

Fleet Celebrates Dedicated & Accomplished Public Servants

By: Keith T. Kerman

Saying goodbye is never easy. As we close out fiscal year 2024 and head to the July 4th holiday, Fleet is preparing for the departure – through retirement, new opportunities, and in some cases, both – of some of the City’s most prominent and long-time contributors and leaders. This distinguished group represents hundreds of years of municipal dedication, skill, and expertise, and we’d like to take some time this week to say farewell.

Dawn Pinnock, Commissioner, DCAS



As has been publicly announced, DCAS Commissioner Dawn Pinnock will leave City service this week after 27 years to lead a NYC-based non-profit.

Commissioner Pinnock served as Deputy Commissioner for Human Capital since 2014, became acting DCAS Commissioner in October 2021, and was named Commissioner of DCAS by Mayor Adams in January 2022. More on Dawn's background is here at the DCAS [website](#).

During Dawn's tenure as Commissioner, Fleet has taken major steps towards sustainability and safety. Fleet ended 2021 with 3,135 electric vehicles and 1,060 chargers. Just 30 months later, Fleet is now comprised of over 5,100 electric vehicles – with more arriving every day—and nearly double the electric charging network, cutting the ribbon on our 2,000th charger in [May](#). DCAS also launched our intelligent speed assistance (ISA) initiative in 2022 and is now implementing new Executive Order 39 of 2024 to increase safety for city fleet and contractors.

Beyond overseeing many of these Fleet innovations, Commissioner Pinnock, of course, managed the Human Capital and Civil Service programs for ten years. She helped NYC navigate the extraordinary challenges of COVID-19 and played a lead role in introducing remote work to the NYC government. Dawn also introduced the city to Hiring Halls, which have helped many divisions onboard new staff quickly, including many for [the fleet](#).

Thanks to Commissioner Pinnock for her decades of service to the NYC government, especially the support she provided DCAS during her tenure.

Eric Richardson, Deputy Chief Fleet Management Officer, DCAS



Eric joined public service at DCAS nearly 23 years ago, in October 2001, directly following the September 11 attack on our city and nation. Eric holds an MBA from Fordham and joined DCAS as an IT professional. Eric's rise to Deputy Chief Fleet Officer shows the extraordinary importance that data and fleet systems play in modern fleet management.

Eric played a key role in upgrading the Fleet Management System in 2012 and 2013 to support shared services and fleet consolidation. He was part of the team that worked day and night to restore fuel availability to the City after Superstorm Sandy. He helped develop our Fleet Office of Real-Time Tracking (FORT), one of the nation's largest public efforts to live track and monitor vehicles.

In the last few years, Eric has distinguished himself locally and nationally in fleet safety leadership as DCAS has pushed the envelope for safety through our Safe Fleet Transition Plan (SFTP) as part of Vision Zero. He played major roles in intelligent speed assistance, safe driver training, and truck side guards. Eric earned a national [Fleet Safety Award](#) in 2023. Our loss is the broader fleet

community's gain, as Eric will transition this July to roles in the non-profit sector focusing on fleet safety.

Spiro Kattan, DSNY



In December 2023, we [spotlighted](#) Spiro Kattan's extraordinary leadership over four decades in fleet at NYC Parks and DSNY. In the last year alone, Spiro has played a critical role as DCAS completed the switch-out of fossil diesel fuel to renewable diesel fuel. DSNY uses nearly half of the fleet's diesel fuel, and Spiro's leadership and technical know-how were essential to this successful rollout. Spiro also led DSNY efforts to electrify the fleet and partnered with DCAS to add electric charging at DSNY garages.

In May 2024, DCAS [announced](#) the city would meet 50% greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) by 2025. Spiro was a major contributor to those efforts over his entire four decades. Spiro will retire as a Sloan Public Service [winner](#) and extraordinary public servant in August 2024.

Mark Simon, NYC DOT



Mark Simon is wrapping up a 45-year career with New York City. He has worked at both DEP and DOT on air quality and environmental issues. At DEP, he helped develop a chassis dynamometer initiative for testing truck emissions. This unit would later move to DSNY under Spiro Kattan's oversight. Mark also led early work into natural gas vehicles and helped develop NYC's first alternative fuel plan.

For 26 years, Mark has been at DOT. He joined Susan McSherry in moving to DOT from DEP, and together, they have served as the Alternative Fuels Unit at DOT. They've led the CMAQ Federal grant program to support alternative fuel purchases for fleets from all agencies and developed the Hunt's Point Clean truck program. [CMAQ](#) has provided tens of millions of dollars to support cleaner fleet vehicles.

Mark is departing as Director of Electric Vehicle Policy at NYC DOT. He has been developing fast-charging sites for the public to use at DOT public parking lots and working on policies that affect the growth of infrastructure, such as utility rate structures. Before the importance of cleaner vehicles was well established, Mark was at the forefront, working to reduce emissions and address climate change.

He plans to continue working in the environmental world after he retires from city service.

Lou Morbelli, FDNY



FDNY Fleet Director Louis Morbelli retired on May 30 after 37 years of exemplary service. Lou graduated from Lincoln Technical Institute and worked for the Health and Hospital Corporation in 1986 as an auto service worker. He was quickly promoted to auto mechanic servicing NYC EMS Ambulances. In 1996, he transitioned to FDNY Fleet Services with the merger of FDNY and NYC EMS.

Lou worked his way up to the rank of Fleet Director and was responsible for the 35th Street Repair Shop and Randall's Island facilities, overseeing FDNY's heavy-duty apparatus fleet, including pumper trucks and ladders. Lou supervised approximately 150 technical employees with various titles, working tirelessly to complete the job. Lou's responsibilities include specification, procurement, and testing of new fire trucks, routine and unexpected repairs, emergency service, and road calls for existing equipment.

Across 37 years, Lou played pivotal roles in designing fire service equipment, developing fleet service staff and mechanics, and improving management

systems. FDNY's equipment is relied on to save lives every single day. Lou helped lead the dedicated team, ensuring the equipment was ready 24/7. He developed unique technical skills for the most important fire department in the world. One of those skills was culinary, as Lou was a Master Chef whose meals made an impression on all who were so lucky.

Donnie Allen, NYC Parks



For 25 years, Donnie Allen has staffed the Zoo Garage in Central Park. Donnie coordinated vehicle assignments and maintenance for Parks central headquarters, which is called the Arsenal. Donnie was a faithful public servant and professional, always meeting everyone with a smile, a warm welcome, and a commitment to addressing their vehicle needs.

Donnie was incredibly helpful as DCAS and Parks installed the city's most extensive electric vehicle charging system at the Zoo Garage and along Central Park's East Drive. Parks is the lead City agency for all electric vehicle implementation, and Donnie helped make that transition one vehicle and driver at a time. Donnie retired in May 2024.

In addition to the spotlights in this newsletter, we want to mention some additional

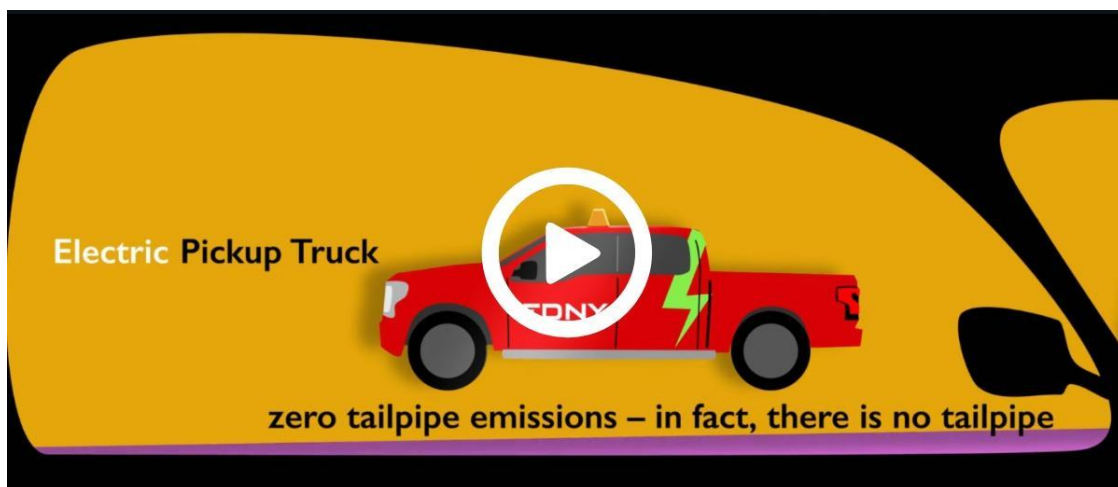
and terrific public servants who worked in and around fleet who retired from City service earlier in the year including:

- **Ramona Ledesma Garrido**, Senior Project Manager at DCAS Fleet who did lead work in renewable fuels development;
- **Scott Olexa**, Inspector, NYPD Fleet Services Division who, among so many roles, played a key role in our introduction of electric cars for law enforcement;
- **Hassan Eldaly**, Deputy Director, NYPD Fleet Services Division, whose work was essential to the development of the citywide fleet management system called NYC Fleet Focus;
- **Phil Molina**, Director of Fleet and Logistics at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).
- **Patrick Murphy**, Deputy Director of FDNY Fleet, who had served for 36 years.

Public service is too often taken for granted, especially for challenging and technical, "behind the scenes" areas like fleet. This group of extraordinary individuals brought their talents, know-how, and care to servicing the public and keeping our fleet reliable, sustainable, and safe.

All will be missed. We recognize and thank everyone for their unique and lasting contributions to the City of New York and look forward to their next chapters.

Watch '*Batteries Included*' Below





Hear from Eric

The Adams administration is dedicated to cutting through the noise and delivering information directly to you and all New Yorkers.

Sign up to "Hear From Eric" and get direct messages from City Hall, tailored to your interests and neighborhood, sent directly to your inbox - at nyc.gov/hearfromeric!

Week in Review | June 15 - June 21



Welcome to summer! It feels like we wait all year for these beautiful months, and we've done a lot to make it a safe and fun time for New Yorkers. We started the season from the get go with our first heat wave. You can never be too prepared and that's why so many of our agencies got to work [keeping New Yorkers](#)

[cool](#) — and that was only the beginning of what we did last week.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 461, June 14, 2024:](#) Thinking Safety, Every Minute, Every Mile

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 460, June 7, 2024:](#) In Partnership with DCAS, GrowNYC Fleet Goes All Electric

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 459, May 31, 2024:](#) City, State, NASCAR Promote Seatbelt Safety and Salute Spring Automotive High School Interns

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 458, May 17, 2024:](#) DCAS Releases Clean Fleet Report Update; NYC Fleet Will Achieve Fifty Percent Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction by 2025 (50x25)

Check out the [complete archive](#).

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