

'State of the Port Authority' Celebrates Employee Accomplishments

"Recognition — we're here for the recognition of the employees who have gotten it done over the last year, two years, three years, 101 years," said Chairman **Kevin O'Toole**, who provided the opening remarks for the 2023 State of the Port Authority employee town hall.



Hundreds were in attendance for the first in-person State of the Port Authority employee town hall in more than three years

That was the theme the morning of Wednesday, April 12, when more than 600 employees from the Port Authority family spanning across all departments and functions came together in person for the first time in more than three years to learn, reflect, celebrate employee accomplishments, and look ahead to the agency's agenda for years to come. The program was held at the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center, located just minutes away from 4 WTC. In addition, hundreds of employees from across PA facilities also tuned in to the livestream to celebrate their colleagues.

"We recognize the extraordinary actions, day to day, the dedication, hard work, round the clock if necessary, of the employees — thank you, thank you, thank you," said Executive Director **Rick Cotton**.

Emcee **Christina Callahan**, Director of Human Resources, then handed over the podium to colleagues representing six key agency initiatives and programs: **Jacqueline**

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Procurement Executive Honored as 'Black Achiever'

On March 23, Procurement Executive **Shanta Nelson** was formally named as a 2023 Black Achiever in the Industry (BAI) by the [YMCA of Greater New York](#). Shanta was supported and surrounded by her PA family and loved ones at the YMCA Black Achievers Program Gala, where she was recognized for her career accomplishments, leadership in the agency and community, work attitude, ethical behavior, and integrity.

The Port Authority has been a longtime supporter of the YMCA BAI Awards program, having sponsored this important community-based endeavor since 1973. For five decades, the agency has helped provide educational and experiential

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Procurement's Selene Ortega, Shanta Nelson, Luke Bassis, and Lilian Valenti

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April Is Earth Month: We're Investing in Our Planet

This year's [global Earth Day theme](#) is *Invest in Our Planet*, which underscores our [longstanding commitment](#) to investing in the sustainability of our region. Since announcing our ambitious goal of [Net Zero emissions](#) by 2050, we've taken big steps toward ensuring the long-term sustainability of our region — and our planet — through real-world investments and actions. The [Office of Sustainability](#), line departments, and staff from across the agency are working together to help the Port Authority to become a Net Zero, climate-resilient organization.

Need a quick refresher on our Net Zero goal? Put simply, Net Zero means cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible, with



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RETIREMENT

No more budgets and no more meetings for

Mike Shannon, Manager, Aviation Financial Services, NJ Airports, who is retiring after nearly 38 years of service with the agency. Join together to celebrate Mike's career on April 26 at noon at the EWR Building 1 GM Conference Room. \$40 p.p, includes lunch and gift. To learn more or RSVP, contact **Tanisha Minto** (973-961-6210) or **Rob Donahue** (212-435-6321). [See the flyer for more information.](#)



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](#).



PARA WANTS YOU

The Port Authority Retirees Association (PARA) invites active and retired Port Authority and PATH employees to join its almost 4,000 members.

PARA allows you to stay current with news about the agency, its employees and retirees, and with state and federal issues of importance to retirees, such as benefit, pension, and Social Security updates.

The membership fee is \$20 a year. Visit www.paranynj.org for more information and to sign up for PARA's email bulletins.



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 March 21 to be included in the March 28 issue.



Facility Cafeterias Introduce Compostable Utensils for Earth Month

Brother and sister duo, **Christopher Mohr**, Manager of Operations Services, Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals, and **Michele Caraballo**, General Manager of Operations, Operations Services, have teamed up to commemorate Earth Month with the introduction of new, compostable utensils at agency facility cafeterias.



Left photo, from left: Dante Vigliotti (Environmental Programs Manager, TB&T), Christopher Mohr, Michele Caraballo, and Oscar Torres (Dining Services Manager).

Cafeterias at the George Washington Bridge, Holland Tunnel, Lincoln Tunnel, and the Port Authority Technical Center are introducing an alternative to plastic cutlery with a natural biodegradable and compostable bamboo alternative. This initiative supports the agency's ambitious goal to divert waste from landfills through enhanced recycling, organic composting, and waste minimization.

Through a QR code survey at the facilities, the team will track the customer experience throughout the month and assess if the bamboo cutlery could replace plastic cutlery permanently.

'State of the Port Authority'

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Grossgold and **Sanchita Banerjee-Jimenez** for Brilliant Basics; **Lt. William Howley** for the PAPD K-9 Unit; **Seth Wainer** for Innovation; **Kate Lawrence-Shetty** for Sustainability and the Roadmap to Net Zero; **Jim Heitmann** for Inspiring Art at PA facilities; and **Maurice Robinson** and **Melissa Irving** from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Human Resources, respectively – on the agency's commitment to being an Employer of Choice for all.

During the program, the leaders of the agency's ten EBRGs were recognized for their efforts in ensuring that all employees feel a sense of belonging and that they all have equal opportunities to succeed. In addition, recipients of the newly relaunched PA Applause award were also honored.

If you missed the town hall or would like to view it again, [a recording is available](#).



Sanchita Banerjee-Jimenez and Jacqueline Grossgold



PAPD K-9 Demonstration



Kate Lawrence-Shetty



Melissa Irving speaks with Maurice Robinson

April Is Earth Month

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any remaining emissions reabsorbed from the atmosphere, such as by oceans and forests. Reaching Net Zero requires us to balance the amount of greenhouse gases we emit with the amount we remove.

When what we add is no more than what we take away, **we reach Net Zero.**

Attend an Earth Month Event

Departments throughout the agency are marking Earth Month with webinars, lunch and learns, live events, and much more. Learn how we're making a real difference every day, and how you can do your part as well. See below for what's coming up next, and [check out the full calendar of events](#) on the Office of Sustainability SharePoint page.

TB&T's Sustainability Word of the Week

Back by popular demand — the Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department (TB&T) is marking Earth Month with a series of sustainability-related words and terms that you should know. See the [PA News website](#) for the full the list of words and terms highlighted this month so far.

Resources for More Sustainable Travel

Get 50% Off a Citi Bike Membership

Did you know that all PA employees are eligible for discounted Citi Bike annual memberships for just \$102.50? That's 50% off the \$205 annual fee (not including tax)! Bike stations are

available throughout Manhattan, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Jersey City, and Hoboken. [See here for instructions on how to sign up.](#) For questions, contact Benefits Customer Care & Solutions at (212) 435-2870, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., or via email at hr_employeebenefits@panynj.gov.

Employee Rideshare Program

The Office of Sustainability has partnered with [511NY Rideshare](#) and [NJ EZ Ride](#) to make it easier for employees to carpool to PA facilities. The Employee RideShare Program is voluntary and provides employees with free, customized traveler services. Get started by completing the [Employee Travel Registration](#).

PA Commuting Buddy: Find a Buddy for Public Transit

Have you signed up to be a PA Commuting Buddy yet? This easy-to-use resource, created by the Technology Department (TEC) in partnership with the Port Authority Asian American Association and the Port Authority Women's Council, connects employees with similar public transit commutes so they can make their journey together. [Sign up today](#) — it's easy to get started.

The Good Traveler: More Sustainable Air Travel

The Port Authority is a founding airport partner behind [The Good Traveler](#), a program that offers carbon offsets for air travel. For those emissions you can't reduce through direct action, CO2 offsets can help support emissions reduction projects. Enjoy your travels knowing that your offsets helped revitalize a forest or supported a waste-to-energy initiative. Check it out at thegoodtraveler.org.

Procurement Executive Honored

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opportunities for local community members, helping to provide an essential foundation for internship and mentor programs, corporate scholarships, and HBCU College Tours.

Each year, the BAI Awards gather community and business leaders together to honor the achievements and contributions of Black professionals in their organizations and/or communities.

Congratulations, Shanta!

IN MEMORIAM

Gustavo Trozzi

The Port Authority/PATH family mourns the passing of **Gustavo Trozzi**, a 17-year veteran of the agency.

Gustavo joined the agency on November 28, 2005, as a General Maintainer assigned to PATH's Car Equipment Division — the expert team responsible for managing the agency's railcar fleet, including preventive maintenance, cleaning, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation. In 2009, Gustavo was promoted to Electrician in the division, a role he held until the time of his passing in late March.

Please keep Gustavo and his family, friends, and colleagues in your hearts and thoughts during this difficult time.



PATH Powers a Resilient Future

Originally published in [Now Arriving](#), written by Scott Ladd.

The empty triangular lot tucked into a busy section of downtown Jersey City is undergoing the first stages of redevelopment. At the moment, it isn't much to look at. But for PATH, it's a powerhouse of a project.

PATH is building a new power-generating plant on property bordered by Washington, Greene and Second streets with the Bergen-Hudson Light Rail tracks at the south end, to replace an adjoining 114-year-old facility. The project reflects the Port Authority's commitment to more sustainable and reliable power sources, while providing a smaller, sleeker and visually appealing addition to Jersey City's ongoing downtown transformation.

Continue reading in [Now Arriving](#).



The current PATH powerhouse in Jersey City, built in 1908

CALENDAR

[PAWC: Women & Investing](#)

Tuesday, April 18 at 1 p.m. Join the Port Authority Women's Council (PAWC) (in collaboration with HRD) for its Women & Investing webinar. Financial success is a goal for many, but women face unique barriers that can make their financial goals more challenging to achieve. This virtual financial wellness workshop will explore these daunting challenges and examine investing pitfalls that all investors should avoid when taking control of their financial futures. All PAWC members will receive a calendar invitation. For non-members, [click here](#) for more information and to RSVP.

[PAPWT and PAAN: Parenting Children with Disabilities](#)

Friday, April 21 at noon. Join Port Authority Parents Working Together (PAPWT) and the Port Authority Abilities Network (PAAN) for a virtual panel-based discussion on Parenting Children with Disabilities. Parents and caregivers will speak on their experiences raising children with disabilities. There will be time for questions and sharing from audience members. All agency employees are welcome. Members of PAPWT and PAAN will receive an invitation. For non-members to RSVP, [click here](#).

[PA-AAA: Celebrate Eid 2023](#)

Tuesday, April 25 at noon. Join the Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA) to celebrate and learn more about Eid al-Fitr, or the Festival of Sweets. Eid is celebrated by Muslims worldwide as it marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan. All PA-AAA members will receive a calendar invitation. For

non-members to RSVP, please email PAAAA@panynj.gov.

[APNG: Appreciation Breakfast – emPOWERED to Make a Difference](#)

Wednesday, April 26 at 9 a.m., The Bankers Club, 120 Broadway, New York. The Administrative Professionals Networking Group (APNG) invites you to celebrate National Administrative Professionals Day 2023. Join us and help us celebrate the work of the agency's many talented and dedicated admin professionals. Please [RSVP via the registration page](#) by close of business Wednesday, April 19. The event will be live streamed for those based at facilities or unable to attend this event. A link will be distributed as we get closer to the date. Please email pa_apng@panynj.gov with questions/inquiries.

[PAVA: JFK Runway 5K Run/Walk](#)

Sunday, April 30. The Port Authority Veterans Association (PAVA) will take part in the annual JFK Runway 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, April 30 at JFK Airport, Building 14. Check in is from 7 to 8:15 a.m. and the race starts at 9 a.m., rain or shine. For more information and to sign up, [click here](#). Be sure to select the **Port Authority Veterans Association** team when you sign up. The registration fee increases on April 9,, so sign up now! Contact PAVA@panynj.gov with any questions.

[9/11 Memorial 5K Run/Walk](#)

Sunday, April 30. The 9/11 Memorial & Museum is hosting its annual [9/11 Memorial & Museum 5K Run/Walk](#) in lower Manhattan. You are invited to join the Port Authority Corporate Team and to honor all those rescue, recovery, and

relief workers who came to the aid of our city when it needed them the most. Space is limited. Sign up by Friday, April 7. While donations and fundraising is welcome, it is not required to participate. To register for the PA Corporate Team, visit [9/11 Memorial & Museum 5K Run/Walk website](#), and sign up using code **PANYNJ23**. For any questions, email **Arianna Kane** at arkane@panynj.gov.

[PAVA: Wear Jeans to Support Veterans](#)

Wednesday, May 24. Join the Port Authority Veterans Association (PAVA) and take part in the GI Go Fund's [Red, White, and Jeans](#) program (formerly Jeans for Troops) to show your support for our military veterans in their greatest time of need. To participate, you can [donate to the GI Go Fund](#) as part of the PAVA/Port Authority team and then wear jeans to work on May 24. You can [donate and participate](#) directly through the event website. PAVA will not be collecting funds. Employees must obtain permission from their supervisor to dress down prior to signing up. **Please send photos of you wearing jeans to work on May 24 to PAVA@panynj.gov.**

[Twilight Golf League](#)

Every Wednesday through August 23. The three-decade-year-old league plays 9 holes of match play every Wednesday starting at 4 p.m. League is handicap based; players of all skills levels compete equally. Alternates between South Shore Country Club on Staten Island and Skyway Country Club in Jersey City. Participation is **not** a weekly commitment. **Active and retired employees are welcome.** The \$145 annual dues cover a BBQ after the last week of play, and a golf outing held at Farmstead Golf Course in September. To register or learn more, contact **Erik Lombardo** (elombar@panynj.gov or 212-502-2470). [See the flyer](#) for more information.

Get Involved with PAHS

On March 29, the Port Authority Hispanic Society held its quarterly membership meeting at 2 Montgomery, which was attended by more than 80 members in person and virtually. Participants discussed membership matters and plans for the coming months.

For more information on how to get involved with PAHS, contact pahs@panynj.gov.

