Citywide Administrative Services | Fleet

NYC FLEET NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 22, 2015

ISSUE 77

FLEET BOASTS TWO 100 YEAR ASSOCIATION WINNERS

KEITH T. KERMAN

On Friday, January 16 the 100 Year Association of New York honored Gregoire Blain, Fleet Collisions Coordinator at DCAS, and Richard Chase, Auto Mechanic at NYPD with 2014 Isaac Liberman Public Service Awards. Gregoire and Richard were joined by 6 other outstanding NYC employees and 12 high-achieving children of NYC employees at the ceremony at 1 Police Plaza's main auditorium.

Gregoire has been with DCAS for 14 years and leads the collision unit. As part of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero, Greg led a major expansion in defensive driving training with over 12,000 City staff trained in 2014. Richard is an Auto Mechanic who has been with NYPD Fleet Services since 1984. He works on all types of vehicles at the truck shop and on road call. During Hurricane Sandy, Richard worked on storm recovery operations even while his own home was badly damaged by flooding.

We join NYPD Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez and Fleet Services Director Greg Dimesa in saluting the two fleet winners. We also thank DCAS Human Capital and the 100 Year Association for hosting an outstanding event that has run annually since 1958. The 100 Year Association is made up of over 200 businesses and associations that have operated continuously for over 100 years.

A VISIT TO MTA'S SAFETY & TRAINING UNIT

MAHANTH S. JOISHY

On January 12, 2015, a delegation from DCAS Fleet, OMB's Transit unit, and TLC visited the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) bus facility at Zerega Avenue in the Bronx to exchange best practices on vehicle safety and training. The MTA operates 5,700 busses driven by 11,500 drivers within the five boroughs of New York City and the Zerega Avenue facility is the main base for the MTA Safety & Training unit.

A key feature of the meeting was a demonstration of the MTA's bus training simulator which allows MTA driver trainees to learn important bus driving skills in various challenging and realistic scenarios. The simulator tests drivers ability to respond to bicyclists, pedestrians, intersections, and other quick changing events. The seats, mirrors, doors, and windshield of an actual MTA bus are replicated with exact measurements.

Trainees usually get some time in at the simulator in combination with on the road training. The City representatives got a real insight in what bus driving is like and the many challenges that bus operators face daily.

Other MTA programs, including a zero tolerance policy for cellular phone usage by drivers, were discussed. The meeting was hosted by Walter Orlowski and Richard Cerezo (pictured) of the Safety & Training unit. Walter also served as a panelist for the Vision Zero Fleets Safety Forum hosted by DCAS and DOT at the Queens Theatre on October 23, 2014. Thanks to MTA for this tour and we look forward to working together more on Vision Zero.