

In the Levee Loop !



News of the Flood Protection Authority

February 15, 2020

Message From Commissioner Clay Cosse

Flood Protection and More!

While keeping our region safe from flooding is first and foremost, portions of our system provide ideal opportunities for recreation.

Through a series of post-Katrina events, my wife and I now live in Arabi on the Mississippi River. Our home is directly across from one of our many floodgates with a spectacular view of the river and city.



Over the past four years, we have witnessed many different activities take place on the levee. Weddings, memorial services, movie shoots, ship watching, photo-ops, jogging, POB walking, bicycling, only to name a few. When cruise ships pass, entire families appear to wave a bon voyage to friends or loved ones. The levee also serves as a community gathering spot for special events such as New Year's Eve, Fourth of July, and so on, with sometimes hundreds of attendees.

Whether it be paddle boats bringing tourists to the Chalmette Battlefield, boats launching at Seabrook and Bonnabel, the riverfront at the French Quarter, the lakefront, Bucktown and Kenner beach, to name a few, all of these wonderful areas to recreate have a connection to our system.

So, to Administration, Field Personnel and all the employees in between, thank you for your hard work and dedication. On behalf of the entire Commission, we sincerely hope that you take some satisfaction in knowing that what you do and how you do it is putting smiles on a lot of faces.

Sincerely,
Clay Cosse

THE FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY—EAST COMMISSIONERS

Herbert I. Miller, PE, DDE, F. ASCE -
President
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Clay A. Cosse' - Secretary
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*"Leadership is a
combination of
strategy and
character.
If you must be
without one,
be without the
strategy."*

*Gen. H. Norman
Schwarzkopf*

FPA Values Key to Success

The Flood Protection Authority adopted Values in order for its team members to create a better working environment, do their part to ensure the integrity and operability of the critically important flood defense system, provide service to the public, bring success to the Flood Protection Authority and achieve personal success. Our Values are: 1. Accountability, 2. Clear Expectations, 3. Open and Transparent Communication, 4. Valued and Appreciated Employees, 5. Teamwork, 6. Professionalism and 7. Mission Focus.

All FPA team members should exhibit these values; however, there are some who go above and beyond. Look for your coworkers who not only exemplify our values, but also go the extra mile to enhance the workplace environment, improve and develop themselves and their team professionally, provide service to the public, and demonstrate acts of kindness, and show your appreciation by nominating them for Employee of the Month. Team members can nominate any coworker throughout the organization for Employee of the Month in the categories of Administration, Police and Operations/Maintenance.

Best Wishes on Retirement



Pamela Zeringue
Retired on 01/04/2020
Procurement Manager 1 OLD
47 Years 5 Months of Service



Paul Laporte
Retired on 1/3/2020
Administrative Coordinator 3 OLD
45 Years 6 Months of Service



Betty Vignes
Retired on 1/27/2020
Administrative Coordinator 4 OLD
28 Years 8 Months of Service



June Humphrey
Retired on 01/03/2020
Administrative Program Specialist-A OLD
23 Years 6 Months of Service

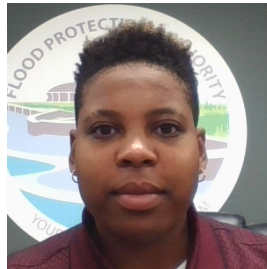


Henry Watson
Retired on 1/27/2020
Mobile Equipment Operator-Light - EJ
21 Years 8 Months of Service

Welcome New FPA Team Members



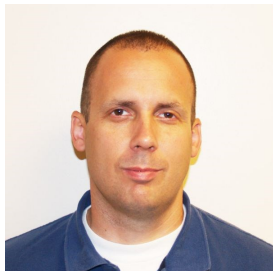
Tanya Rivers
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
EJ - 1/13/2020



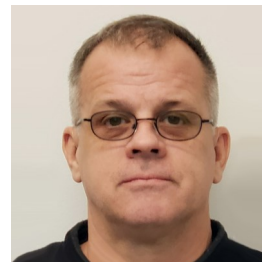
Myrian Joseph
Mobile Equipment Operator 1
OLD - 1/13/2020



Charles Morgan
Mechanic 3
OLD - 1/27/2020



Kevin Wheeler
Police Officer 2-A
OLDPD - 1/13/2020



Carl Cade
Police Officer 2-A
EJLDPD - 1/27/2020

Congratulations on Promotion



Percy Jefferson
Mobile Equipment Operator 1
OLD - 1/13/2020



Demond Johnson
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
OLD - 1/13/2020



Bernard Thomas
Mobile Equipment Operator I Heavy
LBBLD - 1/27/2020

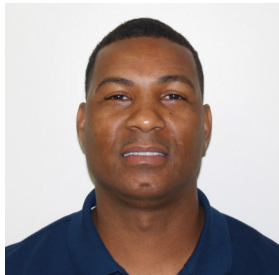


Keanon Brisco
Mobile Equipment Operator 1-Heavy
OLD - 1/27/2020

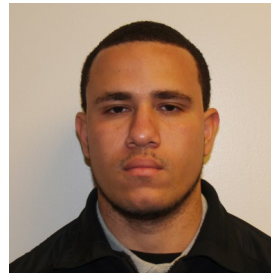
Cody Hill
Mobile Equipment Operator-Light
OLD - 1/27 2020



Corey Holmes
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
OLD - 1/27/2020

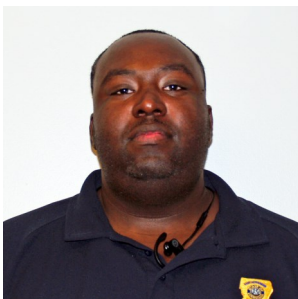


Anthony Parker
Mobile Equipment Operator 2
OLD - 1/27/2020



Christopher Norfleet
Facility Assistant Maintenance Manager A
PCCP - 1/27/2020

Newly Promoted EJLD Police Sergeant

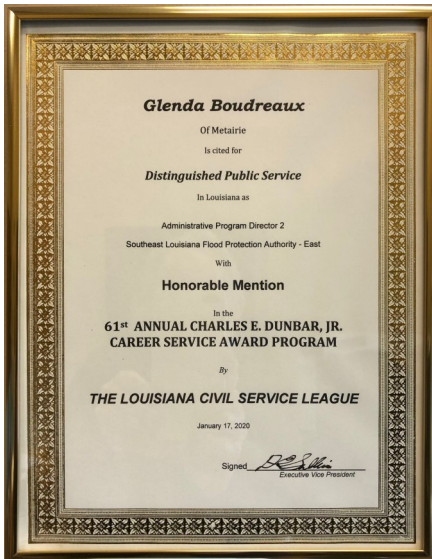


It was with great pleasure that the EJLDPD announced that Aurther Agee was promoted to Sergeant on January 14, 2020. Sgt. Agee was selected from an impressive group of candidates.

Congratulations Sgt. Agee on your promotion.

LA Civil Service League Distinguished Service Award

We wish to congratulate Glenda Boudreaux again this year for receiving a *Distinguished Public Service Award* at the 61th Annual Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. State Civil Service Awards Luncheon presented by the Louisiana Civil Service League. The event was held on January 17th at the DoubleTree Hotel on Canal Street in downtown New Orleans.



Glenda was one of twelve classified employee (out of 40,000 classified employees statewide) to receive this award. Twelve other employees received the Charles E. Dunbar, Jr. Award. These awards recognize those employees whose contributions make a positive, indelible mark on their agency and their community. Nominees are judged on commitment to the classified service, contributions toward workplace improvement, personal initiative and volunteer community service.

Glenda has worked with the Agency between the Flood Protection Authority and the Orleans Levee District for over forty-four years and currently serves the Board of Commissioners as Administrative Program Director 2. We are very proud of Glenda for her unwavering commitment to the FPA mission and team.

Wilma Heaton

DEA Service Award Presented to Capt. Mike Brenckle



Captain Mike Brenckle was recently presented an award for his dedicated and professional service as a DEA Task Force Officer by the Special Agent in Charge of the DEA of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. The award was presented at the DEA Office in New Orleans.

Please join me in congratulating Captain Brenckle for this prestigious award.

I am certain that Captain Brenckle will continue serving the residents of New Orleans in this same exemplary manner!

Please continue being an outstanding partner with our local, state and federal law enforcement agencies — the benefits are real and our residents deserve it !

Kerry Najolia, Superintendent of Police

Pictured L to R: Brad Byerley- Special Agent in Charge Drug Enforcement Administration, Mike Brenckle- Commander OLDPD, Kerry Najolia- Superintendent of Police EJLD /OLD PD

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

Orleans Levee District Police Join Barran's Bears!



BARRAN'S BEARS
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Barran's Bears is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that provides Teddy Bears to Police Officers and First Responders to utilize at scenes where children are faced with "adult problems" such as Domestic Violence, illness, injury, etc. Founder Deputy Turner Barran carried teddy bears in his patrol unit before creating this organization and observed the difference that it made on calls where children were dealing with a traumatic situation. Psychologically, teddy bears and stuffed animals have a very calming effect on children and Deputy Barran observed that children were more eager to see police as friends when they were comforted by a teddy bear. Barran's Bears was born from a tiny idea, and has now reached over 65 departments nationwide!

The Orleans Levee District Police are now a part of Barran's Bears. The Orleans Levee District Police were able to receive 100 custom bears with the help of a generous donation from Lake Vista resident Mr. Wade Verges acquired by Sergeant Alex Gerhold of Gramercy Police and our own Sergeant Lacey Gerhold. Mr. Verges donated funds that allowed Orleans Levee District Police, Gramercy Police, and East Jefferson Levee District Police to acquire bears.



Pictured left: Officers met with Mr. Verges to thank him for his generous donation. (L-R) Reserve Sergeant Lacey Gerhold, Mr. Wade Verges, Captain Mike Brenckle and Gramercy Police Sergeant Alex Gerhold



Pictured right (R-L) Officer Tammy Canfield, JPSO Sergeant Barran and OLD Reserve Sergeant Lacey Gerhold receiving our bears.

EJ Celebration of Henry Watson's Retirement



The FPA team celebrated Henry Watson's retirement with a party at the East Jefferson facility to thank him for his dedication and for giving 22 years of service to the East Jefferson Levee District and the Flood Protection Authority.

Henry is a Mobile Equipment Operator Light in Operations and Maintenance/Levees at EJ.

Good Luck, Happy Retirement and God Bless!



"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." Charles Dickens

Co-Employees of the Month Recognized by Board



The Board recognized Thuy Do and Peggy Sembera at its January 16th meeting as the Flood Protection Authority's Co-Employees of the Month.

Thuy is an Accountant 2 and Peggy is an Office Manager in Finance. Thuy and Peggy were nominated and selected as Co-Employees of the Month because of the way that they embrace the FPA's values and demonstrate these values every day in the performance of their work.

Thuy is also known as "Miss Do Anything" and Peggy as "Miss Do Everything".

Thuy and Peggy are responsible for payroll, accounts payable, and reconciling and submitting benefit withholdings, including insurance, retirement, and deferred compensation. Thuy and Peggy work very well together to ensure that the FPA's employees are paid correctly, and their benefit payments are submitted timely. They both excel at attention to detail and understanding the ADP payroll system.

Recently, a Finance Department employee had to go on extended medical leave unexpectedly. Thuy and Peggy not only immediately jumped in and began determining what needed to get done, they did it with a positive, can-do attitude. In addition, they analyzed the methods used for some of the reconciliations the employee was using, and they automated the process and standardized it across the agencies. Thuy and Peggy always go the extra mile even working on holidays to ensure payroll gets completed. They are a pleasure to work with, open to new ideas, and are great members of the Finance team.

Thuy's and Peggy's contributions and commitment make them invaluable to the FPA and the successful accomplishment of its mission.

Operations/Maintenance Employee of the Month



Phillip Lapara was hired as an Operating Engineer for the LBBLD pump stations in December, 2011. Due to his dedication and reliability, Phil was promoted to Operating Engineer Master on January, 29, 2018.

Last month, Phil was placed in charge of the pump station crew and operations while his supervisor was on medical leave. During this time, Phil performed admirably staffing the stations during rain events, reporting pump station equipment failures to Operations, and following up on ongoing repair contracts.

The FPA is fortunate to have a dedicated employee that is knowledgeable and is capable to lead when called upon. The FPA team congratulates Phil for being named Operations/Maintenance Employee of the Month.

The real value of setting goals is not the recognition or reward, it's the person we become by finding the discipline, courage, and commitment to achieve them." Anonymous

Police Employee of the Month Recognized by Board



P.O. Ryan Frazier was recognized by the Board on January 16th as the Police Employee of the Month.

Ryan Frazier is a Police Officer 2-A with the Orleans Levee District Police Department, who was nominated by his colleagues for his outstanding performance and exemplifying the values of the FPA. Officer Frazier focuses on getting the job done no matter how challenging or simple the task may be. Fellow officers know they can depend on him to have their backs or lend a helping hand.

Officer Frazier always maintains a professional attitude and appearance. In addition to his contribution to the FPA's public safety mission, he goes above and beyond in his efforts to deter crime and comes to work ready to make a difference. He is outgoing and heroic when it comes to catching criminals.

Officer Frazier was on routine patrol when he noticed a vehicle on Hayne Boulevard matching an earlier broadcast from NOPD. The vehicle was a stolen gray Jeep Cherokee occupied by multiple suspects who were breaking into vehicles. Officer Frazier attempted to stop the vehicle; however, the driver refused to stop. The vehicle continued to elude Officer Frazier and finally came to a stop due to damage from striking a curb during the pursuit. The suspects then fled on foot. Officer Frazier was able to immediately apprehend the passenger. The driver was apprehended a short time later by a NOPD K-9 officer. Upon searching the vehicle, a stolen 9mm handgun with obliterated serial numbers and two pairs of gloves were found. Officer Frazier charged the driver with 13 traffic violations, one traffic arrest, possession of a stolen automobile, aggravated flight from an officer, illegal possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of an unidentifiable firearm. The driver was currently on probation for simple burglary. The passenger, who was on parole for negligent injury, was charged with possession of a stolen automobile and possession of an unidentifiable firearm.

Officer Frazier is an outstanding example of the OLDPD's professionalism and his willingness to go above and beyond makes him a tremendous asset to the FPA, the law enforcement community and the citizens of the region.

Congratulations to Team Members for Achievements

FPA's Newest Certified Drone Pilot



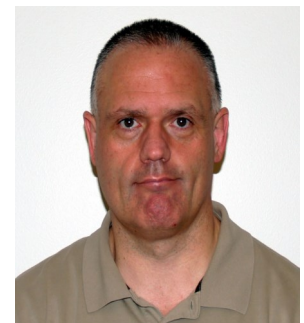
Congratulations to John Mitchell (pictured left) for receiving his Remote Pilot Certification for piloting drones. John is the Power Generation Specialist Manager in Operations and Maintenance - PCCP.

The FPA now has five employees who are certified drone pilots.

New Certified Physical Fitness Instructor

EJLD Police Officer 3 Brad Baradell (pictured right) recently completed a very challenging online program to become a certified physical fitness instructor.

Thank you for your willingness to tackle such a demanding program head on. Brad will be leading the agency in a new level of fitness and well being.



Mount Carmel Junior Class Tours FPA/LMA Facilities



Mount Carmel Academy's Junior STREAM Day takes students out into the real world to see careers in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics at work.

The Junior Physics Class took advantage of our open invitation and toured the IHNC Surge Barrier and Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP), as well as the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. The tours provided a means to introduce students to careers in engineering, water management, aviation and related fields.



FPA Engineer Darrin Austin, is pictured above conducting the tour of the IHNC Surge Barrier and discussing the flood defense system with the class.

LMA staff members Bruce Martin, Airport Director, Daniel Hill, Director of Operations and Engineering, and Chris Henderson, Airport Manager, are pictured below conducting the tour of the Lakefront Airport facilities and operations.

Wilma Heaton hosted lunch at Messina's on January 29th and February 6th for both classes.

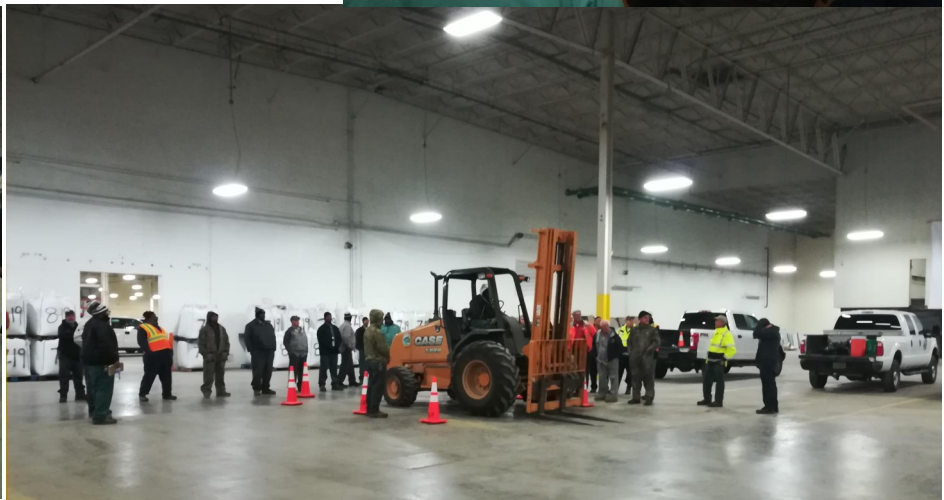


Heavy Equipment Training

The FPA hosted Jim Green, from the Alamo Group, in both November and December, 2019, for conducting heavy equipment training on the following machinery:

- ◆ All Terrain Forklift Operation for 72 employees
- ◆ Skid Steer/Kubota New Holland for 69 employees
- ◆ Bob Tail Dump Truck for 22 employees

The employees attended classroom training, received machinery and safety instructions, and demonstrated what they had learned by driving a road course that had been set up in the O.L.D. Franklin Facility warehouse.



Seven Common Accident Injury Causes



Two out of four accidents and injuries were the fault of the person involved in the accident in 2019. Unsafe acts cause four times as many accidents and injuries than unsafe conditions.

Accidents and injuries occur for many reasons. We tend to look for things to blame rather than the root cause. Consider the following underlying causes of accident/injury described below. Have you been guilty of any of these behaviors? Although you may not have had an accident or injury, the next time you may not be so lucky.

1. Failure to Pre-Plan the Job: Being hasty and “planning a task as you go” may put you and others in harm’s way
2. Poor Housekeeping creates hazardous conditions.
3. Ignoring or being “casual” about safety procedures can lead to accidents and injuries.
4. Starting a task with either incomplete instructions or lack of understanding the instructions.
5. Taking Short Cuts: We may make decisions to save time and complete the task faster.
6. Mental Distractions can take your mind off the task at hand and may result in danger to yourself and others.
7. Over-Confidence may result in taking a “It will never happen to me” attitude and may lead to improper procedures, tools or methods used to accomplish a task.

“It is better to be careful 100 times than to get killed once”... Mark Twain

Your FPA Safety Team - safety@floodauthority.org

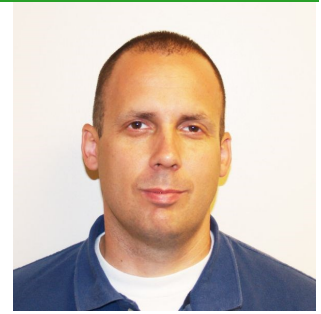
Levee District Police Officers of the Month



EJDLD PO Kelli Lopardi

Each month the Orleans Levee District and East Jefferson Levee District Police Departments will recognize an officer who demonstrates professionalism, accountability, proactiveness and adherence to the highest ethical standards, and remains focused on the FPA's mission and organization integrity.

The FPA congratulates the first winners of this award EJDLD Police Officer Kelli Lopardi and O.L.D. Police Officer Kevin Wheeler who were selected as the Officers of the Month for January for their respective police departments.



O.L.D. PO Kevin Wheeler

O.L.D./EJDLD Police Support CFP Championship / POTUS Visit

Members of the Orleans Levee District and East Jefferson Levee District Police Departments, Homeland Security, Customs and Border Patrol and DEA under the direction of the FAA conducted security checks of all in-bound flights that landed at the Lakefront Airport in support of the College Football National Championship Game held in New Orleans and the President of the United States' (POTUS) visit. The Federal, State and local partners (pictured right) worked together to ensure a safe and secure Lakefront Airport for all visitors

O.L.D. and EJDLD Police Officers also provided support at the Louis Armstrong International Airport and the Superdome for the BCS event and the President's visit.



OLDPD Airport Liaison Officer Al Hynes (left) and US Customs and Border Patrol Agent Joseph Williamson are pictured by the Marine-1 Helicopter secured at the Lakefront Airport during the POTUS Visit for the BCS Championship game.



EJLDPD Captain Vincent Yetta (kneeling), EJLDPD Lt. Tyrone Butler (standing-right side) and Lt. Guy Fortunato (standing-middle) along with their JPSO colleagues provide protection at the Louis Armstrong Airport in Kenner during the arrival/departure of Air Force -1 during the BCS Championship .

DEA Commendations Presented to O.L.D. Police Officers



Lt. Albert Pellitteri and Sgt. Noel Sanders presented Letters of Commendation from the DEA to P.O. Joshua Martin (pictured left) and P.O. Warren Kimball (pictured right) for outstanding contributions to the federal service. The officers assisted with the apprehension of a federal fugitive

O.L.D. Police Officers Receive Commendations

Sergeant Vance Bieniemy, Officer Gabriel Faucetta, Officer Ryan Frazier, Officer Terroll-Lynn Gray, Officer Troy Johnson, and Officer Marius White were recently commended for exemplary performance. Each incident involved vehicular and foot pursuits with armed suspects and resulted in successful apprehensions. The officers recognized have shown true dedication and passion for police work.



P.O. Ryan Frazier & Capt. Brenckle



P.O. Troy Johnson & Capt. Brenckle



**Sgt. Vance Bieniemy, Cap. Brenckle
& P.O. Terroll-Lynn Gray**



P.O. Ryan Frazier, Sgt. Vance Bieniemy & P.O. Gabriel Faucetta



Sgt. Alvin Bedou, P.O. Marius White & Lt. Charles Hill

Calendar of Events

February

February 20 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

February 25 (Tuesday) - Mardi Gras (State Holiday)

March

March 19 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

April

April 10 (Friday) - Good Friday (Legal Holiday)

April 16 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

May

May 21 (Thursday) - Board/Committee Meetings

May 25 (Monday) - Memorial Day (Must Be Proclaimed Legal Holiday by Governor)

Reminders

Submit your Employee of the Month Nomination Forms by the last day of each month

Louisiana State Civil Service advised that the 2020 version of Preventing Sexual Harassment course is available on the LEO website.

March 2020 Safety Meeting Calendar

BE CAREFUL

**The best safety device
is a careful worker**

**Get the safety
habit**

- ◆ **Tuesday - March 17th** - OLD (Groups 312, 314, Complex Structure, PCCP, Operations, Engineering & Administration)
- ◆ **Wednesday - March 18th** - Lake Borgne
- ◆ **Monday - March 23rd** - East Jefferson
- ◆ **Tuesday - March 24th** - OLD (Groups 310, 311, 313 & Administration)

2020 Performance Evaluation System (PES) Timeline

Employee Services (ES) host refresher classes for all supervisors - June 22 - June 25

1st & 2nd level evaluators prepare evaluation and planning forms (signed and dated) and submit to ES - July 1 - July 24

ES Review Period - July 27 - July 31

1st level evaluators conduct evaluation and planning sessions with employees and submit signed PES forms to ES - August 3 - August 28

ES to prepare PES report for Civil Service - August 31, 2020

Suggestions, comments, news items (weddings, births, significant anniversaries and other events you wish to share with your coworkers), original articles and other submittals are welcomed.

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Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

Submittals can be emailed to gboudreaux@floodauthority.org
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