

**Bill de Blasio, Mayor**  
**Stacey Cumberbatch, DCAS Commissioner**  
**Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer**

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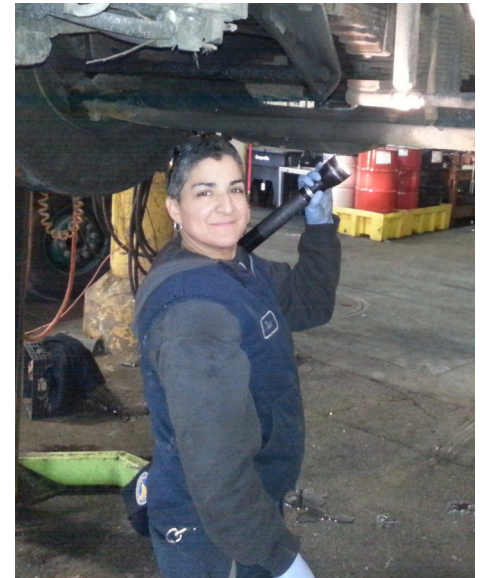
## FLEET SPOTLIGHT: EMILISA ROBLES, VANESSA FEELEY

ARMENOUSH ASLANIAN-PERSICO

In recognition of Women’s History Month, we are proud to spotlight two women who are pioneers in fleet repair. Emilisa Robles and Vanessa Feeley are the only female fleet technicians currently working for the City. There are 832 active auto mechanics and 107 auto service workers citywide.

Emilisa is an Auto Mechanic in DSNY's District 3 garage in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. She works on all 71 vehicles assigned to the garage, including collection trucks, dual bin trucks, mechanical brooms, cars and front end loaders. Her work includes repairing brakes, alternators, starters, and a wide range of preventative maintenance. “With Sanitation you have to work on everything. We help keep the roads clear. We help the emergency services. It’s helping people. We have to come to work no matter what,” explains Emilisa.

During the winter, Emilisa is also deployed to manage and repair snow melters. Before joining District 3, she worked at the Queensboro Repair Shop, performing major repairs on trucks such as transmission, engine, and body work. Emilisa joined Sanitation in March 2006 and passed the Auto Mechanic exam in August 2008. She also worked as a mechanic in California and Colorado prior to joining DSNY as the first female auto tech to work for New York City. Emilisa admits to having wanted to work on garbage trucks since she was a little girl.



**SHE EARNED THE RESPECT**

City mechanic to be honored

BY LISA L. COLANINNO

Emilisa Robles, 46, is the first female auto mechanic working for a city agency. She works at a Sanitation Department garage in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

Robles, who wanted to work on trucks since she was a little girl, joined Sanitation in March 2006 and passed the Auto Mechanic exam in August 2008. She also worked as a mechanic in California and Colorado prior to joining DSNY as the first female auto tech to work for New York City.

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Emilisa is no longer alone as a female technician. Vanessa Feeley is an Auto Service Worker at FDNY's Review Avenue repair shop. She takes care of the 75 ambulances assigned to the shop, under the supervision of a mechanic. Her repair work includes brake jobs, batteries, tires, air conditioning, and diagnostic checks. Vanessa has a prior background in the trade. She graduated from a vocational technical high school and Universal Technical Institute. She then applied her knowledge in the private sector including at a Ford dealership. Vanessa joined FDNY in September 2013 as part of our new class of auto service workers citywide. “I’ve learned so much here. Everything from towing, to swinging a motor, to air ride suspension,” says Vanessa. “Everyone is very helpful. Every shop I have been in has been great.”

Vanessa intends to stay on and take the Auto Mechanic test, just as Emilisa did. “I plan on being here until I’m ready to retire,” said Vanessa.

Automotive repair is a skilled, critical, and respected trade. Emilisa and Vanessa are leading the way and helping to show that this is a career option to all. Did they have any advice for others who may be interested in pursuing a career in the automotive trades? “Don’t be afraid to apply,” said Emilisa. “You have to go and get it. You have to love it and you have to be dedicated.”

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