



Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager
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Town Mourns the Loss of Chief Engineer Tony Del Gaizo

Tony was a 30-year employee of the Town; Needham High School Graduate

NEEDHAM – Friday, December 10, 2021 – It is with great sadness that Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick announced today that Town Engineer Tony Del Gaizo, a 30-year Town employee and Needham High School graduate, passed away unexpectedly this week.

Tony's friends and family say he proudly expressed his interest early in his life in becoming a civil engineer, aspiring to someday become the chief engineer for the Town of Needham, a community he deeply loved. It was the only job, he would say, he ever wanted. Tony was a friend to many, and his impact can be seen and felt across Needham, where virtually every piece of the built environment - the downtown, the schools, the industrial park, bridges, roads and much more - was shaped by his work.

"Losing Tony is devastating," said Fitzpatrick. "If you walk around Needham, Tony's impact is everywhere. For 30 years he was involved in virtually every project this Town has undertaken. I don't know anyone as committed to Needham, who believes in the greatness of the community, like Tony did. His professionalism and insistence on always doing things the right way was directly attributable to his love and reverence for Needham. It is a huge loss for all of us."

Tony helped shape many projects large and small. Among the most significant are the Eliot Street Bridge, the redesign of Needham's downtown and redevelopment of Needham's business center, and the affordable housing project Greendale Mews. Although not as visible to passersby, Tony was instrumental in upgrading the Town's water and wastewater infrastructure and served as lead on implementing important drainage and stormwater quality improvements.

Colleagues also cite Tony's impact on other projects including the South Street and Kendrick Street bridges, the 128 Add-a-Lane Project and the PTC development on Kendrick Street.

In addition to his work, colleagues remember the joy and laughter Tony brought to the team at Public Works.

"He had almost a child-like awe about him," said DPW Director Carys Lustig. "He was quick to trust people and liked to make people happy." Citing a trip he once took to Disneyworld (one of Tony's

favorite places), Lustig said Tony was thrilled to be given a tour of the underground operations. “If you think about it, it makes sense - it’s a Civil Engineer’s dream!”

The Town is working to honor Tony’s memory and will update the community shortly. Our hearts go out to Tony’s family, friends, and colleagues.

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