

# DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

## A Message from Director Briiana Velez

January 2026



Hello Streets Team!

With the New Year comes new and exciting ways we serve our community. Additionally comes ways we thrive and grow, as you'll read in this issue.

A quick, congratulations to our Community Service Fund Drive committee for another successful fundraising season! Not only did we exceed our goals for both fundraising and participation but our CPET Team was recently recognized for their efforts with a CSFD Shining Star Award.

I was extremely proud of all we accomplished in 2025 and I'm excited about what we'll achieve in the year ahead. February will be a busy month for us, as we honor our fallen colleagues at the annual Employee Memorial Ceremony and prepare for a busy Spring and Summer. As always, I'm constantly impressed by your dedication, innovation, and commitment to public service, as we continue to set the standard for excellence throughout our community. Looking forward to a great year ahead with all of you.

*Briiana*

## 32nd Annual City of Phoenix Employee Memorial Ceremony

### Thursday, Feb. 19 9 a.m.

The ceremony will begin inside the historic Orpheum Theatre, followed by a walk to the Employee Memorial Wall, where the names of those we've lost are etched in glass bricks as a lasting tribute to their sacrifice.

This year, two names are being added to the wall:

- Phoenix Fire Captain Anthony Mock
- Retired Phoenix Firefighter Frank Contreras

**With supervisor approval, all City of Phoenix employees are invited to attend.** Those who do not work in the downtown area may park in the 305 Garage and receive validated parking with their City employee ID. Also, please check out the [guidelines from the Orpheum Theatre](#) about what you can and cannot bring to the event.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Required Training Due March 31

As part of our commitment to fostering a respectful and inclusive workplace, and to ensure we all contribute to the City's Equal Opportunity Plan, Street Transportation Department employees are **required** to complete the following trainings by March 31:

### Course Name: Discrimination/Retaliation Training (EOD102)

- Total Time Required: Approximately 49 minutes (four sections)
- This course does not need to be retaken if you took it between July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Please review your transcript in PHXYOU to verify.

### Course Name: Autism Training (EOD132)

- Total Time Required: Approximately 30 minutes

#### Steps to Enroll:

1. Log in to your PHXYOU account.
2. Search for "Discrimination/Retaliation Training (EOD102)" or "Autism Training (EOD132)" in the course catalog.
3. Enroll in the course and complete all sections to receive credit.

For field staff: Supervisors are responsible for arranging a presentation of these trainings during one of your regularly scheduled staff meetings. After the training, please submit a roster to [Sasha.Perez@Phoenix.gov](mailto:Sasha.Perez@Phoenix.gov)

The roster should include:

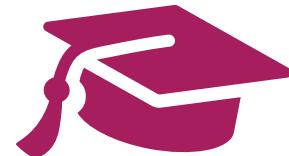
- Date of training
- Employee names
- Employee IDs

 To access the trainings, visit PHXYOU [HERE](#)



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Streets Employees Graduate Leadership Course



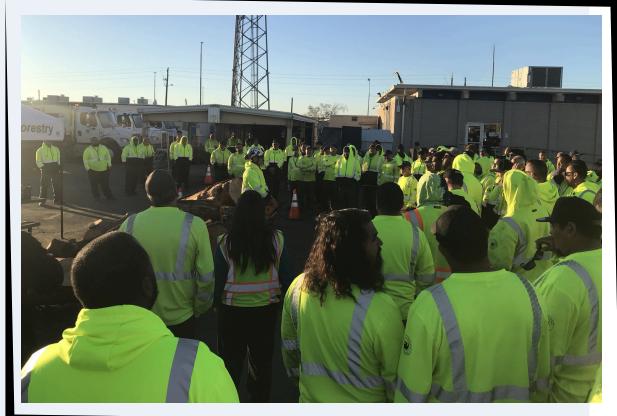
Pictured (left to right):  
Jerrold Crowder (instructor),  
Fitna Bahnoo, Mario Villagran,  
Yesenia Sapore, Robert Torres,  
Katrina Mendoza,  
and Beth Gattuso (instructor)

Congratulations to five of our very own Street Transportation employees who recently graduated from the Engaging Leader Program - Class 23! The Engaging Leader Program is a five-month course that helps broaden participants' leadership awareness, accountability, and actions using a blend of in-person and virtual sessions.

## Street Maintenance Holds Valuable End-of-Year Training

As part of the Street Maintenance Division's annual end of year gathering for the maintenance teams, they begin the day with up to three training sessions designed to enhance skills and knowledge.

One of the most consistently valuable sessions is conducted in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, where one of their forestry specialists provides a hands-on demonstration of proper chainsaw operations and best practices for cutting both large and small trees and branches.



These skills are critical for maintenance work during the monsoon when high winds often cause trees to fall, as well as wash maintenance, where our crews manage trees and branches within city washes and conveyance channels.



# CONGRATULATIONS! (AND WELCOME!)

## Markus Coleman Named Street Transportation Assistant Director



Congratulations and a warm “Streets welcome” to Markus Coleman on accepting his promotion as the Assistant Director in the Street Transportation Department effective January 19!

Markus brings nearly three decades of experience with the city of Phoenix, working in Planning and Development, Public Transit, and the City Manager’s Office. He most recently served as the Light Rail Administrator and was responsible for advancing light rail within the City of Phoenix consistent with Council action.

Markus grew up in Phoenix, has strong ties to the South Phoenix community and knows how important transportation is to our residents. He holds a bachelor’s degree in urban and metropolitan studies and a certificate in public administration and public management from Arizona State University. Markus will oversee the Street Maintenance and Design & Construction Management Divisions.

Congrats Markus on your well-deserved promotion and welcome to Team Streets!



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Holly Murray Accepts Promotion to Information Technology Programmer III

Holly recently accepted a promotion to ITAP III and will oversee the Unifier Program as the primary Unifier Administrator for Street Transportation, which is the departments project management information system. She came to the City in 2018 as a consultant and was hired by the City in 2019 to manage the PROMIS - Project Management system. Since then, Holly has been instrumental in helping Streets design and launch the new Unifier application that replaced the aging PROMIS system.

Holly graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University with her bachelor's degree in global communications & management. She came to the City with more than 20 years of experience in similar roles. In her spare time, Holly enjoys spending time with family and likes to explore new places and try new things.

## Jessica Lord Receives Bachelor of Science from ASU

A special congratulations goes to Jessica who recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences earning her bachelor of science in urban planning and a certificate in GIS!

Jessica shared that she benefited from the City of Phoenix College Tuition Reimbursement program and attended part time over a six-year period.



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Jason Ramirez Accepts New Role as ADA Project Manager

Jason will lead the City's compliance efforts with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG). His work will focus on developing, implementing, and overseeing the City of Phoenix ADA Transition Plan.

Jason will be responsible for ensuring accessibility across all City public right-of-way infrastructure. His duties include coordinating with City departments, external partners, and the community, as well as managing consultants and contractors delivering ADA-compliant improvements.



Jason holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Arizona State University. He has served the City of Phoenix for nine years, including the past four as a Civil Engineer II in the Design and Construction Management Division, where he managed capital improvement projects. Before joining the Street Transportation Department, he worked in the Planning and Development Department performing civil plan reviews as a Civil Engineer II.

Outside of work, Jason enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, following sports, and exploring more of Arizona's outdoors.



# WELCOME TO THE TEAM

## Alejandro Gonzalez, Chief Engineering Technician (Central Records) Office of the City Engineer

Originally from San Diego, California, Alejandro made the move to Phoenix in 2023 to pursue opportunities in commercial construction design. In 2025, he joined the City of Phoenix as an Engineering Technician, bringing his passion for design and a commitment to excellence to the Central Records team.

Alejandro is excited about this next chapter as a Chief Engineering Technician; and looks forward to building a long-term career with the City of Phoenix, continuing to make a positive impact on our community.

## Chris Rhodes, Senior Human Resources Analyst/Recruiter

For the last four years, Chris worked for a technology start-up as the Workforce Development Manager in charge of recruiting and training, helping build and grow the company from less than 50 employees to over 250 employees. Prior to that, Chris has over 15 years of experience in the public sector spanning across Maricopa County Dept. of Transportation, Sonoma County Human Services Dept., and the United States Air Force.

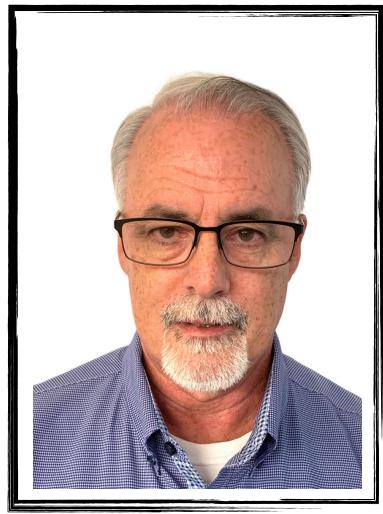
Chris earned his master's degree in organizational management from the University of Arizona Global Campus, and all his free time is dedicated to his family, more specifically softball on Friday nights with his wife, and soccer and dance class every weekend for the kiddos!

## Ronald Pine, Civil Engineer III Design & Construction Management (DCM)

Ron is a Massachusetts native who began his career by serving in the U.S. Coast Guard shortly after high school. Following several years in both military and civilian roles as an aircraft mechanic, he pursued his long-held goal of becoming a civil engineer. Ron earned his civil engineering degree from UMass Lowell in 2002 and subsequently worked for several small engineering firms in Massachusetts, focusing on environmental and civil design and construction.

He later joined the Town of Prescott Valley, where he began as a Junior Public Works Engineer and advanced through multiple leadership roles, ultimately serving as Engineering Manager and later Public Works Deputy Director during his seventeen-year tenure.

Outside of work, Ron enjoys spending time with his wife, Bonnie, along with their two cats and two dogs. His hobbies include a wide range of outdoor activities such as golf, fishing, and hunting, as well as traveling with their fifth-wheel trailer.





# WELCOME TO THE TEAM

## Welcome Street Maintenance Worker Apprentices!

The Street Maintenance Division is pleased to welcome 16 new street maintenance apprentices who have joined the ranks of our street maintenance crews and will continue in the program for the next 12 months.



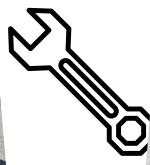
Robert Hickey



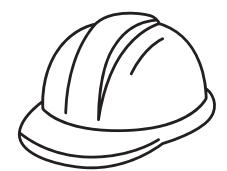
Ricardo Garcia



Diego Soto Morales



Archie Graves



Andy Palacio



Michael Lopez



Maurice Tuggle



Alonso Angulo



Andrew Knudson



Eddie Rojas



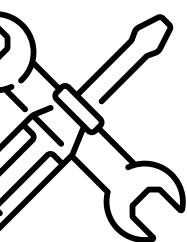
Nathaniel Sevilla



Jakeven Powell



Rafael Ortega



David Villaderas



Jonathan Moore



Jorge Lopez Gomez





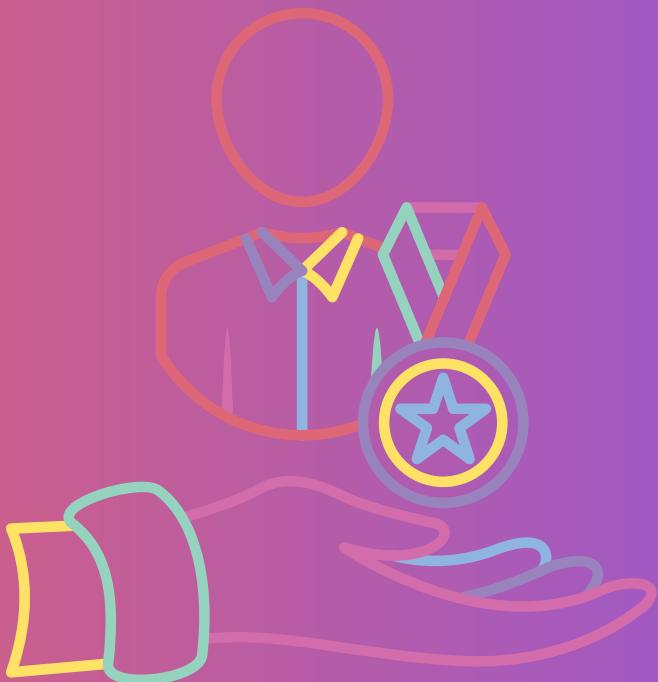
## KUDOS FROM THE COMMUNITY

“—

While out walking, I tripped in a pothole I didn't see. The next morning, I called the number listed on the City's website for potholes, expecting a recording. Surprisingly, a very friendly and solicitous woman answered and took my information. A couple of hours later, someone came and filled in the pothole. On a Sunday! I don't think I've ever had such prompt service at any level of government. Kudos to the Streets Maintenance people, they are really on the job.

-Laurie V.

—”



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# HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

## Years of Service

**15 Years**

Daniel Strauch

**20 Years**

Michael Pinder  
Rodolfo Rangel

**25 Years**

Ramon Amarillas  
Michael Rodriguez

Keep updated on  
career opportunities!

[Phoenix.gov/Jobs](http://Phoenix.gov/Jobs)



## Who to contact:

### Transactions, Records & Leave

**Virginia Navarro**

602-261-8951

**Marcella Saenz**

602-262-7950

**Corina Carvajal**

602-634-1973

### Personnel and Payroll

**Corina Carvajal**

602-534-1973

### Employee Relations

**Erin Bobo**

602-262-6851

**Tracie Armstead-Payton**

602-262-6851

**Crystal Crooks**

602-534-4409

### Recruitment

**Chris Rhodes**

602-534-9731

### Safety

**Sarah Sanders**

602-262-6918

**Miguel Vasquez**

602-319-3468