

Cleaning Emergency Vehicles Exposed To COVID-19

By: Keith Kerman and Harris Kaplan

Last summer, Edward Funches and *Inclusion Mobile Detailing* began a small vehicle cleaning contract with DOT Fleet. Mayor's Office of Disabilities Commissioner Victor Calise reached out to DCAS to see how things were going. *Inclusion* is a minority-owned business (M/WBE) and Edward is an entrepreneur who uses a wheelchair. On October 3, 2019, Edward presented on his services to our inter-agency Fleet Federation meeting as part of our fleet vendor presentation series.

This introduction has now proved critical as NYC addresses the many challenging aspects of the COVID-19 emergency. *Inclusion* is one of three companies currently performing critical disinfecting and cleaning services on NYC fleet units that have been in emergency response and directly exposed to known COVID-19 patients. DCAS has distributed DOHMH guidance for the wiping down of general use vehicles. We are taking additional steps when ambulances and other at-risk vehicles have been exposed to COVID-19 patients. FDNY, NYCHA, and DCAS are among the agencies using these services. NYC Fleet Management has spent over \$100,000 on this cleaning in just the last month, using our NY State fleet services contract.



Inclusion is located in Harlem and works to employ disabled staff and provide needed work opportunities. Its staff wear protective suits, masks, and gloves to conduct professional disinfecting.



Vincent Orlando is the owner of *Silent Rise Mobile Detailing*. *Silent Rise* offers precautionary disinfection spraying services for COVID-19. *Silent Rise* uses EPA registered disinfectants with high powered commercial grade electric atomized fogging sprayers. While disinfecting, *Silent* staff are in full PPE which includes Tyvek suits, respirators, goggles, and gloves. All staff hold OSHA certifications. *Silent Rise* has been working with FDNY Fleet services to clean their vehicles at the Review Avenue Repair Shop.

Transportation Safety Planning & Solutions Group (TSPSG) is the third vendor performing these services currently for the fleet. The owner is Tim Grant, a retired captain from FDNY where he was an officer for over 15 years in their Special Operations Command. Tim was a trained level II hazmat technician and rescue specialist. TSPSG has been involved with the specialized cleaning and disinfecting of FDNY fire trucks.

Each of these companies has mobilized almost instantly to support NYC in this critical health and safety need. We want to thank them for their partnership as we all work to protect New Yorkers as well as our public employees and emergency responders from this terrible disease.

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 298, April 3, 2020](#): Lenin Fierro, 1977 to 2020

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