

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

June 2026

A Message from Director Briiana Velez



As we close out June, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly full and meaningful month for the Streets Team. June marks the end of one fiscal year and the beginning of a new one—a natural moment to celebrate all we accomplished together and to look ahead with fresh goals, renewed energy, and our shared commitment to serving the people of Phoenix. Thank you for the hard work you've put in to keep our city moving safely and efficiently, your dedication truly shows. This month, we also celebrated several special events that highlight the spirit, diversity, and community that define our organization. Our Juneteenth observance invited us to honor history while reaffirming our dedication to equity and inclusion in everything we do.

On 602 Day, we celebrated the unique identity of Phoenix and the pride we share in serving this remarkable community. We also enjoyed Bring Your Child to Work Day, a wonderful reminder of the families and future generations at the heart of what we do. Seeing children experience the world of public service inspires us to keep building a City they can be proud of.

June is also the start of Monsoon Season in Arizona. Thank you in advance to all the teams preparing for storm response, safety communications, and the extra work that comes with weather-related challenges. Your readiness and teamwork keep our residents and visitors safe year after year.

Briiana

Honoring and Celebrating Juneteenth

Juneteenth Day (June 19th) marks the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, and announced that enslaved African Americans in the state were free.

This news, delivered nearly two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, signified the end of slavery in the United States.

JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATE FREEDOM





WHAT'S HAPPENING



Bring Your Child to Work Day

Streets staff had fun time celebrating another successful Bring Your Child to Work Day, where more than 150 children of City employees were in attendance and got the opportunity to explore where their parents work and perhaps inspire some with a future career at the City of Phoenix! Special thanks to the Street Transportation team members and staff who participated and made this event a huge success!



How Do You 602?

We had a great time celebrating 602 Day in collaboration with Phoenix Fire and the Parks and Recreation Department, hosting a bike rodeo at Goelet Beuf Community Center where more than 150 kids received bike helmets and participated in an educational bike safety course! Special thanks goes to Jacob Martinez, Jonathan Ross and Ronald Nikolaus, who dedicated their time to collecting the donation of bike helmets!



Women in Leadership/ MentorPHX Networking

Members from our Streets team recently participated in a MentorPHX networking event alongside Women in Leadership. The MentorPHX Program matches employees (Mentees) with a desire to enhance their leadership and organizational skills, with mentors who have an interest in sharing their experience and expertise to develop others.



Monsoon Media Day 2026



As preparations are under way for the Monsoon, another successful Monsoon Media Day took place earlier this month. All local news stations are invited to take a look at the latest technology and gear being used and meet the teams behind the operations that respond to monsoon weather events throughout the Valley.



Throughout the summer months, exercise heat readiness and take the appropriate steps to avoid heat injury or illness! [Visit Phoenix.gov/Summer](http://Phoenix.gov/Summer)

Safety Tips for Heat and Hydration

- Know the signs of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke.
- Drink more water than usual:
 - Avoid sugary drinks, alcohol and caffeine
- Take frequent breaks and wear light-colored clothing and wide-brimmed hats.
- Look after your fellow employees for signs and symptoms of potential heat injury.
- Learn more at Phoenix.gov/Heat



Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety 

No Traffic Light?



Do It Right!

Streets PHX

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety 

Turn Around



Don't Drown

Streets PHX

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety 

Road closed ahead



Use Your Head

Streets PHX

Phoenix.gov/Summer
Summer Safety 

When in Doubt



Wait it Out

Streets PHX

Monsoon Season is June 15 to Sept. 30

Always take the necessary precautions, on and off the clock, when it comes to monsoon weather and hazardous conditions.





Anthony Contreras Accepts Promotion to Chief Construction Inspector

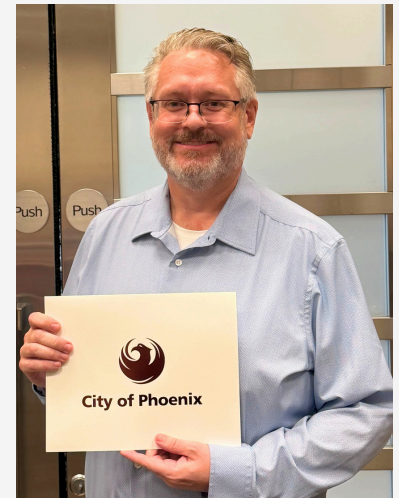
Anthony Contreras has accepted a promotion to Chief Construction Inspector (Lead Traffic Investigator) in the Traffic Services Division, Traffic Safety Section. He brings more than 25 years of experience to the role, and he is excited to take on the new challenge.

Born and raised in Phoenix, Anthony enjoys spending his time off with his family, catching movies, and cheering on his favorite teams at sporting events.

Assistant Director Matthew Wilson Completes Leadership Academy

Assistant Director Matthew Wilson recently completed the City Manager's Office Management Academy Program.

Matt successfully accomplished this 11-week course that provides emerging and current City leaders with the foundational skills needed to effectively guide teams and drive organizational success. Participants spent time strengthening their skills in strategic planning, communications, decision-making, performance management, and employee development.



THANK YOU AND FAREWELL!

Special thanks to Ondrej Benek, who was one of 13 who joined the City of Phoenix as a fellow through the Community Engagement Exchange program with the U.S. Department of State.

For the past three months Ondrej assisted the Active Transportation Program at DCM. We thank Ondrej for his commitment to our work and wish him well on his journey back home.





KUDOS FROM THE COMMUNITY

“ Katrina Mendoza is in our Utility Coordination group, from one of our utility providers in the downtown area. Ann was out of office on vacation and Katrina was able to assist in her absence on a Friday afternoon leading into the Holiday weekend.

Hi, Ann-

Thanks for connecting with me after your time off.

I want to confirm it was Katrina who called me back last week and helped me get to the correct department so a wire could be initiated.

Her prompt response, great attitude, and willingness to help were truly appreciated. Thank you for the excellent customer service. ”

**-Robin
(Community partner)**

“ *I live in the residential area your crews just finished, Grovers/Union Hills to Cave Creek Rd to 28th st. I have lived on Villa Theresa Dr. since 1983 and the only repairs over the years were chip seal and crack sealing. Thank you for a complete resurfacing and a very good job by the contractors. Well worth the minor inconvenience while it was done.* ”

-Nathan

“ *Phoenix resident Alicia called and expressed her gratitude for the City removing accident debris in front of her home near 19th Avenue and Camelback Road. Alicia stated the employee who removed debris was very nice and did a very good job. Per David Ruiz (Foreman), this comment was in reference to Christopher Miller, Street Maintenance I Worker.* ”

I was looking to park at the Safeway store on 48th and Elliot and I saw a senior struggling to maneuver from his lift chair to a walker to make it into his car. Your stripper driver stepped up and assisted this extremely disabled man-I was so touched.

I tried to find him in store and acknowledge him but never found him, and when I left the EZ liner truck was gone. They have been working between Elliot and Warner on 48th Street

Thank you for employing such caring and considerate individuals.

FAREWELL AND CONGRATULATIONS!



Leticia Vargas

Has served the City of Phoenix for more than 24 years, including two decades in Street Transportation and four years in Planning and Development.

Her leadership has helped secure over \$312 million in federal funding, and she is recognized for strong interagency coordination with MAG, ADOT, MCDOT, and FHWA, as well as advancing key city initiatives such as bike lane expansion, Improvement Districts, IGAs, and mobility programs.

Leticia is retiring after an exceptional career, and the Streets team will greatly miss her dedication, leadership, and collaborative spirit.

Theresa Harper celebrated her retirement with colleagues and friends a few weeks ago after 25 years of dedicated service to the City of Phoenix.

Over the course of her career, Theresa provided her quality expertise to six different departments, in addition to Street Transportation, this included Human Resources, Aviation, Neighborhood Services, Public Works, and the Office of Accountability and Transparency.



Thank you for your dedication and service to Street Transportation!



HUMAN RESOURCES NEWS

YEARS of SERVICE

5 Years

Daniel Del Bosque Cruz
Bobbie Hobart

10 Years

Richard Mendoza, III
Andrew Montoya

20 Years

Robert Duvall
Arnold Gracia, Jr.
Kristina Jensen
Beverly King
Michael Pederson
Aurora Salinas

25 Years

Todd Hewett
Holly Moran



Keep updated on career opportunities!
[Phoenix.gov/Jobs](https://phoenix.gov/jobs)

Contact the HR Team

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