing while strengthening relationships with our city and regional corrections partners, is a win for the agency, the city and the region.”

Following a “train the trainer” model, DOC instructors worked with Essex County to learn proven strategies that will help the agency develop a cadre of trained Resilience Officers within the Boldest.

The workshops focused on techniques to recognize “activating events” – or traumas ranging from a bad work incident to health or marital concerns, said participant CO Delicia Stephane, a DOC trainer.



Rather than following a negative trajectory, the training enables staff to learn how to sustain themselves and develop resilience, which could include utilizing spiritual and physical resources, and mindfulness, said Stephane. The training will equip officers to work alongside C.A.R.E./wellness teams as peer-to-peer mentors to support personnel, said Deputy Commissioner of Training and Development John Ward.

The inter-agency training fosters the exchange of best practices and intelligence, maximizes resources across the corrections community, builds trust with public safety partners, and establishes unified standards, said Ward.

“We are looking to be a local and regional asset for not only our own training but for others, and [be] a force multiplier for everyone,” said Ward.

ECCD Sargent Matt Walker was of part the groundbreaking, inaugural collaboration between the two agencies. NYC DOC wishes to thank ECCD Captain Richard Joyce for coordinating current and future trainings and ECCD Director Ronald Charles Department of Corrections for his leadership and support in this partnership.

# EDWIN FELICIEN LAW LIBRARY



The law library at the Eric M. Taylor Center (EMTC) has been renamed in honor of the longest serving employee in the Department's 130-year history.

The Edwin Felicien Law Library recognizes the late Senior Program Specialist who worked for more than 57 years at NYC DOC – nearly half of the agency's entire existence.

"Edwin Felicien's legacy is one that we can all learn from. He was a dedicated member of our Boldest family, a kind and generous person, and one of the true unsung heroes of this Department," said NYC Correction Commissioner Lynelle Maginley-Liddie.

Mr. Felicien was a jail time calculator whose job was to ensure that the time someone served was not more nor less than what was provided for in the law. His ability to decipher complex sentencing provisions, retrieve various records and determine factors like interstate reciprocity, made him a go-to resource for judges and others in the legal system.

"His work required tremendous attention to detail and ensured the agency's accurate application of the law," Commissioner Maginley-Liddie said. "It's only fitting that we memorialize his incredible service to the city of New York, and to this Department, by naming one of our law libraries in his honor."

Mr. Felicien's family – many of them retired uniformed staff – joined nearly 50 members of service at EMTC on Feb. 21 for the renaming ceremony.

"This is the greatest feeling ever," said Edwin Felicien's nephew, retired Correction Officer Tenor Felicien III. "As an officer, I worked here with him. He showed me the ropes."

Edwin Felicien started at the agency in 1960, initially intending to be a Correction Officer before becoming a civilian clerk instead. He started on Rikers Island at what was then called the House of Detention for Men and then moved to Headquarters. He worked at DOC until his passing in 2017.



In addition to his public service, Mr. Felicien was an experienced marathon runner.

In 1994, Felicien received the prestigious Sloan Public Service Award, which honors outstanding New York City civil servants. Upon receiving the award, he gave some of the \$5,000 prize to charity.

In an interview with The New York Times about the award, Mr. Felicien was asked about what made his job rewarding.

"I had a positive letter from a prisoner," he answered. "He said that in three years of trying, I was the only one who helped. He wanted to get out and turn his life around. I found him some time. You feel that one letter justifies everything."



# BROOKLYN'S BOLDEST FITNESS CENTER

A new wellness center opened for DOC staff at the Brooklyn Criminal Court.

The wellness center features a gym with a range of exercise equipment as well as a lounge for breaks and meals.

“A healthy lifestyle is one decision away,” said ADW Asratali of Brooklyn Courts. “You make that first trip to the gym and you’re on your way.”

On Feb. 26, Commissioner Maginley-Liddie and DOC executive staff joined the Brooklyn Court’s Boldest to cut the ribbon on the center.

“You are asked to do a lot every day and I am going to add just one more – please take care of yourselves,” Commissioner Maginley-Liddie said at the event. “Your responsibilities are substantial but so is your importance to this agency and to this city.”

This is the second wellness center created by the department. In January, the agency opened the wellness center at the Otis Bantum Correctional Center.

The department is planning to open additional wellness centers at other commands in the months ahead.





# The Roll Call



## H.R.

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) and the Department of Correction (DOC) are pleased to announce the launch/expansion of our career counseling program. This initiative offers a unique opportunity to explore pathways for professional development, educational advancement, and career growth within our agency and the broader city workforce. The Department wants to be as flexible as possible and understands that finding time can be difficult. That's why we're making career counseling available for in-person or remote sessions. All sessions are fully confidential. During your session, you will receive tailored information about professional development opportunities, including internal and external trainings. Steps to apply for positions with higher salaries, including supervisory and managerial roles. Promotional civil service exams and how to navigate them.

Your initial counseling session will be at least 60-minutes, if need be. The DOC career counseling team will work to schedule requests for consultations within 60 days of your request. In addition, a follow-up session will also be offered within 30 days, but please know we are always here to talk about your career journey. Participants will also receive comprehensive materials, with details on promotional exams, training registration, and other career development resources.

We want to hear from you! To ensure the program meets your needs, we will invite all participants to complete a voluntary survey to provide feedback on actions taken after their counseling sessions. The feedback will help us improve the career counseling program and identify additional resources to support your growth.

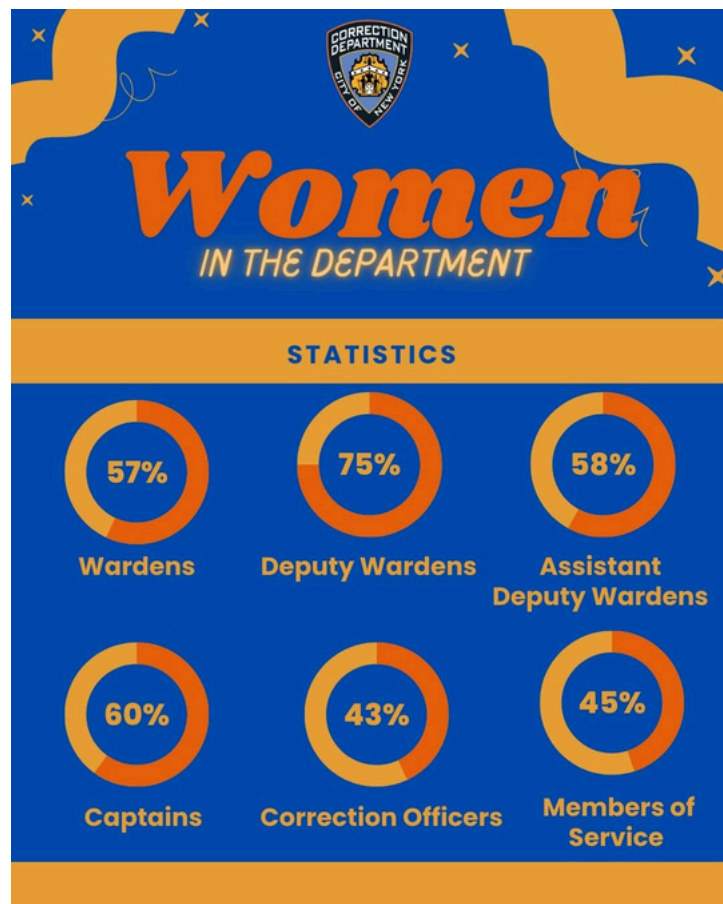
For more information or to schedule a session, please contact the career counseling team:

- Floretha Bryant: [floretha.bryant@doc.nyc.gov](mailto:floretha.bryant@doc.nyc.gov) or 718-546-3202
- Darlene Oxendine: [darlene.oxendine@doc.nyc.gov](mailto:darlene.oxendine@doc.nyc.gov) or
- 718-546-3204

## JoinTheBoldest



Members of the Asian Jade Society visited Surrogate's Courthouse in Manhattan on Feb. 7 to celebrate Lunar New Year with their fellow New Yorkers.





**D O C C E L E B R A T E S**

**BLA CK**



**HISTORY MONTH**





