

PAPD Chief Gloria Frank Receives National Recognition

PAPD Chief **Gloria Frank** was recently honored as a 'Woman Who Moves the Nation' for her outstanding leadership and exemplary dedication to the transportation industry.

The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) held its 13th Annual 'Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation Awards Breakfast' on April 10 at the Smithsonian Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery.

"Uplifting women in leadership roles propels the wheels of progress in the transportation industry," said April Rai, President & CEO COMTO. "Recognizing their contributions is an intentional act of appreciation, inspiring the next generation of transportation leaders to emulate their strength, resilience, and perseverance."



Chief Gloria Frank (fourth from left)

[continued on page 2 >](#)

PA Transit Tech Lab Preparing to Test Innovative New Technologies

The Innovation Hub's [Transit Tech Lab](#) provides a pathway for early and growth-stage companies to work with the Port Authority to solve public transportation challenges. Its mission is to source, evaluate, and pilot new technologies, at no cost to the agency. Every year, the Transit Tech Lab selects challenges based upon feedback about the agency's most pressing needs and calls for companies from around the world to present solutions.

In January, the following challenges were selected: Customer Experience, Resilience, and Curb Activities. More than 150 companies applied; after a thorough evaluation, 31 were selected to pitch their technologies. Twenty-seven companies were selected for Demo Day, held on March 28 at the headquarters for the Partnership Fund for NYC.



From left to right: Terriann Moore-Abrams (Co-Manager, PA TTL), Mary K. Murphy (Co-Sponsor, PA TTL), Licia Feitosa (Sr. Program Coordinator, PA TTL), Juan Salamanca (Sr. Engineer, WTC), and a representative from one of the companies presenting.

[continued on page 3 >](#)

QUICK LINKS

[CALENDAR](#) >

[IN MEMORIAM](#) >

IN THIS EDITION

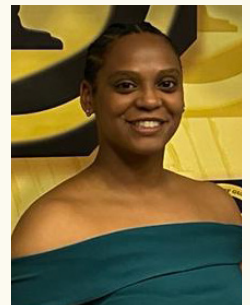
[NY/NJ Seaport Pitches in After Bridge Collapse](#)

[The PA Bakes Up Low-Carbon Concrete](#)

[Tune In to the HR Podcast – Another Way to Hear What's Going On!](#)

PAPD Officer Honored as 'Trailblazer' in Law Enforcement

PAPD Bi-State Coalition Vice President, Officer **Pria Duhaney**, was recently honored as a trailblazer in law enforcement, receiving the



Organizational Award from the Grand Council of Guardians. Officer Duhaney was presented with the award during the Grand Council's 17th annual Women's History awards ceremony on April 6.

The Bi-State Coalition told *PA News*, "We're incredibly proud of her achievements and dedication to our organization. Pria's tireless efforts have made a significant impact, inspiring others and breaking down barriers in the law enforcement

[continued on page 2 >](#)

CALENDAR

APNG: Administrative Professionals Day

Wednesday, April 24, from 9 to 11 a.m. The Bankers Club, 120 Broadway, New York. The Administrative Professionals Networking Group will celebrate Administrative Professionals Day, a time to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our agency's administrative staff. [Please RSVP by April 5](#). The event will also be livestreamed. [See the flyer](#) for more information. Please email pa_apng@panynj.gov with any questions.

PA-AAA: Eid Snack & Learn

Tuesday, April 30 from noon to 1 p.m., 4 WTC, 23rd floor, Conference Room 2. Join the Port Authority Asian American Association (PA-AAA) for an Eid Snack & Learn event to discover more about different Eid traditions across cultures while enjoying tea and baklava. For those who are interested, a henna/mehndi artist will also be present to do quick designs on your hands to provide an immersive experience of this holiday. [RSVP to attend](#).

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](#).

PAPD Chief Frank

[continued from page 1 >](#)

In observance of Women's History Month, to date, COMTO has inducted 142 women into its Celebrating Women Who Move the Nation signature class of leaders in the transportation industry. The honorees encompass a diverse spectrum of multi-modal transportation, spanning both the public and private sectors. These women embody excellence — despite their various areas of influence and affiliations, the significance of their contributions to advance and fortify our nation's infrastructure is unparalleled.

NY/NJ Seaport Pitches in After Bridge Collapse

Originally published in [Now Arriving](#), written by Media Relations' Steve Burns.

After seeing the horrific images out of Baltimore, it was the first thought that popped into **Bethann Rooney's** head: "What can we do to help?"

It was early Tuesday when the Port Authority's Port Director helped to unleash a series of measures up and down the east coast aimed at keeping the regional supply chain running smoothly after the Port of Baltimore, one of the nation's busiest ports, went offline.



At the Port of New York and New Jersey, that help is taking many forms. For one, the port is helping to move additional cargo offloaded from ships that already stop here. Just 24 hours after the bridge collapse, the port was already accepting cargo from ships berthed in New York/New Jersey that were supposed to call next at Baltimore.

"What would typically happen is we take 60 to 65 percent of ship's capacity off at our terminals here before they go on to other ports," Rooney explained. "Now, we're going to take 70 to 75 percent of the ship's capacity off here."

Notably, the port is not expecting more ship traffic. The Port of New York and New Jersey is the first stop for the vast majority of transatlantic container ships coming to the U.S. east coast, with ports south of New York-New Jersey becoming stops along a "milk run" — shipping industry slang for when cargo ships stop at multiple east coast ports on a single journey. All 10 shipping services that traditionally call at the Port of Baltimore also stop at the Port of New York and New Jersey, Rooney said, making the transition seamless.

The additional diverted cargo from Baltimore isn't expected to be a heavy lift for New York/New Jersey, which is the east coast's busiest container port and among the top three busiest in the country. The port ably handled the pandemic-driven surge in activity through 2021 that pushed cargo volumes more than 20 percent above their current levels. To bring that Baltimore cargo to their final destinations, truck drivers who normally service the Port of Baltimore will have access to port facilities in New York/New Jersey thanks to staff at both ports working quickly to transfer credential information and allow access to container terminals in this region.

Keep reading on [Now Arriving](#).

PAPD Officer Honored as 'Trailblazer'

[continued from page 1 >](#)

community. Her leadership and commitment to our organization's mission have been instrumental in driving progress and fostering a culture of inclusivity. Pria's contributions have helped create a supportive environment where everyone can thrive, and her influence has extended beyond our organization to the broader community."



Officer Wesam Saleh, Officer Nicholas Lorenzo, Officer Isaiah Williams, Officer Kasheema Besley, Detective Sergeant Rosa Clyburn, Officer Telisa Parsons, Detective Imani Brown, Officer Veronika Malaj, Officer Pria Duhaney, Sergeant Marcus Credle, Retired Officer Kevin Jackson, Lieutenant Brandon Cummings, Sergeant Tritina Amankwa, Sergeant Marcus Goodridge, Lieutenant Lawanda Irving, and Officer Brandon Hartwig

PA Transit Tech Lab Preparing to Test

[continued from page 1 >](#)

Employees from across the Port Authority and other regional transportation agencies attended the event. After careful consideration, the PA TTL team selected eight technologies for proof of concept. The companies selected can be found on the [PA News website](#).

The PA TTL is currently engaging in pre-scoping activities for the 8-week proof of concept, working closely with Project Managers (PMs) and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to assess the applicability of these technologies for the agency. If successful, each company has the potential to be selected for the 1-year pilot. The PA TTL team thanks all those who are helping in this initiative.



From left to right: Maria Gotsch (President and CEO, Partnership Fund for NYC), Stacey Matlen (Senior Vice President, Innovation, Partnership Fund for NYC), and Marco Gonzalez (Senior Engineer, PATH).

The PA Bakes Up Low-Carbon Concrete

Originally published in [Now Arriving](#), written by Media Relations' Steve Burns.

During the pandemic, baking became a popular pastime in home kitchens around the world. Bakers experimented with differing types and amounts of flour, eggs and milk in their attempts to make fluffy cakes and the perfect cookie.

Working with local ready-mix suppliers and independent laboratory testing firms, the Port Authority's Materials Engineering Concrete Laboratory was doing something similar – except instead of flour and eggs, it was fly ash, ground granulated blast furnace slag and cement. Instead of baked goods, the final product was strong, durable lower-carbon concrete.

Keep reading on [Now Arriving](#).



Tune In to the HR Podcast – Another Way to Hear What's Going On!

They'll keep you grooving while you keep the region moving.

HR Wants to Speak With You, hosted by Human Resources' **Joe Monte** and **Angel Velez** on Teams, is a podcast-style program that provides great tunes, agency news, HR guidance, policy friendly hilarity, special guests, and other ways to inform, recognize, and support employees agencywide.

Enjoy your first (third) cup of the day, do some yoga stretches (eyerolls and facepalms count), prepare your to-do list, and while you do, learn about what's going on at the best bistate agency.

The show runs every other Friday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Email jmonte@panynj.gov or anvelez@panynj.gov to receive the MS Teams link.



IN MEMORIAM

Melanie M. Rodriguez

Her friends and colleagues at the Port Authority were saddened to learn of the passing of **Melanie M. Rodriguez**, who

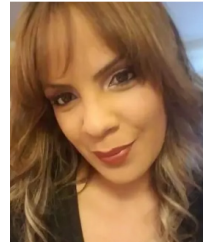
will be remembered for her gentle kindness and professionalism.

Melanie joined the agency on September 21, 2018, in the Engineering Department as an Administrative Secretary in the Construction Management Division (CMD) – bringing to the position more than a decade of experience serving in various administrative professional roles, including as an Administrative Assistant at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and Executive Assistant at Century, Inc., in Jersey City.

In November 2019, she advanced to the position of Engineering Documents Coordinator in CMD. In May 2022, she was promoted to her most recent role as Executive Secretary in the Office of the Chief Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer (ODEI), where she provided administrative support, collaborating closely with the Business Diversity unit.

In addition to her responsibilities in ODEI, Melanie was a member of the Administrative Professionals Networking Group (APNG), joining its mission to empower administrative professionals agencywide to reach new heights personally and professionally.

Melanie is survived by her mother, Mercedes; her son, Jayden; her sister, Tiffany, and Tiffany's husband Wesley; her niece Aubriana; her nephew, Evan; her aunt, Elizabeth; and her cousin, Emily.



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 April 26 to be included in the May 3 issue.

