

## Testimony, DCAS

### Intro 2027 regarding Electrification of Helicopters and Related Units

Hi. My name is Keith Kerman and I am a Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and NYC's Chief Fleet Officer. Thank you for allowing me to testify and discuss Intro 2027 regarding a study of the electric vertical takeoff and lift sector (EVTOL), or in simpler language, electric helicopters.

In Feb. 2020, Mayor de Blasio signed Executive Order 53 committing NYC to transition to an all-electric fleet by 2040. We are already making important progress with over 2,800 plug-in units and over 1,000 electric chargers. Just recently DCAS announced the completion of Phase 1 of our Fast Charging initiative with 61 fast chargers now complete for City fleet units including three with public access, Midland Beach and Ocean Breeze Facility in Staten Island and Randalls Island Park in Manhattan.

We already have sedans, SUVs, mini-vans, cross-overs, off-road, and other fleet units with plug in capacity, and DCAS will be establishing contracts for many additional types of vehicles in 2021 including small garbage trucks for Parks, pickups, vans and small work trucks. We will also be working to test and develop electric units for policing, sanitation, and fire.

In time, we also want to see our aviation units join in this clean energy fleet transition. NYC currently operates 9 helicopters. The NYPD has 7 helicopters, four of which are used for patrol, 2 for air and sea rescue, and for 1 training. These are operated by the NYPD aviation unit operating out of Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn. DEP and Health also have aviation units with both currently operating one aircraft. DOHMH uses their helicopter in disease control operations such as West Nile Virus while the DEP unit is used for law enforcement. The DOHMH unit is based in Suffolk County and the DEP unit in Wappingers Falls in Dutchess County, NY.

The City uses over 185,000 gallons of jet fuel annually, procured through DCAS, to power the existing helicopter fleets.

There has been early market research, testing, and development of electric aviation units, both manned and unmanned. DCAS looks forward to researching these options further, meeting with vendors and regulators in this area, and reporting our findings as to the state of the market, battery charging issues, and regulatory concerns. EVTOL holds the promise of zero emissions and low noise aviation units and other related developments including possible autonomous operation. Advances in electric battery capacity and density will be critical to the successful introduction of these options.

We look forward to exploring this new area of electrification with you while continuing to grow our vehicle electrification efforts as well. Thank you for inviting us to join you today.