

**March 12, 2025**

**DCAS Testimony In Support of TLC Rules Change to Reduce Traffic Violations and Increase Safe Driver Training**

Hi. My name is Keith Kerman, Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) and NYC's Chief Fleet Officer. NYC operates the largest municipal fleet in the country, with nearly 29,000 vehicles and 80,000 staff who are authorized to operate vehicles, either full time or as needed.

I'm here to express support to TLC's proposal to strengthen enforcement of traffic violations that impact public safety including blocking access to fire hydrants, bike lanes, crosswalks, intersections, and double parking. These are not victimless violations. Blocking fire hydrants places public safety at direct risk as the Fire Commissioner publicly highlighted involving a fire emergency on Feb. 12 in the Bronx. Every time a pedestrian, a child, a senior citizen, or a bicyclist must move out of the protection of a bike lane or crosswalk because a car is improperly there, the safety of that pedestrian, that child, that senior citizen, that bicyclist is put at risk by the driver. Every time a driver double parks, traffic is slowed for countless other drivers who must also then change lanes, adding the risk of a collision.

As the manager of a large fleet, the largest in the City, we work daily to address these same concerns. The City fleet has placed live tracking on all vehicles to help monitor and respond to violations and increased enforcement of traffic violations which each fleet driver must pay personally. As we announced in a public report in October 2024, DCAS has also begun an initiative to place Intelligent Speed Assistance, speed control, on vehicles that have a history of traffic violations. DCAS is adding more vehicles into that initiative now.

Like TLC, DCAS also employs safe driver training. DCAS has increased safe driving training for all drivers and for those involved in multiple violations or crashes. In the last fiscal year, 11,552 fleet operators completed the DCAS safety training, which is an all-day course. This was an increase of 64% from the previous year. Over 129,648 fleet operators have now completed our course in total. And, following Mayor Adams Executive Order 39 of 2024, DCAS is now expanding this safety training to drivers for City contractors and school bus operators. This training reminds operators of the rules of the road and discusses best practices for staying safe. Most importantly, we candidly discuss real incidents and the consequences, often tragic, to innocent New Yorkers and, at times, the drivers themselves when drivers fail to follow the rules and fail to put safety first.

It's up to all of us to stay focused on traffic safety and public safety, and increasing the consequences and training tied to traffic violations is a good step forward.

Thank you.