

Fleet Spotlight: Smitty Darden, Motor Vehicle Supervisor, DHS

By: Lenin Fierro

Many New York City employees use vehicles to perform their duties. For motor vehicle operators (MVOs) and their supervisors, vehicle operation is their full-time responsibility. This week we spotlight a long-time motor vehicle supervisor, Smitty Darden, Transportation Division, Department of Homeless Services (DHS).

Smitty has been a dedicated City employee since 1979. Smitty is a native of Jacksonville, NC and relocated to New York City in the early 70s. He began his career working as a community assistant with FDNY. He served as part of teams that would help salvage property and work to safeguard homes that had been damaged by fires.

In 1985, Smitty got a chance to join DHS as a motor vehicle operator. As part of the transportation unit, he has served as a driver, dispatcher, and now supervisor. His role remains hands-on, just as it was at FDNY. Smitty and his staff help families and individuals served by DHS to move and transition, either to alternative shelters or to safe private living.

Smitty and his team take a supportive interest in their clients and do their best to help them gain control over their lives. "The job is simple," says Mr. Darden, "but the rewarding part is when you help others."

He's been there for NYC in times of tragedy as well. After 9/11 he helped staff to relocate from Manhattan to Brooklyn when their offices were forced to close. When Hurricane Sandy hit in 2012, Smitty was assigned to the lower Manhattan area and Bellevue Hospital, working 16-hour days and being on-call 24 hours a day for several weeks. His assignment was to quickly relocate staff, patients, and area shelters from impacted areas. Smitty and many other dedicated employees at DHS received letters of recognition for their efforts.

How does Smitty relax? He has a green thumb and has been gardening since he arrived in the city. Mr. Darden helped start and maintain community gardens in several parts of the city. He's currently working at the College Avenue Community Garden in the Bronx, helping grow tomatoes, lettuce, onions, and many other healthy vegetables. Smitty is a resident of the Bronx, where he spends time with his family and his two cats Milk and Fiona.

Fleet would like to thank Smitty for his 40 years of service to NYC.



Reminder: Join us at the 31st Annual City Fleet Show on Thursday, May 16 at Flushing Meadows Corona Park



NYC Parks

31ST ANNUAL EQUIPMENT & VEHICLE SHOW

Thursday, May 16, 2019, 9am to 2pm

Rain Date: Friday, May 17

Flushing Meadows Corona Park,
Queens, by the Unisphere

NYC Fleet

NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services

This show highlights vendors who support NYC's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives, as well as daily operations. We will have vendors offering a wide array of products to improve vehicle safety including cameras, truck side guards, systems to track and manage fleets, and systems to avoid or mitigate collisions. The show also highlights vehicles and equipment with alternative fuels and emissions reducing technologies, along with the latest in light and heavy-duty vehicles, trucks, horticultural equipment, tools, fleet services, and more.

Free to all exhibitors and attendees.

- RSVP Exhibitors at: <https://goo.gl/forms/XBQBFhYHZYvqxJJb2>
- RSVP Attendees and Exhibit Staff at: <https://goo.gl/forms/YqVB9EZQ6uy3d8qu1>
- RSVP Vehicles at: <https://goo.gl/forms/bfzpoDUliPwhaXxE3>

For any questions, please call (212) 386-0377 or email dkrantz@dcas.nyc.gov



Accessibility Questions?

Contact DCAS Accessibility at 212-386-0256, or accessibility@dcas.nyc.gov by May 9, 2019.

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