



PHXCONNECT

SPECIAL EDITION

Nov. 15, 2023

Messages of Gratitude

The holiday season is a time of reflection and gratitude. As we look back on 2023, we are especially thankful for the efforts of our nearly 15,000 employees who work tirelessly each day to support our communities. Your work is making a difference.

This special edition of PHXConnect features gratitude messages from many of the City's directors to their staff. We hope you enjoy them.

Happy holidays.

Aviation Department

What an incredibly busy and record-breaking year we've had! We successfully welcomed visitors for the Big Game, we celebrated new airline arrivals, we opened new concessions, we launched a new Strategic Plan, and so much more across our entire airport system.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and commitment of our amazing team. Thank you for all you do to fulfill our vision as we create "Extraordinary airports for a thriving Phoenix!"

-Chad R. Makovsky, A.A.E.



Community and Economic Development Department

As we close out another successful year, I am continuously impressed by the hardworking, creative and dedicated employees in Community and Economic Development. The skills and commitment our team has is one of a kind, and I couldn't be more thankful for all of you. Our future is bright in the hands of our truly talented team!

I sincerely thank you for your untiring efforts, diligence, and perseverance with which you serve our businesses and community. I hope you all take time to enjoy your family and friends during this holiday season. Cheers to 2024!

-Christine Mackay





City Clerk Department

Thank you to the wonderful City Clerk Team for their dedication, hard work, expertise, high level of service, and all-around AWESOMENESS!

It is an honor to lead such a strong team and I am proud of the amazing things we accomplish each day.

Go mighty City Clerk team!!

-Denise Archibald



City Manager's Office

I've said it before and I'll say it again: City of Phoenix employees are the best in class. I am thankful for all of you and for everything you do, day in and day out, to make this organization operate. This year was marked with great challenges and great achievements, and I am proud to work alongside a dedicated team throughout the peaks and valleys.

I'd also like to give a special thank you to my executive team and my administrative team for their work this year. Together, we'll continue to build the Phoenix of tomorrow.

-Jeff Barton



Communications Office

What a year for the best Communications team in the country! 2023 included tragedies and triumphs. We bonded together over disappointments, deaths, and retirements. We celebrated new beginnings, top awards, and additional teammates. No shortage of crises pushed our limits, uncovering skills and talent beyond our expectations. Innovation helps us tell the City story in unique and compelling ways. Our leadership, coworkers, and residents benefitted from the diverse perspectives, experience, and knowledge of a team that gives 110% day in and day out.

Thank you for an outstanding year. I look forward to what we will accomplish together in 2024.

-Dan Wilson

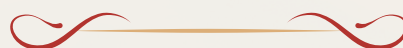


Convention Center Department

In the spirit of the season, I wanted to give my sincerest thanks to all of you. You have worked tirelessly to make our facilities the best they can be, and it has not gone unnoticed by me or the entire Leadership Team. This year, we were able to further cement Phoenix as a mega event destination with a flawless Super Bowl LVII and the eager anticipation of next year's NCAA Men's Final Four and WNBA All Star Game events. I'm grateful to those who continue to sell Phoenix as a top destination, those who ensure our events go smoothly, and all of you who provide exceptional customer service each day.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

-Jerry Harper






Office of Environmental Programs

“It isn’t easy bein’ green.” Environmental programs make it as easy as possible, though. Thoughtful, dedicated people who, on the face of it, tend to blend in with others, stand out for their vivid personalities, their approach to challenges, and their inventive collaboration. They are each and every one a starry star in the night sky or a sparkle in the water.

Thank you to the friendly, cool, and wonderous OEP staff.

“It is easy bein’ green.”

-Nancy Allen



Equal Opportunity Department

A favorite quote of mine reads, “Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.” As City of Phoenix employees, we have much to be thankful for. Equal Opportunity Department employees are encouraged to focus on the many resources at our disposal as we pursue innovative approaches to serving the needs of the citizens of this fine community. I continue to be proud of our team members who pride themselves as advocates for human and civil rights, promoting small businesses, and community engagement.

Thank you!

-Donald Logan





Fire Department

This Thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation. In our line of work, dedication and teamwork are not just values but lifelines, and I am continually inspired by your commitment to our community. I want you to know that I am thankful for your service. Our collective efforts make a profound impact on the safety and well-being of our community, and for that, I am grateful.

Take this time to rest, recharge, and cherish moments with your loved ones. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and our community is safer because of it.

- Fire Chief Mike Duran



Government Relations Department

To the Government Relations Team (Government Relations, Grants, and Regional Wireless Cooperative):

Thank you for your efforts representing Phoenix at regional, state and federal levels with success. Your hard work continues to support our collective efforts on behalf of the Mayor and Council.

-Frank McCune



Office of Heat Response and Mitigation

To the kitten-saving, grantee-wrangling, city-changing heroes of the Office of Heat Response and Mitigation: thank you for an incredible year. The daily successes you have stacked up—from navigating complex city processes to hitting the streets during the hottest summer on record—have led to some remarkable accomplishments in just our second year and laid the groundwork for even more to come.

I am especially thankful this year for the way each of you contribute to making our team environment one that is joyful, supportive, and motivating as we continue to pursue a cooler and safer Phoenix for all.

-David Hondula



Office of Homeless Solutions

I am so proud to have such an amazing team. I am incredibly grateful for the tireless work you do every day and everything we've accomplished this year. You've faced every challenge that's come our way with dedication, compassion and commitment to helping others.

Each one of you has poured your heart into everything you do, and it is truly inspiring to see how much you care about the people we serve. Your work matters. Your work changes people's lives.

Thank you for all that you do.

– Rachel Milne



Housing Department

2023 has been an exceptional year for the Housing Department, and it would not have been possible without the contributions of everyone on our team. All of you work hard each day to provide essential services to residents, attain positive outcomes for individuals and families, and improve and preserve our Phoenix neighborhoods.

I value the hard work, creativity and positive attitude displayed by every team member in their interactions with residents and customers.

I am grateful to all of you for being part of the Housing team and thankful for all that you do to better the lives of our residents.

– Titus Mathew

Human Resources Department

As I reflect on the past year, I am inspired by the work our employees do to make Phoenix work.

This year, Human Resources staff were called upon to accomplish big projects with lasting organizational impacts – and you answered that call.

Thank you for raising the bar on what it means to provide excellent customer service to our City and your peers. I am excited to see that work continue in the year ahead.

Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season, and a happy new year!

-David Mathews

Human Services Department

I am so grateful for our Human Services Team. The work you do changes lives and touches countless individuals from preschool children to seniors. Every day I'm inspired by your compassion, dedication, and spirit of excellence you bring to each interaction with those in our community we are here to serve.

I appreciate every one of you. Our residents appreciate you. I am blessed to be part of this team. Thank you for all you do.

–Marchelle Franklin



Office of Innovation

I am grateful to see innovation happening at every level of the city and for the enthusiasm of department leadership and staff to collaborate and explore what is possible, even when it is outside of our comfort zones.

I am also grateful to the community members who are informing our pilot projects and helping us enhance the way we share data and performance metrics to better align with the priorities of their communities.

-Michael Hammett



Information Technology Services Department

I am grateful for our truly dedicated team of IT professionals who bring a vision, passion, and a sense of pride in delivering the best IT services possible. Their efforts enable our community, including our department business partners, to securely connect and collaborate on the countless operations that keep our City running. They are dedicated to not only providing excellent customer service and operations every single day, but also ensuring the highest level of availability for these critical IT systems.

I'm proud to work with them and support everything they do for the City.

-Steen Hambric



Library Department

Phoenix Public Library has incredible employees. Throughout our library system and activities, the welcoming and friendly environment you create along with your interactions with customers makes all the difference. We are with people when they make important decisions, we help them find information that is sometimes life changing, and we offer our visitors choices and options.

My favorite part of being Phoenix City Librarian is recognizing it's your expertise, caring and dedication that makes Phoenix Public Library a place of connection, inspiration, support and encouragement. I am grateful to serve our community with you!

-Rita Hamilton



Neighborhood Services Department

Thank you to the hard working and dedicated members of the NSD family. Through code enforcement, we fight blight. Through our grant programs, we reinvest in our community's infrastructure, amenities, and services. Through community engagement, we help neighbors work together to find resources and problem-solve.

We build and rehab homes and shelters, support neighborhood economic development, remove graffiti and abandoned shopping carts, enforce zoning requirements, keep tenants safe, and much more. We help neighborhoods face and overcome their biggest challenges. You inspire me to keep working on new and better ways we can serve Phoenix neighborhoods, and I appreciate you.

-Spencer Self



Parks and Recreation Department

As we gather with loved ones to give thanks, I want to express my gratitude for each one of you. Your dedication and hard work have been the cornerstone of our success. It's your commitment that has helped us to continue to provide meaningful parks, programs and services on which communities rely.

This Thanksgiving, I hope you enjoy well-deserved time with family and friends and know that your contributions are appreciated. Let's look ahead with optimism and continue to achieve great things together. Happy Thanksgiving!

-Cynthia Aguilar





Police Department

This is the time of year when we gather with family and loved ones to give thanks for all the blessings we have. I have much to be thankful for, not the least of which is work for a City and police department that puts the community first. I am so grateful for the sworn and professional staff of PPD who work hard every day to keep this community safe. I am equally thankful for the incredible support the community shows its police department.

Wishing all of you a very blessed Thanksgiving.

-Interim Police Chief Michael Sullivan



Planning and Development Department

I am so thankful to work with such an incredible team of professionals who help to preserve, shape, and build this beautiful and dynamic city with our community. PDD team members amaze me with the kindness, dedication, and ingenuity they bring to the job every day.

I am also grateful for all our partners in other departments. Helping to plan and build a safe, resilient, and authentic city of this size takes a team effort and we are lucky to have so many great partners across this organization.

-Joshua Bednarek



Public Defender's Office

As the year comes to a close, I am so honored to be a part of the incredible group of people that makes up the Public Defender's Office. I am regularly inspired by the dedication of our team to the most vulnerable members of our community. This dedication always renews my faith in humanity. Please enjoy the holidays and thank you for all you do!

-David Ward



Office of Public Health

I am so grateful for our tiny but mighty office. Our first year of existence has flown by and there is a lot to celebrate. With the launch of the naloxone program, we are saving lives and helping to reverse opioid overdoses. I am truly thankful to you all for your dedication, collaboration and hard work and I'm so proud to have people on my team who are committed to making positive changes for public health and our community.

I look forward to seeing my team continue to blossom as we continue to grow. Your determination and perseverance are appreciated!

-Nicole Witt



Public Transit Department

Many thanks to each and every Public Transit team member who continues working to ensure the delivery of safe, efficient, and enjoyable transit services throughout the region.

Each of you plays a key role in making things happen, and I am extremely grateful to work alongside you all. It's how we get there!

-Jesus Sapien



Public Works Department

As I reflect on the season, I am most thankful for the fantastic Public Works employees who provide an essential service every day. Their commitment to keeping our facilities safe and functional, equipment maintained and on the road, and the community clean and green through the delivery of exceptional solid waste collection, education, diversion, and disposal services makes me very proud.

It truly takes a team effort to accomplish our mission from the exceptional administrative support team, management, and top-notch frontline employees who make it happen every day. I am honored to work in an amazing department with such dedicated staff.

-Felipe Moreno





Street Transportation Department

During a time of the year when many of us focus on the things for which we are most thankful, I am reminded of how grateful I am for the dedication of our employees to serve Phoenix residents. There is great work being done every day and I am thankful for the effort that goes into it. I wish our employees an enjoyable holiday season with their family and friends.

-Eric Froberg

Office of Sustainability

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am grateful for our team of inspiring and creative professionals; you are making the world a better place both now and the in the future. I am thankful for your passion and wish you a Thanksgiving filled with love, fun, and laughter among family and friends. You are amazing. Happy Thanksgiving.

-Mark Hartman



The background of the entire page is a collage of various dried, golden-brown leaves. The leaves are scattered across the page, with some overlapping. The central text is contained within a light beige, semi-transparent rectangular box. The leaves have intricate vein patterns and some show signs of aging or damage, such as small holes and discoloration.


Water Services Department


As we approach the holiday season, I want to reflect on your hard work and dedication throughout the year.

In moments when families gather, festive meals grace our tables, and joyous laughter fills our homes, the magnitude of your contributions is more evident. It's not lost on me that your daily work is essential. Without water and wastewater services, our customers would be unable to thrive, let alone create special memories like the ones ahead.

Thank you for doing your part to ensure the well-being of our community. Your commitment to excellence is commendable, no matter the time of year.

-Troy Hayes

A decorative flourish consisting of a horizontal line with elegant, symmetrical curves at both ends, rendered in a dark red or maroon color.



Thank you for reading this special edition of our employee newsletter. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next edition of PHXConnect will be Wednesday, Nov. 29.

No matter how you spend this holiday season, wishing you all the joy and happiness this time of year brings.

Happy Holidays



City of Phoenix

