

Recognizing Our Summer Automotive Interns

By Keith T. Kerman and Brandon J. Clarke



Since 2017, employers across the country have recognized the final Thursday in July as [National Intern Day](#). For many of us, internships have been the starting point of our careers and introduced us to organizations that would go on to play major roles in our lives.

This is especially true for fleet. For decades, DCAS, NYC Public Schools (NYCPS), and sister fleet agencies have partnered together to offer paid

automotive internships for rising juniors and seniors enrolled in the city's Career and Technical Education (CTE) high schools. These students gain practical experience working alongside mechanics and their supervisors in our automotive garages, learning the job firsthand from these trained professionals.

On August 7, 2026, at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, DCAS, NYCPS, and the NYPD's Fleet Services Division co-hosted the annual summer recognition ceremony and barbecue cookout in acknowledgement of this season's student participants of the High School Automotive Internship Program.



The cohort included a total of thirty-three (33) CTE students enrolled in automotive technology or mechanical engineering programs at Thomas A. Edison High School and Aviation High School in Queens; A-Tech High School and William E. Grady High School in Brooklyn; Ralph R. McKee High School and Tottenville High School in Staten Island; Alfred E. Smith High School in the Bronx; and The School for Cooperative Technical Education in Manhattan.

The students worked at citywide maintenance shops operated by the NYPD, FDNY, DSNY, NYC Parks, and DOT, where they helped to service and repair city fleet vehicles and equipment. For many of them, this was their first job experience.



During the ceremony, each intern was formally presented with a certificate for their participation in this season's program, then posed afterward for a photo with DCAS Commissioner Yume Kitasei and DCAS Deputy Commissioner and City Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman. NYPD Deputy Commissioner Steven Harte and NYCPS Senior Executive Director for CTE & Postsecondary Partnerships Jeffrey Chetirko also addressed the crowd, and Michael Kenney of William E. Grady High School spoke on behalf of his fellow interns as the cohort's Student Speaker designate.

Additionally, a special DCAS proclamation was presented to James D'Ambrosio, who recently retired from the NYPD's Fleet Services Division. James made a special commitment over three decades to the High School Automotive Internship Program. You can read the text of his proclamation [here](#).

Thanks to everyone who has supported the internship program and this event, including Brandon Clarke, Sherry Lee, Tamika Johnson, and Gary Prasad at DCAS; Steven Harte, Kevin Kenny, and Antoinet Benjamin at NYPD; Jonathan Ells, Tim Ramos, Gabriel Gordon, and George Stoupakis at FDNY; Reginald Timothee, Frank DePalo, and Joan Byrnes-Daly at DSNY; Brian Aucoin and Peter Galvin at NYC Parks; Eric Dorcean and Sherell Harvey at NYC DOT; Maria Blackburn, Tony Shu, and Rasha Dalbah Kaplan at Grant Associates; and Harini Venkatesh, Dr. Adam Breier, Omari Gay, Jeffrey Chetirko, and Reina Utsunomiya at NYCPS' Office of Student Pathways.

Special thanks to the NYPD's Emergency Services Unit and FDNY EMS for helping to keep us all safe on a very hot and humid day.

VISION ZERO Building a Safer City



Thursday, October 22nd, 2026
Queens Theatre, Flushing Meadows Corona Park

DCAS and Together for Safer Roads invite you to the 2026 Vision Zero Fleet Safety Forum!

The event will bring together leading stakeholders from public and private fleets, innovative safety technology companies, policy experts, and road safety advocates for an exciting day of speeches, panel discussions, and breakout sessions.

Join us as we discuss how to systematically build safety into our roads, vehicles, and fleet operations.

The event is free and includes breakfast and a networking lunch. RSVPs are required.



Event Schedule:

Networking
breakfast begins:

7:30 a.m.

Program begins:

8:30 a.m.

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Register by August 25 | Let's Move NYC Challenge 2026

Join the four-week challenge where thousands of city employees walk, run, and roll towards their fitness goals. Compete as an agency team, an individual top mover, or a consistent mover.

There will be prizes for the top 3 teams and top movers, and recognition for consistency!

[Register Here!](#)

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 544, July 23, 2026:](#) Mayor Mamdani Signs Executive Order to Improve Fleet Safety

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 543, July 17, 2026:](#) DCAS Upgrades Citywide Fuel Management System

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