
International Women's Month: Women in Fleet

By Destiny Fierro



This week, we are proud to spotlight the incredible women of DCAS and our sister agencies. While still under-represented in the fleet industry, women continue to break barriers and redefine what leadership and excellence looks like. According to the latest [Women in Trucking Index \(2024–2025\)](#), women make up just 9.5% of professional drivers, highlighting the ongoing gender gap in the industry. At the same time, women are making a strong impact in leadership, holding approximately 28% of executive roles, 34.5% of supervisory leadership roles, and 29.5% of board positions. Our fleet team reflects this progress and possibility—

made up of ambitious, intelligent, resilient, and innovative women who continue to move the industry forward every day.

Fiona Crisp is a Fleet Sustainability Coordinator at the Department of Administrative Services (DCAS). During college, she interned at the Manhattan Borough President's Office, where she was assigned a research project on electrifying cruise ships in New York City. This sparked her passion for electrification and for resisting climate change, which led her to the DCAS fleet. One of her proudest accomplishments is installing public electric vehicle (EV) chargers. Most people do not understand the work that goes into installing a public EV charger. Many of DCAS' public charging sites are in parks with no existing electrical service, which requires years-long coordination with Con Edison, the Parks Department (DPAR), and contractors. "It is a slow, complicated process, but it is so rewarding when chargers go live and members of the public start using them," said Fiona.



Our fleet team extends to other agencies as well. Jacqueline Hall-Palmer, Director of Transportation at the New York Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH). She started out as a motor vehicle operator and rose through the ranks. One defining moment early on in her career was when she successfully supervised and managed a department while a lead supervisor was out due to medical issues. Jacqueline took charge, handled tight deadlines and limited resources, and met high expectations. Those unexpected turns of events made her realize she could not only excel in any role, but that she truly belonged in the fleet industry. Since then, she hasn't looked back. "I quickly realized that this industry is not just about trucks and maintenance; it involves leadership, efficiency, and the impact you have on other people's lives."



Cynthia Lopez is the Deputy Chief of Operations at the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPAR). "I served in several roles within DPAR until I arrived at the Fleet & Signs Division. I had no idea what was in store, but I quickly learned that it was an industry and field more interesting than I had imagined. I really took to it and felt it was an opportunity to serve the city in a way I never envisioned," she said.



There are unique challenges that women face in the fleet industry. Fiona is often the only woman in vendor meetings, field visits with Con Edison, and on charger installation sites. "The challenges can be subtle, such as having my input overlooked, or direct, such as being questioned about my qualifications. My approach has been to thoroughly understand my work, as it is harder to dismiss someone who is prepared. I have also been lucky to have strong mentors who believed in me and opened doors along the way."

Cynthia faces similar challenges: "As a Latina, I've spent my adult life frequently being the 'only one' in the room, which has often triggered imposter syndrome. But my experiences have prepared me to face the challenges, and I have met them by doing research, asking questions, and working diligently to be ready for those

moments. I'm inquisitive and take the time to independently learn about what's going on in the industry."

Role models play a critical role in paving the way to the future. For Fiona and me, seeing Sherry Lee and Tamika Johnson in leadership positions has been inspiring, showing us what is possible for ourselves in this industry. Current women leaders are a vital factor in bringing more women into the fleet industry by doing their best to open doors and break glass ceilings for future generations. How can women support other women? Fiona said, "I try to be as welcoming and accessible as possible. I always make time for questions and conversations. I want anyone entering this field to know they have someone they can reach out to." Cynthia had this to add, "I make sure that my presence is visible and make myself available for support and guidance. I help other women amplify their voices, address microaggressions, and validate their expertise and experiences."

What advice do these women have for women entering the fleet industry? "Your perspective as a woman in this field is an asset," Fiona said. Jacqueline had this to add, "The journey hasn't always been easy, but it has been worth it. Being a woman of color in fleet means I carry both responsibilities and opportunities. I get to lead, inspire, and open doors for those coming behind me. If my story illustrates anything, it's this: there is space for us here, and we're not just participating—we're leading." Cynthia said, "I would say remember your roots. I come from a long line of very strong and determined women. Despite dealing with imposter syndrome and second-guessing my abilities, I need to hold onto the lessons of the women who came before me in establishing my own legacy."

As someone new to the fleet industry, I'm genuinely inspired by how much these women have achieved, and I carry their advice with me. Their experiences resonate far beyond this field—this industry can feel intimidating—but we should never let that deter us.

Our unique perspective, insight, and intellect don't just add value; they drive progress and open doors to greater success wherever we choose to lead.



This show highlights vendors who support the New York City's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives, and daily operations. Vendors will offer a wide array of products to improve vehicle safety. The show will also highlight vehicles and equipment with alternative fuels and emissions-reducing technologies, along with the latest in light and heavy-duty vehicles, trucks, horticultural equipment, tools, fleet services, and more!

Thursday,
May 21, 2026
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Accessibility Questions?
Contact DCAS Accessibility
at 212-386-0256, or email
accessibility@dcas.nyc.gov
by May 6, 2025



<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcas/agencies/nyc-fleet-upcoming-events.page>

37th Annual Equipment & Vehicle Show

Flushing Meadows Corona Park
(by the Unisphere), Queens, NY





[Rate Your Plate Nutrition Campaign | Starts March 9](#): March is National Nutrition Month with WorkWell NYC's Rate Your Plate Nutrition Campaign!

For 10 days, you'll get nutrition info, trivia, and tips for healthy eating.

Learn how to serve up a balanced meal like a pro! [Register here](#).

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 527, March 13, 2026](#): Fleet Spotlight: DSNY Snow Melter Operation at Orchard Beach, Bronx

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 526, March 6, 2026](#): Safe Fleet Operation, Every Minute and Every Mile

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