

# February, 2018 District Manager's Report

## Agency Reports:

**DEP Reported:** New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) collects and treats an average of 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day at its 14 wastewater treatment plants, and our Bureau of Wastewater Treatment is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all facilities related to the treatment of sewage, including wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs), collections facilities, wastewater laboratories, harbor vessels and sludge dewatering facilities.

In order to fill one of the most important positions necessary to the maintenance and operation of our WWTPs, the Sewage Treatment Worker exam is now open to help the City reviews and hire candidates in this title.

DEP Sewage Treatment Workers have many interesting duties. They operate, maintain, and repair machinery, equipment and structures in wastewater treatment plants, pumping stations, intercepting sewers, sludge treatment and disposal facilities and associated equipment facilities; take samples and carry out testing of sewage; and perform related work.

Positions are available at DEP locations throughout the five boroughs.

### Requirements include:

- A four-year high school diploma or its educational equivalent;
- Three years of full-time satisfactory experience in relevant field;
- Class A or B Commercial Driver's License ("CDL") or a valid CDL Learner's Permit;
- Certificate Requirement - Within first three months of appointment, employees must obtain all of the following Certificates of Fitness: C92, F60, G22, G44, G46, G60, G98, S94;
- NYC residency required within 90 days of appointment;

**The Sewage Treatment Worker job is also a great entry-level position for those interested in working in the environmental field, with a starting salary of \$334.08 per day**

**Department of Health Reported:** A computer system developed by Columbia University with Health Department epidemiologists detects foodborne illness and outbreaks in NYC restaurants based on keywords in Yelp reviews.

Using Yelp, 311, and reports from health care providers, the Health Department has identified and investigated approximately 28,000 complaints of suspected foodborne illness overall since 2012.

Since 2012, 10 outbreaks of foodborne illness were identified solely through a computer system jointly created with Columbia University's Department of Computer Science. Launched in 2012, the computer system tracks foodborne illnesses based on certain keywords that appear in Yelp restaurant reviews. This strategy has helped Health Department staff identify approximately

1,500 complaints of foodborne illness in New York City each year, for a total of 8,523 since July 2012.

Improvements to the computer system are the subject of a joint study published this week by the Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association. The Health Department and Columbia continue to expand the system to include other social media sources, such as Twitter, which was added to the system in November 2016. The computer system allows the Health Department to investigate incidents and outbreaks that might otherwise go undetected. New Yorkers are encouraged to call 311 to report any suspected foodborne illness.

Each year, thousands of New York City residents become sick from consuming foods or drinks that are contaminated with harmful bacteria, viruses or parasites. The most common sources of food poisoning include raw or undercooked meat, poultry, eggs, shellfish and unpasteurized milk. Fruits and vegetables may become contaminated if they are handled or processed in facilities that are not kept clean, if they come into contact with contaminated fertilizer, or if they are watered or washed with contaminated water. Contamination may also occur if food is incorrectly handled by an infected food worker or if it touches other contaminated food.

Most restaurant-associated outbreaks are identified through the Health Department's complaint system, which includes 311, Yelp, and reports from health care providers. Since 2012, the Department has identified and investigated approximately 28,000 suspected complaints of foodborne illness overall. The Health Department reviews and investigates all complaints of suspected foodborne illness in New York City.

The symptoms, onset and length of illness depend on the type of microbe, and how much of it is swallowed. Symptoms usually include vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps. If you suspect you became sick after eating or drinking a contaminated item, call 311 or submit an [online complaint form](#).

New Yorkers should call their doctor if they experience a high fever (over 101.5°F), blood in the stool, prolonged vomiting, dehydration, or diarrhea for more than three days.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there are 48 million illnesses and 3000 deaths caused by the consumption of contaminated food in the United States each year.

**Flu Vaccine:** This year's flu vaccine may not be as effective at protecting people against one of the most common, nasty strains of the flu. But that doesn't mean you should forgo the shot.

The flu vaccine generally reduces the risk of the overall population contracting influenza by 40-60%, but this year's shot isn't much help in protecting people from one of the most active, severe strains circulating: the H3N2 virus.

Labs have updated the part of the vaccine that protects against the H1N1 strain this year.

But the reason the 2017 shot isn't preventing as many cases of the H3N2 strain is that while scientists were growing the virus in chicken eggs, that strain mutated. It's not a harmful defect, but it means that the non-live strain of H3N2 influenza in the injection is slightly different than what's actually circulating in the human population.

Department of Health stated "it's still a good idea to get a shot". Roughly 40 percent of the US population opts for the vaccine every year, and the CDC estimates it prevents about 5 million flu cases annually across the country.

Flu vaccination can also come in the form of a live-flu mist, but the CDC is not recommending that anyone get that this year because it's been less effective than the shot in recent years.

In addition to lowering your chances of getting the flu, the shot can also make the illness milder if you do catch it. Studies of pregnant women who get the flu shot have also shown it can reduce their newborns' risk of catching the flu by half.

Getting the flu shot can also contribute to 'herd immunity' — less cases of the flu overall means more protection for the most vulnerable people in the population: the elderly, children, and individuals with certain allergies who can't get the vaccine.

Most importantly, a flu shot won't ever give you the flu, since the virus that's injected is not live. The shot can come with common side effects, however, including soreness, low-grade fever and muscle aches. But that's still a lot better than coming down with a full-blown flu, which can knock people out for over a week.

**Sanitation Reported:** The New York City Department of Sanitation announced starting immediately, people interested in working as emergency snow laborers for the upcoming snow season should register at their local Sanitation garage. Snow laborers are per-diem workers who shovel snow and clear ice from bus stops, crosswalks, fire hydrants and step streets in the City after heavy snowfalls.

Individuals interested in registering with the DSNY can do so weekdays between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. The list of garage locations can be found at [www.nyc.gov/dsny](http://www.nyc.gov/dsny) and in the list below. Snow laborers will be paid \$15 per hour, and \$22.50 per hour after 40 hours are worked in a week.

Snow laborers must be at least 18 years of age, be eligible to work in the United States, and capable of performing heavy physical labor.

All applicants must bring the following items at the time of registration:

- Two small photos (1 ½ square)
- Original and copy of two forms of identification
- Social Security card

*emergency declaration, acquisition of new boilers can proceed via a streamlined procurement process.*

*Immediate response is critical, but we must also consider the long-term implications that this crisis has uncovered. As of 2017, NYCHA has 316 developments totaling 2,266 residential buildings citywide, including 97 developments in Manhattan with 53,000 units across 537 residential buildings. A total of 1,379 boilers provide heat for all NYCHA developments and 45% of them are over 25 years old, fast approaching a boiler's life span of 30 years. Even if the full \$200 million that Mayor de Blasio promised becomes available tomorrow to fully upgrade the 20 designated buildings, this would mean only 6.3% of NYCHA developments will benefit while the rest continue to depend on boilers approaching their useable life expectancy.*

*Additionally, during the cold spell, calls to NYCHA's Customer Contact Center (CCC) exceeded capacity and inquiries were rerouted to 311. For years, I and many others have called for CCC to be integrated into 311. The expanded capacity would allow NYCHA to more accurately anticipate and address resident needs. To start, we must know the volume and types of calls that both CCC and 311 have received to date. Data analytics can optimize operations in government agencies, and understanding the gaps in the CCC system will ensure resident inquiries can be resolved more efficiently going forward.*

*The solution to NYCHA's predicament is simple: more funding is needed. The perennial question is from where and how much funds are available. This includes capital funding to thoroughly upgrade aging systems in all buildings that are showing signs of heat and hot water interruption, as well as funding to support NYCHA's long-range planning, energy efficiency initiatives, and CCC operations.*

*Specifically, improving energy efficiency will lighten the load under which many NYCHA buildings currently operate, so unusually harsh weather conditions won't overstrain their systems to the point of outage. Among NYCHA apartments, 85% were built prior to 1980 when the first energy code was implemented in New York City, and 92% are heated with steam, the most inefficient way to heat buildings. NYCHA's sustainability team has developed a \$330 million plan to retrofit aging developments and small buildings over 10 years, reinforce resiliency efforts in anticipation of climate change, and generate alternative energy through installing solar panels.*

*As an elected official, I have been frustrated that not all of NYCHA's energy and resiliency initiatives are capital-eligible. Yet the goals set forth in the NYCHA NextGen Sustainability plan are the very solutions that address the root causes of recent outages. It is imperative for the Administration as well as for State and Federal agencies and energy authorities to make it a*



*priority to fund, and ideally expand and accelerate, NYCHA's energy efficiency and building retrofit initiatives.*

*Any discussion of NYCHA's long-term fiscal viability must include programs under NextGen NYCHA. Under NextGen Neighborhoods, half of the revenues from the developer's upfront payment of leasing public land goes toward the capital needs at the NYCHA development on which the infill structure is built, while the other half goes toward the capital needs of other NYCHA developments. From the two Manhattan examples at Holmes Towers and LaGuardia Houses, we know that these two developments' share of expected revenues will not fully meet their capital needs. Particularly in the case of Holmes Towers where half the new units will be market rate, NYCHA is leasing high-value, waterfront land on the Upper East Side to a private developer at prices well below what the market can command. I urge NYCHA to reevaluate and more accurately assess the value of its proposed infill sites so that NextGen Neighborhoods can maximize resources for existing NYCHA housing.*

*Unfortunately, federal tax policy has undermined HUD's Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program. RAD partially relies on low-income housing tax credits for financing, and the value of tax credits are expected to diminish as a result of lower tax rates. Where NYCHA can continue to leverage RAD to bring in capital funds for its most under-funded developments, the process must be transparent and with constant communication with tenants.*

*Finally, NYCHA has established the Fund for Public Housing as a nonprofit entity to supplement the finances and services of operating NYCHA buildings. In fall 2017, the Fund for Public Housing launched crowdfunding projects for establishing a community garden at Millbrook Houses and partnering with Green City Force to launch composting at Queensbridge Houses. Perhaps the Fund can scale up the model to crowdfund for items such as new boilers, operating and staffing of community heating centers (similar to cooling centers during the summer), and installation and monitoring of technology such as Heat Seek devices, just to name a few potential project ideas. The Fund for Public Housing has already set up the platform, so why not use it to harness the crowdsourcing culture to fund projects and services that can mitigate a potential heat and hot water outage?*

*I hope I have made it clear that NYCHA is in need of a large amount of sustained funding to fully resolve the outages. Specifically:*

- The goals outlined in NYCHA's sustainability plan address the root causes of heat and hot water outages and should be allocated more funding to accelerate NYCHA-wide building retrofits and energy efficiency upgrades.*
- NextGen Neighborhoods revenues must be maximized, especially in areas of high real estate value where developers will benefit from building 50% of market rate units.*

- *NYCHA's Fund for Public Housing should leverage its crowdsourcing platform to provide supplementary resources toward resolving heat and hot water issues.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to working with members of both committees and with NYCHA to resolve the heat and hot water crisis.*

**Public Advocate Letitia James' Office Reported:**

- **Protecting Children in NYCHA** – After learning about the NYCHA failure to perform legally mandated inspections for lead paint in thousands of homes, Public Advocate James called for an independent monitor and changes in leadership at NYCHA. For years, NYCHA has not tested apartments for this dangerous material that can cause serious developmental delays in children and NYCHA lied to officials, reporting that they had performed inspections. Not only has NYCHA's negligence put children and seniors at significant risk, but it has caused a terrible breach of public trust. In an effort to provide New Yorkers with Transparency and hold agency accountable, Public Advocate James has launched an investigation into this matter;
- **Combatting the Effects of Climate Change** – Public Advocate James hosted a hearing to discuss the potentially catastrophic consequences of climate change and how NYC can implement strategies and solutions to challenge its effects. The Hearing highlighted the consequences of human-induced climate change and proposed strategies and solutions that NYC can employ to prevent future damage;
- **Creating a Transparent Landlord Database** – Public Advocate James' legislation to create a centralized database providing more transparency about landlords passed unanimously in the New York City Council last month. The database will allow New Yorkers to easily access a variety of information about their landlord, including the number of outstanding violations at each property owned by the landlord, and the number of harassment findings for each landlord. This easy-to-use database will allow individuals to identify patterns of abuse and harassment by landlords across buildings, further empowering and protecting tenants.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**In 2018, NYC DOT is embarking on the 11<sup>th</sup> season of Weekend Walks.** If you are interested in hosting a Weekend Walks event, go to:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/weekendwalks/html/host/host.shtml>.

**DSNY reported the following electronic equipment can be disposed of in the trash:**

TV's, Monitors, Computers, Laptops, Mice(computer), Keyboards, Small Servers, Printer/Scanners, Tablets/e-readers, MP3 Players, VCR's/DVDs/DVR players, Fax machines, Video game consoles, Cable/Satellite boxes.

Manufacturers of computers, televisions, and other electronics are required to accept their products for recycling under New York State law and provide free take-back programs.

You can also dispose of your unwanted electronics for free through Drop-off programs at retailers and sanitation locations and Community Recycling events.

You may receive a fine of \$100 if you improperly dispose of your electronic equipment.

**Check washing is a process in which thieves use common household products to alter checks stolen out of mailboxes.** They then make the checks payable to themselves or other parties.

What can you do to prevent your checks from being altered?

- Use a pen with pigmented (permanent) ink to write checks (*this ink is not easy to alter*);
- Shred any voided or incorrectly written checks;
- Check your account balance frequently to ensure checks were cleared by the establishment they were written to.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Forum held re: "Finding Solutions To Our Transportation Crisis"** – Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>; 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.; CUNY Graduate Center (Proshansky Auditorium), 365 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue (bet. 34<sup>th</sup> & 35<sup>th</sup>), NYC 10010;

**Free OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Training** is available (seats are limited), for more info. contact Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) at (212) 961-3231;

Respectfully Submitted,

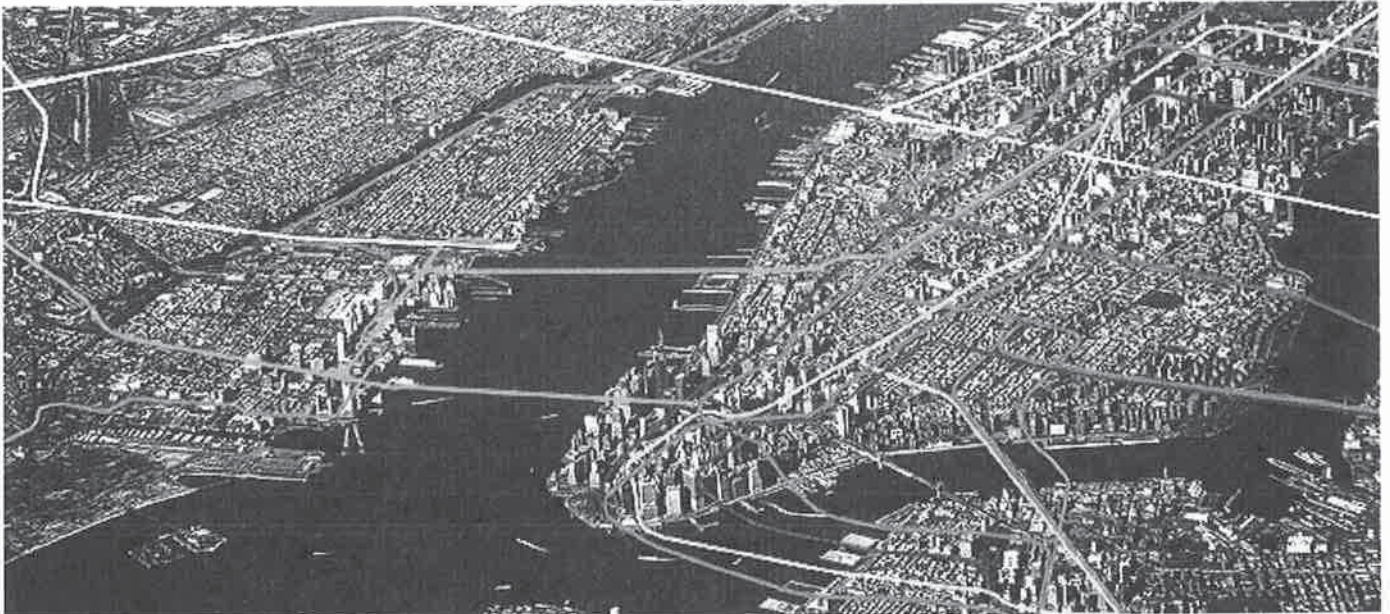


Eutha Prince  
District Manager

02/08/18



# Finding Solutions To Our Transportation Crisis



The evidence is clear: New Yorkers' ability to get around their city is becoming increasingly compromised by poor subway service, equally shoddy bus service, and choking congestion. What can we do to address the various elements of this crisis? Join me as I discuss the pros and cons of proposed solutions with a panel of transportation experts and advocates.

**Thursday  
March 1st  
6pm to 8pm**

**CUNY Graduate Center  
Proshansky Auditorium  
365 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Btwn 34<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup>  
Manhattan**

## **Speakers will include:**

- **State Senator Liz Krueger**
- **State Senator Brad Hoylman**
- **Polly Trottenberg**  
Commissioner, Department of Transportation
- **Alex Matthiessen**  
Move NY
- **Veronica Vanterpool**  
MTA Board Member
- **Nicole Gelinas**  
Manhattan Institute
- **Nick Sifuentes**  
Bus Turnaround Coalition  
Tri-State Transportation Campaign

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## **Sponsored By;**

State Senators Liz Krueger and Brad Hoylman

## **Co-Sponsored by:**

Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer

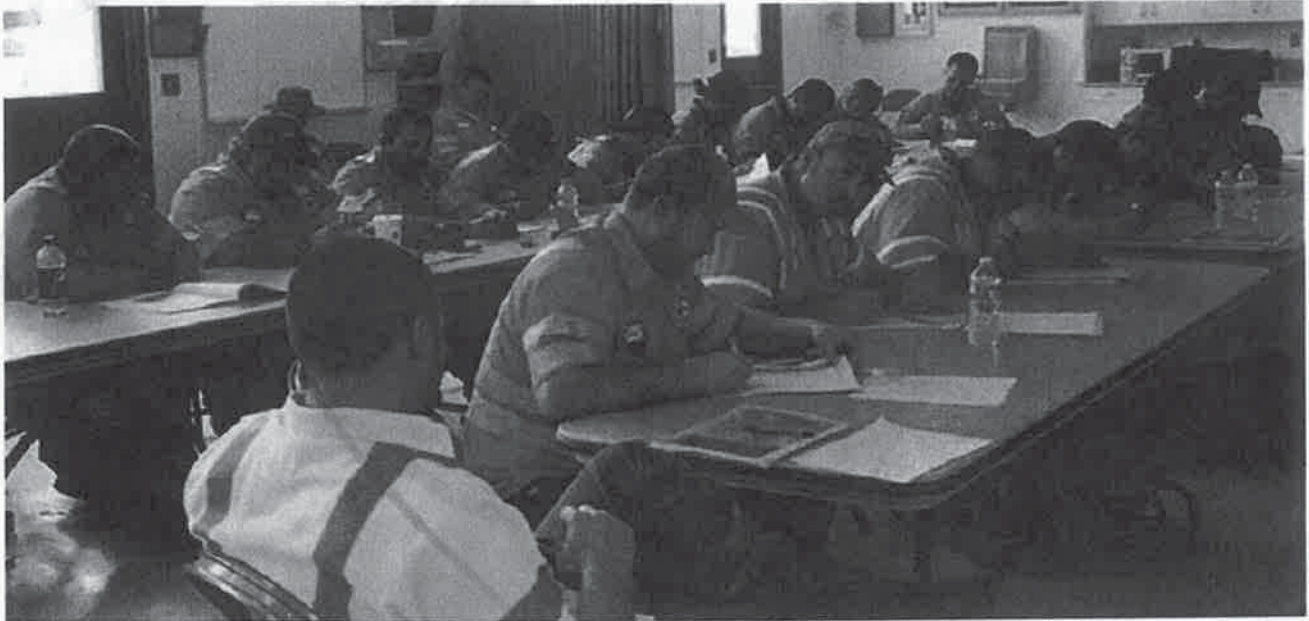
MoveNY, Transportation Alternatives, Riders Alliance, Tri-State Transportation Campaign

**RSVP** at <https://tinurl.com/transportation-crisis> or by calling (212) 490-9535.





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SUNY MECC is an equal opportunity employer/program.  
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

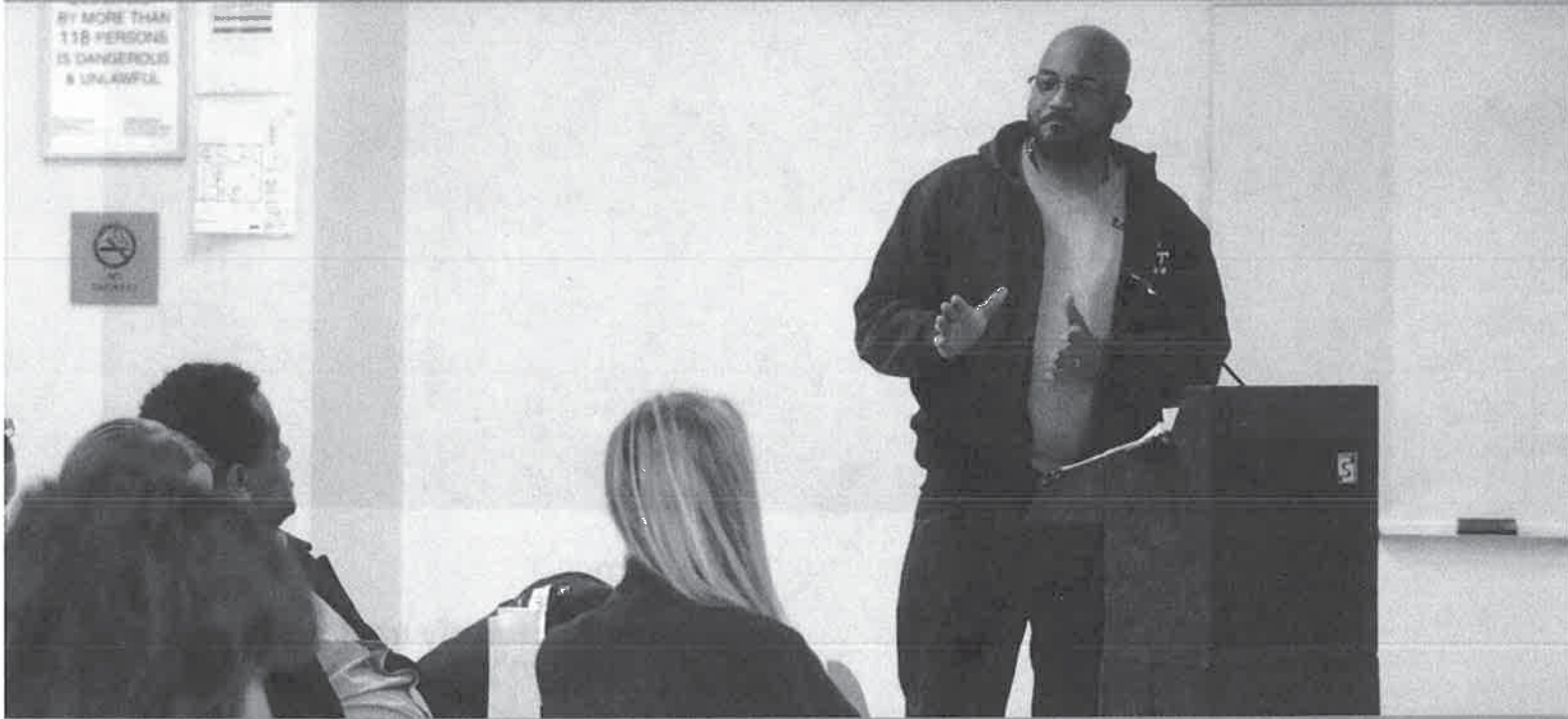






# Town Hall: Police-Community Relations in Harlem

Hosted by the Public Safety Committee of Community Board 10



**Join the Civilian Complaint Review Board for its March Public Board Meeting and discussion on policing.**

**When:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
from **6:30 to 8:30 pm**

**Where:** Adam Clayton Powell State Office Building, Art Gallery Room  
163 West 125th Street, 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10027

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Source: Google Maps

*For more information, visit [nyc.gov/ccrb](http://nyc.gov/ccrb). Speaking at the Board Meeting is open to all. If you have questions about speaking, requests regarding accessibility, or need language interpretation assistance, please email [outreach@ccrb.nyc.gov](mailto:outreach@ccrb.nyc.gov). Interpretation services are free upon request.*





# WCS Youth J.I.V.E

## Job, Internship, and Volunteering Expo

Saturday February 10th, 2018  
11:00 am-3:00 pm

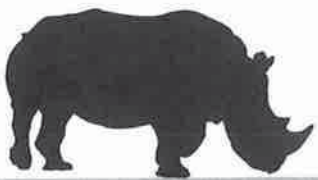
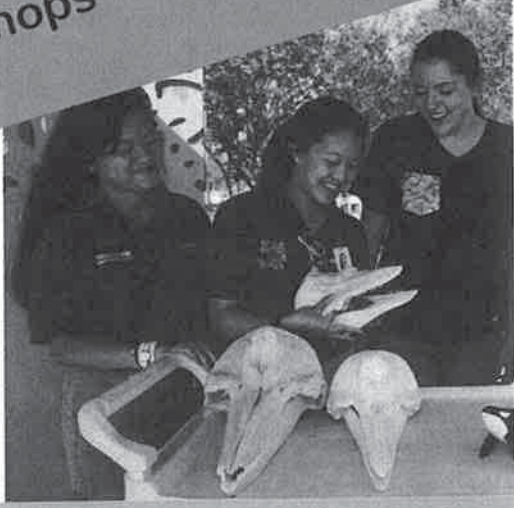
Bronx Zoo- Schiff Family Great Hall  
2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10460



Meet zoo staff and hiring managers



Attend professional development workshops and learn valuable skills



If you're 14 or 15 years old: Learn about our volunteer opportunities and how these can create pathways into employment down the line.

If you're 16-26 years old: Learn about the 100+ jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities for youth at the New York City WCS zoos and aquarium!

**RSVP Is Required!**  
Space is limited. Sign up today!

To RSVP

Visit: <https://wcsyouthjive.eventbrite.com>

For more information, email: [youth@wcs.org](mailto:youth@wcs.org)



Photos: Julie Larsen Maher © WCS