

Newest PAPD K-9s Honor 9/11 Heroes



The PAPD's newest K-9s with their partners

Meet the newest four-legged members of the Port Authority Police Department's K-9 unit: **Mag, Bruce, Mimmo, Stuey, and Amo**, and their human partners, Officers **Kevin Gallagher, Sean Lynch, Gary Zintl, Kirk Kouzis, and John Adams**.

The canine graduates were named in honor of fallen 9/11 PAPD Officers **David LeMagne, Bruce Reynolds, Dominick Pezzulo, Walwyn Stuart, and Christopher Amoroso**.

These five teams of officers and K-9s have successfully completed the PAPD's 14-week training course for certification in explosives and narcotics detection. You can view [local news coverage of the new K-9s](#) and learn more about each pooch and the PAPD officer they were named after on [page 2](#).

[continued on page 2 >](#)

PABT Poster Contest Winners Spotlight Delightful Destinations

"Where Does The Midtown Bus Terminal Take You?" Contest Winners

Winner Grade 1 – 4 Category



Hayley Hirshon
Grade 3
PS303Q – Forest Hills, NY

Winner Grade 5 – 8 Category



Ethan Arroyave
Grade 7
Chessie Dentley Roberts Academy – Elizabeth, NJ

Wildcard Winner



Johanna Sanchez
Grade 7
Nicholas S. La Corte-Peterstown School #3 – Elizabeth, NJ

The Port Authority Bus Terminal Advisory Council has selected the winners of its annual poster contest, of which the theme this year was "Where Does the Midtown Bus Terminal Take You?"

Young artists from schools throughout the bistate region were invited to participate by highlighting some of their favorite destinations accessible from the Midtown Bus Terminal. Each winner received a trophy and a family package for two hours of bowling

[continued on page 2 >](#)

QUICK LINKS

[CALENDAR](#) >

[STAFF NEWS](#) >

IN THIS EDITION

[PAPD Visits Local Boy Battling Cancer](#)

[PAPD Bi-State Coalition Recognized for Contributions to the Community](#)

Aviation Recognizes Outstanding Staff in Honor of Former Director

The Aviation Department on December 15 recognized ten outstanding employees who embody its vision of being a world-class operator of world-class airports and who have made exceptional



Late former Aviation Director Susan Baer

contributions to the department.

"It is so important that we recognize our colleagues for their work," said Aviation Director **Charles Everett** during a virtual ceremony attended by more than 200 employees.

The awardees received the **Susan M. Baer** Aviation Director's Award, which was renamed this year in honor of the late, former Director of Aviation, who held the post from

[continued on page 2 >](#)

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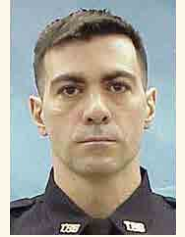
[continued from page 1 >](#)



Police Officer Kevin Gallagher and 2-year-old German Shepard mix Mag, who was named after Police Officer David LeMagne



Police Officer Sean Lynch and 1-year-old German Shepard mix Bruce, who was named after Police Officer Bruce Reynolds



Police Officer Gary Zintl and 1-year-old German Shepard mix Mimmo, who was named after Police Officer Dominick Pezzulo

PABT Poster Contest Winners

[continued from page 1 >](#)

and refreshments at Frames Bowling, located in the bus terminal. The three winning submissions are now displayed on posters and digital kiosks throughout the terminal.

“The poster contest is a wonderful idea to interact with the commuters and neighborhood residents of the Port Authority [Bus Terminal] and surrounding communities,” said Barbara Eastman, PABTAC Council Member. “It is so gratifying to see such talent in the contest participants!”



Police Officer Kirk Kouzis and 2-year-old German Shepard Stuey, who was named after Police Officer Walwyn Stuart



Police Officer John Adams and 2-year-old Belgian Malinois Amo, who was named after Police Officer Christopher Amoroso

GOT NEWS FOR NEXT TIME?

Do you have news from your team, department or employee group to share in the next PA News? Send it to panews@panynj.gov by January 13 to be included in the January 20 issue.



TRADING POST

Did you know that you can use the [Trading Post](#) to request an item you're looking for? Work with your fellow PA employees to get any supplies you may need. Get started [here](#).



Aviation Recognizes Outstanding Staff

[continued from page 1 >](#)

2009 to 2014, and who was the agency's first woman Aviation Director and the only person to ever manage all three major airports (along with the Lincoln Tunnel and Midtown Bus Terminal).

This year's honorees, selected from a total of 39 nominations, were:

- **Sherri Smith**, Manager of Airport Concessions & Strategic Customer Experience
- **Debbie D'Amico**, Senior Policy Analyst, JFK
- **Craig Blum**, ARFF Crew Chief, LGA
- **Marsha Escoc-Graham**, Rail Operations Assistant Manager, AirTrain JFK
- **Jane Herndon**, Manager, Aviation Environmental Programs
- **Chris Perez**, FS-8 Duty Manager, EWR
- **Madeline Arango**, Senior Policy Analyst, LGA
- **Brendan Durkan**, Maintenance Group Supervisor, EWR
- **Andrew Liebowitz**, Manager Transportation Revenues and Business Insights
- **Yvonne Lam**, FS-8 Duty Manager, LGA

“I encourage all of you to recognize your fellow colleagues for a job well done, not just through awards like this, but throughout the year — as part of your day-to-day interactions working with one another.”

Learn more about each of the award recipients in the [event's presentation deck](#).

STAFF NEWS

New Leadership of NJ Airports and SWF

The Aviation Department is pleased to share the following appointments to key leadership positions:

Sarah McKeon has taken on the role of General Manager of NJ Airports, replacing **James Gill**, who has resigned from agency. In this role, Sarah will provide strategic leadership and oversight of Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) and Teterboro Airport (TEB). Sarah's Port Authority career spans over 18 years.

Most recently, Sarah was named Deputy Director of Aviation Planning and Development. Sarah has held progressively responsible leadership positions at EWR, including Facility Maintenance Specialist, Assistant Manager of Airport Maintenance, Manager of Airport Maintenance, Physical Plant Manager, and over three years as Deputy General Manager. Prior to joining Aviation, Sarah also

held roles in the Engineering and Procurement Departments.

Omar Astacio has been named General Manager, New York Stewart International Airport (SWF). Omar has served in this role in an interim capacity since February 2020 and has been with the Stewart Airport team from day one, serving as the agency's first Resident Engineer at SWF following the PA's acquisition of the airport in November 2007. He subsequently advanced into other managerial roles including Manager of Airport Facility Projects and Manager of Airport Operations and Security.

Omar joined the Port Authority as an Intern in 1990 at the GWB, followed by rotations as an Engineering trainee. After the 1993 WTC bombing, Omar was part of Engineering's WTC Construction staff before moving to EWR in 1994, then to roles of increasing responsibility at JFK and the GWB.



Sarah McKeon



Omar Astacio

Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Named

Acting Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer **Carrol Bennett** retired at the end of December after 40+ dedicated years of service to the Port Authority. Carrol's career spanned many departments including Comptroller's, Chief Financial Office, Real Estate, Capital Planning, and more recently as Chief of Staff in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ODEI). In September 2021, Carrol agreed to take on the Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer role in an acting capacity to ensure continuity and continued progress in advancing the agency's diversity, equity and inclusion agenda as a search for a permanent replacement ensued.

During her tenure, Carrol continued to advance the important work of the Workplace Equity Council, which has taken on the follow ups to the initiatives of the Leadership Steering Committee. Additionally, Carrol has led the team in building capacity and increasing minority- and women-owned business enterprise (MWBE)

utilization within all categories of Port Authority contracting activities.

Jose Febrillet has now taken the role of Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. Jose will continue to drive the agency's relentless focus on promoting diversity, equity and inclusion with both internal and external stakeholders. As a 34-year agency veteran, Jose has a broad background and has worked with virtually every department in the agency. He has served in multiple roles in the Engineering Department and also played a critical role in the agency's post-9/11 Security Capital Program. In 2013, Jose was appointed Director of the Project Management Office.

Jose has also played a major role with our EBRGs as an active member of the Network of Black Employees and PA PRIDE, and is an At-Large Board Member of the Port Authority Hispanic Society. He has led the implementation of an EBRG-sponsored mentorship program providing important development opportunities for members.



Carrol Bennett



Jose Febrillet

PAPD Visits Local Boy Battling Cancer

On Dec. 17, first responders and emergency vehicles representing the PAPD, NYPD, FDNY, and Richmond University Medical Center joined together in a community drive through on Staten Island for a 3-year-old boy named Caiden, who is currently battling cancer. Caiden has expressed his dream to one day become a police officer.

"I want to be a police officer and save the day," Caiden said.

His adoptive parents were grateful for the surprise. "By having our brothers and sisters of law enforcement drive by to show love and put a huge smile on our son's face makes all first responders impressionable, leaving a positive memory that Caiden will never forget," said Cynthia Mora. "Not only did Caiden get presents under the Christmas tree, but he received the greatest gift by having a lifetime positive memory," said Jasmine Mora.



PAPD Bi-State Coalition Recognized for Contributions to the Community

The PAPD Bi-State Coalition was recently honored and recognized for its ongoing outreach efforts and contributions to local communities.

Together with local elected officials and community leaders, members of the coalition gathered at Riverside Church in Manhattan on December 22 to accept formal proclamations of recognition and appreciation for its contributions to better the community. Among the members on hand were Lieutenant **Brandon Cummings**, Lieutenant **Atiba Joseph-Cumberbatch**, Sergeant **Tonya McKinley**, Sergeant **Andre Phillips**, Detective **Marcus Goodridge**, Detective **Carl-Ann McBean**, Officer **Anthony Hamilton**, and Officer **Kyle King**.



Officer Kyle King, Detective Marcus Goodridge, Detective Carl-Ann McBean, Lieutenant Atiba Joseph-Cumberbatch, NYC Public Advocate Jumanne Williams, Lieutenant Brandon Cummings, Officer Anthony Hamilton, Sergeant Andre Phillips, and Sergeant Tonya McKinley.



Lieutenant Wilfred Quashie, Sergeant Shauna Parker, Officer Pria Duhaney, community leader Alicia Barksdale, Officer Christian Simpson, and Officer Kasheema Besley during a Bi-State Coalition holiday toy giveaway at Harlem Hospital on December 14.

Employees (NBE), Port Authority Veterans Association (PAVA), and Port Authority Abilities Network (PAAN) for the following sessions:

Mindfulness, Leadership and Adaptability

Wednesday, January 11 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Emotional intelligence is an integral part of our human intelligence — learn more about how emotional intelligence can enhance your personal and professional quality of life. Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Vanessa Anseloni, psychologist and neuroscientist.

Importance of Empowering Patients: Impact of Lifestyles and Social Environment on our Health and Wellbeing

Friday, January 13 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Learn about the power of prevention and how you and your loved ones can be empowered in your health and wellness journey. Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Luz Ares, internist and nutrition expert.

Embracing Mentoring, Empowering Employees

Tuesday, January 17 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Learn more about the importance of mentoring in your career choices and development. Featuring keynote speaker and life coach Marilyn Matos.

To attend these events: All members of the sponsoring EBRGs will receive calendar invitations. Non-members can register for a session [by submitting this form](#). Check out [the flyer](#) for more information.

NBE: Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

Thursday, January 19 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., The Studio, 7 World Trade Center, 10th floor and on MS Teams. Join NBE for its 36th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in person or virtually. All NBE members will receive a calendar invitation and RSVP link. Non-members can RSVP to [NBE@panynj.gov](#). All are welcome to join in person or virtually.

CALENDAR

"New Year, New Me": EBRG-Hosted Wellness Sessions

Several EBRGs are teaming up for a series of wellness and personal development-focused events in January. Join the Port Authority Women's Council (PAWC), Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA), Port Authority Hispanic Society (PAHS), Network of Black