

**Boston Water and
Sewer Commission**

980 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02119



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nicole L. Kieser
kiesernl@bwsc.org
781.864.4805

Boston Water and Sewer Commission Employees Honored by Boston Fire Department
Pair Awarded Outstanding Civilian Service Award for Courage on Dartmouth Street



Billy O'Brien and John Greeley

Boston, Mass. (June 02, 2017)— Two long time employees of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission were awarded with the *Outstanding Civilian Service Award* by Boston Fire Department at the 138th Annual Ball and Awards Ceremony held Thursday evening in Boston.

On October 21, 2016, Commission employees Billy O'Brien, from South Boston, and John Greeley, from Hyde Park had just finished work on a different job, when they got word there was an emergency on Dartmouth Street in Boston's South End. Working alongside Boston Fire and EMS, they worked for hours to respectfully assist in the recovery of two workers trapped in a trench, which had collapsed and filled with water during construction work by a private contractor.

Boston Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn commended O'Brien and Greeley's quick response, willingness to offer their expertise in a stressful emergency incident, and their respect for the privacy of the victims and their families. The pair received one of two awards honoring non-fire department personnel during the Boston Fire Department's ceremony Thursday.

"The Commission is honored by Boston Fire's acknowledgment of our brave employees' assistance during this tragic accident," Boston Water and Sewer Commission Executive Director Henry F. Vitale. "O'Brien and Greeley, and the entire Commission, keep the victims and their families in their thoughts and prayers."

O'Brien, a Commission foreman, and Greeley, a special heavy equipment operator, attended the ceremony with their families. Reflecting on their work that day, O'Brien and Greeley share the same thought, "We didn't know who they were; it didn't matter. We kept thinking about their families."

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About Boston Water and Sewer Commission:

Boston is home to New England's oldest and largest water, sewer and stormwater systems, which are owned, maintained and operated by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC). Established in 1977, BWSC provides potable water and sewer services to more than one million people per day. BWSC is also the leading organizer of *We Are All Connected*, a campaign to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving Boston's waterways. For more information please visit: www.bwsc.org.