



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

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## 2015 SAFEST YEAR EVER ON NYC STREETS

KEITH T. KERMAN

On January 19, 2016 Mayor de Blasio announced that calendar year 2015 was the safest ever on New York City streets. Total traffic fatalities were down 22% from 2013, the year before Vision Zero began, and at their lowest level ever.

Among many who joined in this announcement with the Mayor were NYPD Chief of Transportation Thomas Chan, DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg, DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo, and TLC Commissioner Meera Joshi (in order as shown here).

At the event, the Mayor also announced \$115 million in new capital investment for plans to calm traffic, as well as expanded efforts to crack down on dangerous driving, make hazardous left-turns safer and expand enforcement. Fleet also received additional funds in the budget to continue the retrofitting of City trucks with safety side-guards.

The City's fleet played a role in the announcement, avoiding any fatalities in non-emergency response events in calendar year 2015. Working with all City agencies, Fleet continues to implement a series of initiatives to improve safety including defensive driving training for all City operators, roll-out of speed tracking for City vehicles, side-guards, and citywide collisions tracking through CRASH. Thanks to everyone in fleet and keep it going.

Photo credit: NYC DOT



## DR. LINDA HILL PRESENTS ON DISTRACTED DRIVING AT DCAS

MAHANTH S. JOISHY

On January 20th, 2016 NYC Fleet hosted an engaging training session led by Dr. Linda Hill from University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Dr. Hill is a professor, medical doctor and researcher focused on cognitive function and is a nationally recognized expert on distracted driving. She has partnered with several New York City agencies on traffic safety projects including DCAS, NYPD, and DOHMH as part of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero.

Dr. Hill reviewed her research on distraction with 20 fleet safety trainers from DCAS, DSNY, Parks and DEP. Dr. Hill had developed her research in partnership with the California Highway Patrol; Training, Research & Education for Driving Safety (TREDS); and the California State Office of Traffic Safety. UCSD is sharing their curriculum with NYC at no cost as part of their mission to increase awareness of the very dangerous consequences of distracted driving. The curriculum includes videos and slides about distracted driving, especially in relation to cell phones.

The core findings of this research are: 1) Using cell phones while driving is the distracted equivalent of driving while intoxicated with a .08 blood alcohol content level (BAC); (2) Hands-free driving is not safer than driving with a hand-held phone; and (3) Distracted driving is an epidemic, playing a factor in over 25% of all collisions.

DCAS will post some of the research that Dr. Hill shared and we thank her and her team for participating in our shared efforts to improve traffic and fleet safety.

