

2020 CAMDEN ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT



SPEAKER BIOS

Armando Alfonso

Armando Alfonso is an Environmental Engineer and the Community Collaborative Initiative (CCI) Liaison for the City of Camden in the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) Office of Brownfield and Community Revitalization. As a CCI Liaison, Armando provides assistance and resources to the City of Camden and acts as a link between local partners and the NJDEP to ensure the proper design and permitting of various types of projects. Armando was previously the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Permit Team Leader for Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) and the Cities of Camden, Gloucester, and Trenton; he led a multi-disciplinary team to ensure permit compliance and to assist permittees with incorporating other community needs, such as economic development and quality of life improvements, into their Long Term Control Plan.

Denise Venuti Free

Denise Venuti Free is responsible for overseeing communications and external affairs across American Water's New Jersey, New York, Virginia and Maryland subsidiaries, including customer education, media relations, issues management and community outreach. Free joined American Water in 2009 and was promoted to her current position in 2016. She is a member of the Communications Committee for the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), a member of the New Jersey Utilities Association and Public Relations Society of America, and was a Fellow in Lead New Jersey's Class of 2018. Her community involvement includes serving on the Southwest New Jersey Advisory Board of the Salvation Army Kroc Center and the Board of Advisors for Lead New Jersey. Free is also a participant of the US Water Alliance's Camden Water Equity Task Force, which works align the resources of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to advance equity and inclusion in Camden through smart water management.

James Gaddy

Founder of Project Little Warriors, James Gaddy, uses his Southern hospitality to impact those around him. Being raised by a single mom and loved by 4 siblings, he brings the paternal role model to these children that was not present in his childhood. He uses his passion and positivity to provide leadership and learning to kids as he knows the importance of that presence in their life. He has been serving those around him since a young age and as he has grown into his own person through the years he was able to take his service to the community. He has done this by leading in the restaurant industry, selling hearing aids, teaching yoga, mission trips, transitioning from personal fitness to group fitness and spreading mindfulness everywhere he goes. My word for 2020 is journey! What's yours?

Olivia Glenn

Olivia Glenn serves as Deputy Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, prioritizing the advancement of the administration's environmental justice and equity goals.

A longtime advocate of assuring access to the outdoors to underserved communities, Olivia believes every New Jerseyan has a right to experience and enjoy the benefits of nature. She strongly believes that regional trails are a part of advancing equity and access for all to enjoy open space amenities.

Olivia previously led the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry, serving since 2018 as its director and managing its 450,000 acres of natural and historic resources. From 2003 to 2009, she also worked as the Division's Urban Initiatives and Outreach Coordinator and subsequently as the special assistant to the DEP Deputy Commissioner. She later served on the DEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Council, leading its efforts in outreach, education, and land management.

Olivia also has worked with the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, making outdoor spaces and trails more readily available to Greater Philadelphia residents. She was the former Co-Chair for New Jersey of the Circuit Trails Coalition.

As Deputy Commissioner, Olivia chairs the Community Collaborative Initiative's Steering Committee and is responsible for environmental justice, diversity, and environmental education. She is a recipient of the Camden Environmental Hero Award and a Camden County Sustainability Champion.

Olivia earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Dartmouth College. She holds a master's degree from the Yale School of the Environment.

Terina Nicole Hill

Terina Nicole is a New Jersey native who creates beautiful, bold statement pieces for art & design lovers as the designer and founder of *Jypsea Leathergoods*, a line of luxe leather home goods, handbags & jewelry made primarily of recycled skins.

She is also the author of *ENVISION: The Young Accessory Designer's Guide to Collection Development* and co-founder of DIYMakersCon, a conference for creative women makers.

Her most recent and proudest venture is The Fashion Design Center of South Jersey, which she founded to make design education available to Camden residents.

Pete Lopez

Pete Lopez serves as the Regional Administrator for EPA Region 2. His responsibilities include overseeing the states of New York and New Jersey, Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, and eight tribal nations.

Prior to joining EPA Region 2 in October 2017, Mr. Lopez served as a Member of the New York State (NYS) Assembly, where he served for over 10 years and six terms. During this time, Mr. Lopez successfully addressed flood recovery issues; helped create jobs; and both supported and advocated for children, families, teachers, schools, businesses, family farms and more.

Prior to his term as Assemblyman, Mr. Lopez served with the NYS Senate and was elected as a Village Trustee. While pursuing his Master's, Pete continued his full-time work with the NYS Legislature as the Associate Director of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Assistant Director of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, District Office Director, and Executive Assistant. Simultaneously, Pete was elected to additional local offices including Town Councilman and Town Supervisor/County Legislator. During this period, Pete was appointed to the New York Statewide Transportation Advisory Committee and the Association of Towns' Statewide Legislative Advisory Committee. After 21 years of service to the State Legislature and 12 years as a local official, Pete was elected as the County Clerk prior to becoming a NYS Assemblyman.

Pete graduated with honors from Schoharie Central School District, State University of New York (SUNY) Cobleskill, and SUNY Albany. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Affairs with a concentration in Environmental Studies and a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Meishka Mitchell

Meishka L. Mitchell, AICP, PP is Vice President at Cooper's Ferry Partnership, a community and economic development nonprofit organization in her hometown of Camden, New Jersey. Meishka played a key role in broadening CFP's mission to address planning and redevelopment efforts in Camden's neighborhoods with a resident-driven approach. A self-proclaimed "accidental environmentalist," Meishka promotes the value of the urban environment within the sustainability movement. Meishka has led efforts on water equity and established several award-winning replicable sustainability collaborations. Meishka has a Master of City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Meishka is also certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners and maintains a Professional Planners license with the State of New Jersey.

Frank Moran

Mayor Francisco "Frank" Moran is the embodiment of a hard-working family man who continuously works to improve the quality of life for others. He is a strong advocate for the rights of the blue-collar worker, the well-being of the young, and a grassroots leader who has helped to empower the residents of Camden. He was elected Mayor in November 2017 and officially took the oath of office as the 48th Mayor of the City of Camden on January 01, 2018.

Mayor Moran is a life-long resident of Camden, he is a product of its public school system and is a former City employee. He is committed to moving the City forward—to reignite its place as a strong economic, cultural and governmental player in the region. His life experiences have shaped a man with vision, dedication and determination to give back to the City that has given so much to him. Moran resides in East Camden with his wife, Ivette. He has two children: Ashley, the mother of his two grandchildren; and Francisco Jr., who proudly served in the United States Air Force and currently works in law enforcement.

Mayor Moran is a member and Board Trustee of The Lion of Judah, Assemblies of God Church, which is a bilingual (Spanish and English) Bible-based, Christ-centered church. He has travelled with his Church to several states and countries, including Nicaragua, providing much needed service ministries to greatly impoverished communities.

Moran served on City Council from 1997 to 2017, where he was Council President for eight years until becoming Mayor. He also served as the Director of the Camden County Public Works and Director of Camden County Parks Departments where he was responsible for overseeing significant parks improvements projects. These initiatives include the beautification and expansion of the Camden County park system, implementing vision plans for Cooper River Park, and re-introducing public ice skating to the Camden County parks.

Throughout his career, Frank Moran has kept the importance of economic development at the forefront.

He has helped Camden attract corporations such as: Subaru of America, Lockheed Martin, Philadelphia 76ers, Holtec International, American Water, Liberty Property Trust, and EMR to name a few. In Camden's neighborhoods, he continues to work tirelessly with elected officials and stakeholders to advocate for solutions to issues such as abandoned structures, including the recent City-wide demolitions of unsafe residential structures throughout the City's neighborhoods. Mayor Moran has also supported educational alternatives in Camden, including Renaissance schools and charter schools along with improvements to the public schools with up-to-date classroom technology, educational resources, and new facilities. Finally, Mayor Moran provided strong leadership during the regionalization of the City's police services which ultimately led to the creation of the new Camden County Police Department. This transition is now widely regarded as the national model for community policing.

Frank Moran is proud of his efforts to promote economic development, to develop new housing, to protect well-paying jobs, to combat crime, and improve the quality of life for all Camden residents. He remains an advocate for all residents of Camden and has worked hard to protect the community he loves.

Mike Morgan

Mike Morgan lives in Waterfront South with his family, works at Rutgers School of Nursing-Camden, and is studying for a masters in public affairs/community development at Rutgers-Camden. His goal is to join neighbors in creating a better Camden by taking the next, smallest step toward change. His dream is to walk in Waterfront South and not worry about air pollution.

Cheryl Norton

Cheryl Norton serves as president of New Jersey American Water and senior vice president of the company's Eastern Division, which includes New Jersey and New York. In March 2020, in addition to her other roles, Norton became American Water's Chief Environmental Officer, overseeing environmental leadership and compliance across American Water's regulated and market-based businesses.

A native of northwestern Missouri, Norton started her career with American Water in 1988 as a microbiology research technician at the company's central laboratory in Belleville, Ill., which provides services for American Water subsidiaries across the country. After that, she served as the laboratory's director overseeing companywide chemical compliance testing before being appointed Vice President of Operations for Illinois American Water. She then served as President of Kentucky American Water and later Missouri American Water before moving to New Jersey.

Norton serves on the boards of Choose New Jersey, The Cooper Health System, Cooper's Ferry Partnership and the New Jersey Utilities Association. She received a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's degree in environmental studies from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

Michael Palmquist

Michael Palmquist is a graduate of Shippensburg University with a bachelor's degree in environmental science. He began his State service in the Spring of 2003 as an Inspector for the Bureau of Coastal and Land Use Compliance and Enforcement. Throughout his 16-year tenure with the Bureau, Michael endeavored to seek the closure of hundreds of cases pertaining to permit non-compliance, violations of multiple environmental statutes, and restoration of sensitive environmental areas all over state. In May 2019, he transferred to the Office of Natural Resource Restoration where he began to shadow and eventually take over as the Project Manager for the proper closure, restoration and enhancement of the former Harrison Avenue landfill, now known as Cramer Hill Waterfront Park. Additionally, he manages several natural resource damage (NRD) cases as well as the beginning stages of other restoration projects statewide from the settlements of NRD claims against polluters.