



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

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DCAS HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL VISION ZERO FLEETS FORUM

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On November 5, 2015 DCAS hosted the second annual Vision Zero Fleets Forum at the Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Over 400 people participated representing private fleets, equipment suppliers, federal, state, and city agencies, non-profits, and universities. Additionally this year, over 60 organizations formally endorsed Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero goals of eliminating traffic fatalities and injuries in New York City as part of the event. Through the fleet forum, New York City has conducted outreach within and outside of government to exchange best practices, promote vehicle safety technology, and to educate fleet managers about Vision Zero.



DCAS Commissioner Stacey Cumberbatch welcomed the audience. She also led the distribution of the first-ever citywide Good Operator, GO, Awards to 65 outstanding daily City drivers from 13 fleet agencies. A superb lineup of speakers and panelists from around the country discussed vehicle safety from a wide variety of perspectives while using multimedia presentations. NYPD Chief of Transportation Thomas Chan presented on the citywide Vision Zero plan and showed an introductory video on traffic safety. DCAS Deputy Commissioner Keith Kerman also presented on the City Fleet initiatives underway including truck side guards, CANceivers, collision avoidance systems, defensive driving classes, and driver surveys.



Neal Kalish, President of Ambu-Trans, discussed improvements the ambulance industry achieved in vehicle safety through training, telematics, and leveraging new technology. John McDonagh, a 35 year collision-free NYC taxi driver, started a lively discussion about the challenges that drivers in his industry face. Action Carting Director of Safety Ken Levine discussed his years of experience with safety and training in the waste management industry, including his company's first side guard installations on collection trucks. This panel was moderated by DSNY Safety Chief Stephen Harbin. Meanwhile, Paul Steely White of Transportation Alternatives asked that everyone in the audience pledge to use the term "crash", not accident, to describe vehicle collisions and to help hold drivers accountable.

This year's keynote address was delivered by Michael Geraci, Regional Administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He presented research and statistics on distracted driving from hand-held and hands-free cellular devices and their devastating effects on collision rates nationally, and the federal government's efforts in this area.

Finally, a high-tech panel led by Dr. Alexander Epstein of the US DOT Volpe Center, Michael Backman of Mobileye, Ben Englander of Rosco Vision Systems, Dr. Jon Coleman of Ford, Jonathan Matus of Zendrive, and Michael Rosen of Thermopylae Sciences participated in an engaging discussion on the future of vehicle safety— which will soon include more autonomous vehicle functions, better alert systems for drivers, and a plethora of data from telematics and mapping that should help fleet managers and urban planners.

We would like to thank the Queens Theatre for once again hosting the event. In the next week, we will be posting presentations and other multimedia from the forum on the NYC Fleet website. We look forward to continued partnerships and dialogue to help make Vision Zero's goals a reality.