

PAPD Officers Save Life at the Midtown Bus Terminal

The quick actions of Port Authority Police Officers recently helped to save the life of a traveler during the height of the evening rush at the Midtown Bus Terminal.

On January 9, Officers **Angel Espino** and **Destenin Perez** responded to a life-threatening medical emergency on the second floor of the South Wing of the terminal. Upon arrival, the officers found a woman in cardiac arrest. The officers called for an ambulance while Officer **Bradley DeSalvo** arrived promptly to assist. Together, the officers administered CPR and used an AED. Within minutes, their heroic efforts restored the woman's pulse, and she soon regained consciousness.

"Our officers acted with incredible urgency and skill in what could have been a tragic situation," said Police Superintendent **Edward Cetnar**. "Thanks to the swift and coordinated efforts of Officers Espino, Perez, and DeSalvo, a life was saved."



From left: Officers Angel Espino, Bradley DeSalvo, and Destenin Perez

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A Year of Shout Outs!



2024 was the most successful year yet for [Shout Out!](#) In case you didn't know, Shout Out! offers a quick and easy way for employees to recognize and provide positive feedback to each other, and it can be done on any device and at any time!

PA employees do a lot to keep the region moving, and Shout Out! ensures you are celebrated and recognized for your efforts.

Watch the video above to learn more about how employees throughout the agency contributed to a culture of recognition in 2024. And be sure to visit the [HR Hub](#) on MyPA to learn more about all Port Authority recognition and rewards programs.

Aviation Staffers Host Festive 'Tech the Halls' Quiz Contest

The Aviation Data Analytics and Business Intelligence (DABI) Team recently hosted a holiday-themed, festive Jeopardy-style quiz contest to test staff knowledge on the various dashboards and technology resources that the team has created.

Held on December 18, the questions tested staff knowledge of the many resources available to them as well as their ability to utilize Aviation's dashboards to answer specific real-life questions that staff may be faced with on a day-to-day basis. The event was well attended, and the Strategic Analysis & Forecasting team did a great job creating a fun and educational environment.

Congratulations to Team Aces, who beat out Team Uno and Team Pilots to win a bunch of goodies, chocolates, and candies!

Among the technology, data tools, and resources that were used to play the game were the Airport Labs Community App, DABI One Stop Shop, ADEP Summary, and the PA's own Airport Traffic Dashboard.

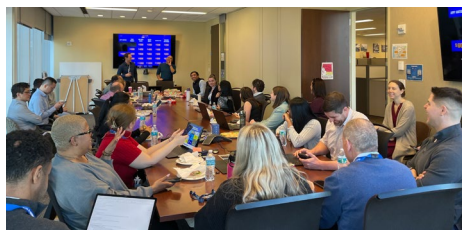


Photo credit: Al "Aila" Yamanaka

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PAPD Officers Save Life at the Midtown Bus Terminal

In a joint statement, the officers said, “[It] was another day on the job, but it was also a profound reminder of why we do what we do. We chose this path to make a real difference, and we’re humbled and grateful to have had the chance to give someone a second chance at life. For us, this is the ultimate purpose of our work.”

While this was not the first time Officers Espino and Perez have responded to a life-threatening medical emergency, for Officer DeSalvo, it was a familiar scenario. With over 12 years of EMS experience, Officer DeSalvo has encountered cardiac arrests more times than he can count.

IN MEMORIAM

His friends and colleagues at the Port Authority were saddened to learn that **Louis J. Accardo**, a dedicated employee of over 3 years, passed away on December 28, 2024.



Louis J. Accardo

Louis joined the agency on November 19, 2021, as a General Maintainer in the Tunnels, Bridges & Terminals Department assigned to the Staten Island Bridges Maintenance Division, a position he held until the time of his passing.

Louis will be remembered by his agency friends and colleagues for his smile, humor, and laughter. He was loved and respected by all who knew him.

Louis is survived by his sister Debra Barrett, his daughter Peyton, and his son Louis Jr.

We ask that you please keep the memory of Louis in your thoughts and keep his family, friends, and colleagues in your hearts during this difficult time.

PAPD Joins With Community for Three Kings Day Celebration

A pair of Port Authority Police Department Sergeants recently came together with local community members in recognition of Three Kings Day.

On January 6, PAPD Sergeants **Aida Quintana** and **Luis Alvarado** joined Newark Councilman At-Large Luis A. Quintana for a Three Kings Day program held at Essex County College. This year’s program included cultural performances, children’s activities, gift giving, a college scholarship presentation, and a special visit from the Three Kings themselves.

Also known as the Epiphany, Three Kings Day is a celebration held 12 days after Christmas commemorating the arrival of the Three Kings to visit the baby Jesus.

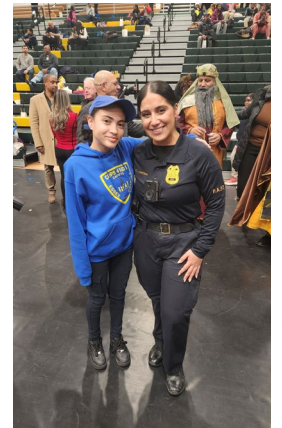


Photo credit: Sgt. Luis Alvarado

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

On January 11, the lights of Port Authority facilities were lit blue (and employees were encouraged to wear blue also) for Wear Blue Day in recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness. The [Port Authority’s website](#) has a section dedicated to human trafficking awareness and prevention, as well as information to help employees and the public understand how to recognize the signs and report incidents. Please review the information and make a commitment to stop human trafficking.

What is human trafficking? Human trafficking is an egregious, worldwide criminal enterprise affecting more than 27 million people globally. Human trafficking often involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion in exchange for labor or commercial sex acts. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States.

It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations. Usually, language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.



YSU staff speaking with travelers on January 9.

The Midtown Bus Terminal’s Youth Services Unit includes PAPD officers and civilian employees who have been trained to protect youth coming through the terminal who may be trafficked.

In October 2018, the Port Authority partnered with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Department of Transportation on the Blue Campaign to further combat human trafficking through employee, community, and customer awareness.

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PAWC Shares Gift of Warmth for Families in Need

The membership of the Port Authority Women's Council and its chapters, Women in Aviation Empowered (WAVE) and Women in Technology (WIT), send a heartfelt 'thank you' to all of those who supported its 2024 Holiday Campaign of Love to collect coats and jackets to benefit local families in need.

PAWC hosted the initiative in partnership with Midway Living, a shelter across the street from LaGuardia Airport that's home to hundreds of migrant families.

"Your generosity and contributions had an invaluable impact on the lives of the families living there, many of whom came to the United States with only the clothes on their backs," said PAWC leadership.

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." -Winston Churchill

Thanks to **Serina Evans** (Director of Membership, WIT), **Teaque Davis** (Treasurer, PAWC), **Kim Baum** (Director of Events, WAVE), **Simone Brown-Porter** (Vice President, WAVE), and **Raquel Moss** (Senior External Relations Representative, Aviation) for being the muscle that pushed this across the finish line, and our Executive Sponsor, **James Heitmann** for his continued and unwavering support to see this endeavor come to fruition.

For every holiday season and beyond, we encourage you to continue giving to others via a smile, a hug, a listening ear, or an extended hand.



PATC Welcomes a Holiday Special Guest



Santa didn't just come to town – he came to work at PATC! Jolly Ol' St. Nick swapped his workshop for PATC on December 12, and he made some new friends along the way. In the above photo, he's all smiles with the Office of the Chief Security Officer's civilian support staff, who clearly made the 'nice' list. He also teamed up with the PAPD to protect and serve the holiday cheer.

Rumor has it, Santa's sleigh got a security upgrade while he was here! Who knew spreading joy could look so official?

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 27 to be included in the January 31 issue.



CALENDAR

NBE: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast.

Thursday, January 23, at 8 a.m.
Zoom livestream (in-person attendance is full).

The Network of Black Employees invites employees to virtually attend the 38th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast. The 2025 theme is *Visibility Matters, Celebrating Us*. [View the livestream at the start time.](#)

RETIREMENTS

The Technology Department's **Marie Taylor** will be calling it a career later this month. Attend a retirement celebration on Tuesday, January 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. in person at



Marie Taylor

2 Montgomery and on Teams.

[Register to attend](#). Send a message on [Kudoboard](#). See the [flyer on MyPA](#).



Selene Ortega

Celebrate the career of Procurement's **Selene 'The Queen' Ortega**, and join together with colleagues to wish her well in retirement. Attend an open house

celebration on Monday, January 27, from noon to 3 p.m., at 4 World Trade Center, 21st Floor, Conference Room 21-A. See the [flyer on MyPA](#).

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

If you are aware of potential human trafficking, call the PAPD at your facility immediately. You can also call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-373-7888 or text one of the phrases "info, help, BeFree" to 233733, or call the DHS Blue Campaign hotline at 866-347-2423.

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