

Spotlight: Gary Prasad, Fleet Field Services Unit

By: Keith Kerman

DCAS Fleet launches many initiatives in safety and sustainability. These programs are devised in our building, but they get implemented in the field, working with over 50 agencies and offices. This week's spotlight is on Principal Administrative Associate Gary Prasad, who plays a critical field role in improving the City fleet.

A Queens native, Gary graduated from City College of the City University of New York, with a major in economics and a minor in business administration. He earned a master's degree from the CUNY School of Professional Studies in 2017. Gary started with Hertz in 2012 as a fleet manager before joining DCAS in August 2014. Gary's mother is also a civil servant, working at the Department of Finance.

DCAS currently live tracks over 23,000 fleet units through the Fleet Office of Real-Time Tracking (FORT).



Gary Prasad during the filming of the DOT/DCAS 'I see you' truck safety video.

This is the largest public fleet telematics project in the United States, and installing and maintaining the tracking units was an enormous challenge. Gary has spent much of the last two years coordinating and installing tracking units that work with the FORT at 50 different City agencies and 40 separate school bus companies. Gary has personally installed over 1,000 units. He also follows up on disconnect and maintenance issues for the system.

In 2014, DCAS launched a truck side-guards safety initiative. This effort is now subject to two different local laws and the largest truck side-guard program in North America, with 4,300 side-guard installations completed so far. In addition to Gary's work with the FORT, Gary also works with agencies and vendors that DCAS and Volpe have qualified to install side-guards.

He coordinates the retrofits, works with our mechanic inspectors to ensure quality installations, and does the citywide side-guard tracking. Gary will soon play a new and equally critical role as we expand this initiative from City fleet trucks to trucks working under private City contractors.

Gary also coordinated our fleet share program. In 2021, our previous fleet share vendor announced they were discontinuing the service due to business changes. DCAS was given one year to find, vet, and contract a new service in this unique area. After the DCAS Systems team found a new vendor for this service, Gary led a time-sensitive installation and training process for nearly 500 units shared across and within agencies.



Gary Prasad installing a tracking unit.

DCAS Fleet has recently created a field services unit to focus on these critical field projects. Implementing Mayor Adam's fleet reduction initiative and resolving pending salvage issues will be a focus of the unit in the next six months for Gary and the field services team.

Gary has received multiple honors and awards during his time at DCAS. In 2017, he represented DCAS at an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) roundtable discussion on side-guards, and in 2019, he was invited to the Mayor's State of the City address due to his exemplary customer service and his work on sustainability. In January, Gary also received a COVID-19 Hero award for his work in the field and in the office throughout the pandemic. Gary follows a simple and powerful idea, "dedication makes dreams come true."

You can see Gary in [DCAS Fleet's video introducing the Fleet Office of Realtime Tracking](#) and in the [I See You truck safety video](#) produced by NYC's Department of Transportation.

In his free time, Gary enjoys gardening, movies, and working on his 1999 Mazda Miata and 2000 Honda Prelude.

Gary is a leader of the future for the City fleet and we thank him for all his great, hands-on effort.

Upcoming Civil Service Exams and Automotive Careers Event

On June 17, DCAS's Office of Citywide Recruitment is hosting an automotive careers spotlight event, highlighting various NYC civil service exams related to auto mechanics, auto machinists, and automobile electricians. [To attend this virtual event, please register.](#)

The application period for the [auto mechanic civil service title](#) is now June 8, 2022 to June 28, 2022.

For more information on upcoming civil service exams, view the [annual civil service exam schedule](#).

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: The Show

[Fleet Vision International: The Show](#) was held on April 12 and 13 in London. DCAS Deputy Commissioner and Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman and NYPD Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez discussed the electrification of the City's fleet and how NYC is a worldwide leader in sustainability. Presentations from the show will be posted to the [DCAS Fleet webpage](#).



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, when interacting with others in close quarters such as within a vehicle, it is strongly recommended to wear a mask.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 393, June 10, 2022:](#) The Falcons Watching Over the Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 392, June 3, 2022:](#) Government Fleet Magazine Recognizes NYC as #1 Large Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 391, May 26, 2022:](#) 33rd Annual NYC Fleet Show Highlights Electric Vehicles in Law Enforcement

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 390, May 20, 2022:](#) Together for Safer Roads and DCAS Hosts 2022 Vision Zero Fleet Safety Forum

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 389, May 11, 2022:](#) Fleet Spotlight: NYC Fleet Chief of Staff Sherry Lee

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