

Lisette Camilo, DCAS Commissioner Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer

Bill de Blasio, Mavor

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KEITH T. KERMAN

NYC PARTNERS WITH PRIVATE FLEETS ON SAFETY

The City has placed a renewed emphasis on traffic and fleet safety through Vision Zero. Fleet safety is an issue also being tackled by private companies and non-profits throughout the City and world. It is critical that NYC partner and coordinate these private and public efforts to the greatest degree possible. As part of this effort, Fleet participated in two high-level and thought provoking safety events hosted right here in New York this week.

On June 14, DCAS, DOHMH, and DOT participated in a roundtable sponsored by Together for Safer Roads (TSR). Aligned with the United Nations, TSR is a coalition that brings together global private sector companies across industries to collaborate on improving road safety. Among many participants were Walmart, AT&T, GM, IBM, Ryder, UPS, Pepisco, and Facebook. The forum was moderated by former US Surgeon General Ken Moritsugu. Speakers included Dr. Stewart C. Wang, Professor of Surgery and Program Director for Injury Research and Education at University of Michigan. He discussed the firsthand experience of emergency medical teams in treating trauma resulting from collisions, and advances in data collection and technology that are helping medical personnel increase the likelihood of saving lives.

Other academics and practitioners from the US, Greece, China, France, and Australia engaged in lively discussions around connected vehicles and automated vehicles, and what they will mean for drivers and society. There was a debate on how long it might take for automated vehicles to become mainstream. Dr. Jean-Pascal Assailly, French

National Council of Road Safety, mentioned the problem of hands free phones and driving distraction. Kate Carr, President and CEO of Safe Kids Worldwide, reminded participants of the special challenges and needs for keeping children safe in vehicles. NYC agencies contributed to the discussion based on experience with data and fleet management.

On June 16, Fleet also participated in an expert panel on truck safety for 75 private waste management drivers at the NYC Waste & Recycling Safety Symposium, sponsored by the National Waste & Recycling Association and the Solid Waste Management Association of North America (SWANA). The event was kicked off by DSNY Commissioner Kathryn Garcia and BIC Commissioner Daniel Brownell. Mahanth Joishy moderated a fleets panel and gave an introduction to Vision Zero. This panel included FreshDirect and Coca-Cola, major area trucking fleets who use leading best practices, and AT&T, which is addressing driver distraction from a telecommunication provider's point of view. AT&T Executive Director of Public Affairs Neil Giacobbi discussed the impact that serious collisions had on some of their own staff and introduced safety apps for cell phones such as Drive Mode.

These interchanges between City agencies, academia, and the private sector have been of mutual benefit as we all work towards the goal of saving lives on the road. DCAS has scheduled the Third Vision Zero Fleets Forum for Nov. 29 and we look forward to continuing these partnerships.



