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## **Moving forward on worker safety**

*Readers*

*The Journal News*

When my son, **John-Paul**, fell off an Ossining sanitation truck and died last July, it was like my life, too, ended. Nothing had meaning anymore. I spoke with my son through prayer, and **John-Paul** led me to a new way of life, very special people and involvement in government.

Through letters, conversations and attending government meetings, my husband and I have accomplished much. We've been advocating for new safety measures for sanitation workers. In February, County Executive Andrew Spano showed the public the first county sanitation trucks to have video cameras so drivers can observe workers in the back, along with supplying safety helmets to the workers. This past Thursday, at a press conference, Democratic Assemblywoman Sandra Galef introduced legislation for sanitation worker safety and Republican Sen. Nicholas Spano introduced it into the Senate. How wonderful that our two major political parties are working together for safety of sanitation workers!

This past Friday, Ossining renamed the Operations Center on Route 9A in memory of my son. It will now be called the **John-Paul Rodrigues** Ossining Operations Center. For this honor I thank Mayor Eugene Napolitano and the village board. But implementing safety procedures should not stop here. It's time the Ossining board stopped hiding behind legalities as their illogical reasoning not for making changes. Money cannot bring back **John-Paul**, but a \$40 safety helmet can help prevent another death.

To **John-Paul**, who led my crusade, and all the others who have helped make some of my prayers a reality, I say "Thank you."

Malita **Rodrigues**  
Ossining

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