

**Bill de Blasio, Mayor**  
**Lisette Camilo, DCAS Commissioner**  
**Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer**

NOVEMBER 17, 2017

ISSUE 203

## RECOGNIZING NYC SAFE DRIVING TRAINERS

KEITH T. KERMAN

At the 4th Annual Vision Zero Fleets Forum on November 14, DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo, Chair of the Business Integrity Commission Dan Brownell, and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman recognized 54 safe driving trainers from five agencies: DCAS, DEP, Parks, DSNY, and NYPD.

As part of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero, fleet's first initiative was to bring all civilian operators, about 30,000 staff, in for a day of focused training and discussion of driver safety and the goals of Vision Zero.



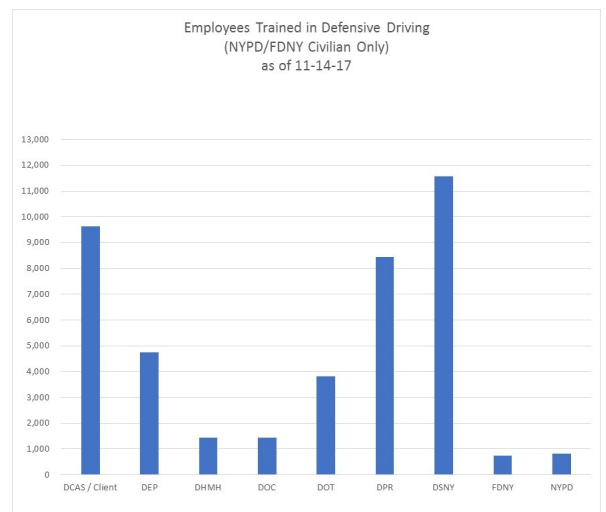
The City is pursuing many approaches to safe guard the fleet including better vehicle design, side-guards, automatic braking, telematics, and more. The care, concern and focus of our fleet operators ultimately is still the most important aspect in improving safety and the City has relied on an incredibly dedicated inter-agency team of driver trainers to send that message and promote best safety practices. The training also involves frank discussion of specific fleet crashes that have taken place and how to prevent them.

"We develop bad habits that can lead us to pay less attention to what is going on around us," states DSNY trainer Patrick Williams. "Because of this, in my opinion, Defensive Driving courses, Driver Training and programs like The Vision Zero Initiative have become a necessity."

"Teaching is personal for me," explains DCAS trainer Lenin Fierro. "In 2012 my mother was hit by a vehicle making a left turn and to this day she feel the effects of her injuries. I try to put all class attendees in the shoes of those impacted and show them how lives can change in 3 seconds."

And from NYPD trainer Michael Gorgia, "I'm a seat belt junkie. I stress the importance of seat belt use so much that when I meet students that have been in my class their first response is 'I promise I'm wearing my seat belt!'"

The trainers have also implemented our citywide customer survey initiative, discussed in a recent newsletter, which has involved over 20,000 participants so far. Starting 2017, we have begun a second day of training for our fleet operators focusing on our new rule barring hands-free phone use while driving and discussing our Safe Fleet Transition Plan. We are also continuing to train operators who missed the first day.



In total, the City has trained over 42,000 in safe driving, with classes continuing daily. The largest programs have been at DSNY, DCAS and Parks, but all fleet agencies are participating. NYPD and FDNY provide a separate safety course for emergency responders.

Our Vision Zero Forum was well attended and featured a powerful line-up of speakers from across City agencies, technology manufacturers, private fleets, academia, and the advocacy world. We will have more to say on the forum in future newsletters. For this newsletter, however, we want to thank and recognize the driver trainers whose commitment and energy are helping to make a real difference in safety for all New Yorkers.