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RULES OF THE ROAD FOR CITY FLEET OPERATORS

KEITH T. KERMAN

As we begin a new year, let's all make a resolution to strongly reinforce the rules of the road and the requirements for proper use of City vehicles.

In the last few weeks, the NYC Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) has issued a number of public decisions involving misuse of City vehicles. The decisions are published on COIB's website and outline behavior that is clearly unacceptable involving public vehicles. City vehicles can not be used for family purposes, as part of individual social outings, for private business, or in violation of City traffic law and safety rules. The vast majority of City drivers do the right thing behind the wheel and these types of stories diminish all of our efforts.

The Fleet Management Manual and the City Driver Handbook outline the proper use of City vehicles. These are distributed as part of every required citywide safe driving class and posted publicly online. A simplified one page rules sheet is also distributed and copied again with this week's newsletter.

At the most basic, City vehicles may not be used for personal reasons. They are government assets, period. Even those authorized in writing to commute may only use the vehicle for the commute and not for other personal or family uses. City employees are also subject to all the same rules for safe and proper driving applicable to the public, and should be expected to set examples of proper behavior and safe driving.

These COIB decisions are a reminder to all of us of the importance of stressing, enforcing, and monitoring these requirements. Please start the year with a push on proper use and let's keep everyone safe and represent City government in the best way possible. Thank you.

SPOTLIGHT: NYC CONFLICTS TRAINER ROB CASIMIR

MAHANTH S. JOISHY

The Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) gets involved when there are serious allegations of misuse of City vehicles. COIB also performs other critical integrity functions impacting City operations. COIB is mandated to train all City staff every two years on the City's ethics and anti-corruption guidelines and to respond to inquiries in a confidential manner. Senior Trainer Rob Casimir is highly involved in these efforts. He has taught over 1,000 sessions at a number of locations since joining COIB in 2012, including a training attended by NYC Fleet staff on October 5th, 2016 at DCAS.

Rob also helps share important information through COIB social media accounts such as Twitter, the monthly newsletter, public service announcements, and answering employee inquiries. He takes his training role seriously and works to keep attendees engaged and participating. Rob is part of a team of 6 trainers responsible for keeping over 250,000 citywide staff up to date and informed about conflicts of interest.

Rob was born and raised in Florida and attended Florida State for college. He came to New School University to pursue a Master's in creative writing and was hired by COIB after graduating. "This job gives me instant gratification," Rob said about his training role. And how are we doing as City employees in his point of view? "I'd like to point out, pretty much everyone, I'd say 99.99%, are being ethical." Thank you Rob and the COIB team for helping keep us that way.

