

Fleet Spotlight: Thanks and Best Wishes to Our Longtime Fleet Stalwarts

By: Keith T. Kerman

As we transition into the Adams administration and greet new commissioners and staff in every City agency and at City Hall, we want to recognize the extraordinary public servants in fleet and transportation who are retiring or leaving to pursue new career endeavors.

Greg Dimesa, the executive director of fleet at the Department of Correction (DOC) has retired after 35 years of City service. Greg worked for General Motors as a master technician from 1983 to 1987 before joining the NYC Transit Authority as a bus maintainer. After two years, he moved to the New York City Police Department (NYPD) where he served as a mechanic, supervisor of mechanical equipment, deputy director, and then director of fleet services, steadily advancing between 1989 and 2017. While with the NYPD, Greg helped implement our service consolidation with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT).

In 2017, Greg took the helm at DOC Fleet, helping turn around fleet operations and oversight on Rikers Island. Greg has been a leader in fleet servicing for policing and emergency servicing and made a strong commitment to fleet sustainability, leading the way in hybrid and EV vehicle implementation. Greg introduced fleet share, mobile charging, biodiesel, and solar carports to DOC fleet operations. Greg is an elite fleet manager and terrific public servant and he will be greatly missed.



The DOC Fleet Operations Unit was recognized by DCAS for using hybrid vehicles and helping build a sustainable city government. From left to right: David Saladellacuna, Carl Chiaramonte, Keith Kerman, Gregory Dimesa, Gary Prasad, Vartan Khachadurian, Jonathan Ells.

Closer to home, Gary Sideris has retired after 38 years with DCAS. For nearly four decades, Gary led quality control and inspections for our fuel program with DCAS's Bureau of Quality Assurance, Office of Citywide Procurement. Gary was instrumental to the introduction of biofuels into city government operations and helped respond to countless fuel and power emergencies.



DCAS colleagues wish Gary Sideris a happy retirement.

We are also losing some of our client fleet agency transportation coordinators. Joe LaMarcha currently serves as the director of general services for the NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA) and has been with city government for 39 years. Joe leads fleet at NYCHA and played a critical role in many initiatives including our consolidation of NYCHA fleet services with DCAS in 2018 and the rollout of live tracking for all NYCHA vehicles. Joe will be retiring in January 2022.

Lynn Astacio recently retired after 36 years with the NYC Human Resources Administration and Department of Homeless Services, 15 of those as the director of fleet administration. After 38 years, Ed Conlon, who was the agency transportation coordinator for FISA and OPA, has also retired.

We also want to mention staff who left earlier last year, including Andy Diamond, executive director of fleet operations at the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), who retired after 41 years of service. Andy was one of the City's main technical experts on fire equipment and oversaw the acquisition of fire engines, ladders and ambulances. Andy had one of the most important roles in fleet. Among so many contributions, Andy helped lead the rollout of hybrid alternative power units on the City's ambulances.



Andy Diamond at FDNY's Heavy Truck Repair Shop.

Jon Ells served as chief of staff for citywide operations at NYC Parks and director of sustainability and emergency management for DCAS Fleet. After 20 years of public service, Jon left DCAS recently to do consulting work in sustainability. Gabe Ramos served as deputy chief of fiscal management and fuel for NYC Parks at 5-Boro Operations. Gabe retired last year after 37 years with city government.

We also want to mention City staff who changed agencies, including Taurean Sweeney who left the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission after six years to pursue a career opportunity with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), Latia Riley who left DCAS Fleet for a supervisory role at the NYC Department of Sanitation, and Henry Cornejo who left DCAS Fleet for a role at NYC Emergency Management.

Last but not least, we thank Mersida Ibric, deputy commissioner of procurement at DCAS, who is moving on to the MTA. Procurement is critical to successful operations for DCAS Fleet and Mersida has led these efforts as we have rebid major contracts such as auction and car share and grown our electric and sustainability program. Mersida also played a lead role as DCAS scaled up an enormous and prolonged emergency procurement effort to respond to COVID-19.

We give our heartfelt thanks to our longtime fleet stalwarts, for their combined 300 years of technical ability, managerial experience, and dedicated public service. We thank you for your important contributions to the City we all love and work hard to make better each day.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

Fleet Vision International Quarter 4

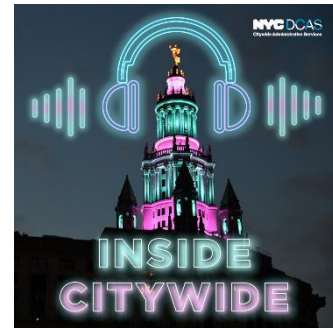


The Fleet Vision International magazine for the fourth quarter of 2021 is out now. This edition features an article written by DCAS Deputy Commissioner and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman on the work NYC Parks is doing to clean, repair, and safeguard NYC parks while reducing fleet emissions.

[Fleet Vision International Q4 2021](#)

DCAS's Inside Citywide Podcast

DCAS's [Inside Citywide podcast](#) provides a behind-the-scenes look at New York City government. Episode 2 takes a look at the future of the City of New York's vehicle fleet as it transitions to all-electric by 2040.



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, please be reminded to wear a mask when operating a fleet vehicle with others in the vehicle. Attached again are the [Department of Health's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines relating to vehicle operation](#).

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 377, January 11, 2022:](#) Fleet Spotlight: FDNY Pumper Inspection Team

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 376, January 6, 2022:](#) DCAS's Online Fleet Auctions Find a New Home With IAA

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 375, December 29, 2021:](#) NYC Fleet Year in Review, 2021

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 374, December 23, 2021](#): Mayor Announces Major Acceleration of Fleet Electrification

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 373, December 20, 2021](#): BIC and DCAS Partner With US DOT Volpe on Safe Fleet Plan

Check out the [complete archive](#).

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