



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

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## THE DANGERS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

*KEITH T. KERMAN*

Driving in the City is difficult and requires undivided attention by the driver. At any time, dynamics involving pedestrians, bicyclists, other cars, weather or other conditions can change and require immediate response by the driver. Driving while distracted in any way puts the driver and others at risk.

Current City fleet rules instruct operators to avoid anything that will interfere with the safe operation of a vehicle including texting, smoking, or using a cell phone while holding it in your hand.

Here are some facts on distracted driving:

- Studies have deemed driving while using a cell phone to be as dangerous as driving while intoxicated with a .08 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC).
- Text messaging while driving takes a driver's eyes, mind, and hands away from their proper focus on the road.
- Distracted driving kills over 3,000 people in motor collisions and injures over 400,000 annually nationwide.
- A quarter (25%) of teenagers respond to a text message at least once each time they drive.

All of us, as drivers and passengers, can help prevent distracted driving whenever we are on the road. Passengers should avoid distracting drivers while on the road and should help monitor road conditions.

Modern technology offers more and more distractions to all of us in general. These distractions while driving can be deadly. We look forward to working with you on additional ways to ensure our drivers stay focused. Thanks.



## RENATO ROSALES OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*MAHANTH S. JOISHY*

This week we profile a longtime partner of Fleet, Renato Rosales. Renato is a teacher at the DOE Automotive High School in Brooklyn. In addition to helping instruct and guide the next generation of car and truck technicians in preparing for their future, he also plays a lead role in coordinating citywide high school internships in multiple industries through the Career & Technical Education Work Based Learning (CTE-WBL) program.

Among the successful internships are the summer and academic year program in partnership with DCAS, NYPD, FDNY, DEP, and Parks to place students in agency garages and offices to assist with automotive work. This summer approximately 50 students are active in the program, working side by side with mechanics, parts supervisors, insurance claims specialists, and other City staff while gaining hands-on experience. Over the years Renato has developed the relationships with City agencies to place students in appropriate positions.

Renato has been with Automotive HS since 2010. He teaches 11th and 12th grade students on engine performance and electrical systems in addition to his CTE-WBL duties. Renato uses PowerPoint, Promethean Board, and other software to keep classes informative. He also taught at GNYADA in Queens, William E. Grady High School in Brooklyn, and as a DOE Vocational Assistant, where he was trained in teaching. Renato has also worked as a technician at Angiuli Chrysler and Superstar Foreign Car. We thank Renato for his service to New York City and its youth.

