

Keith T. Kerman

NYC Chief Fleet Officer

Remarks at the 32nd Annual NYC Fleet Show

Welcome to the 32nd Annual Fleet & Equipment Show, hosted by NYC Parks and organized by DCAS. This is the 10th Show DCAS has organized, the 15th Daniel Shinn-Krantz has led, and my 23rd. We missed you last year and have a lot to catch up on.

Before we start, I want to recognize some of our key partners:

- Ben Furnas, Director of the Mayor's Office of Climate and Sustainability. For eight years, mostly behind the scenes, now more publicly, Ben has been the rock in the Mayor's Office upon which the sustainability, safety and efficiency efforts for fleet have stood. I've done this thing for 28 years now and Ben is on the very short list of the most terrific public servants I've ever encountered. I also want to mention Jen Robertson and everyone from your team.
- I want to acknowledge our DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo, who has embraced the fleet program like few before at DCAS, and new Parks Commissioner Margaret Nelson, who in just a few weeks has delivered 152 hybrid pickup and van orders for Parks. I also want to mention DCAS Deputy Commissioner for Procurement Mersida Ibric and her staff who play such a critical role in the fleet program.
- I want to thank everyone at Parks for hosting especially the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Administrator Janice Melnick. Janice has been with Parks forever and I know would never leave....
- Speaking of leaving, I'm sad to report that Jon Ells, Director of Fleet Sustainability for DCAS, has moved on after 20 years at Parks and DCAS to a sustainability think tank. Apparently, we can't compete with full time remote. Jon's work made so much of today possible, and we'll miss him.
- I want to recognize our partners for today's event including Joy Gardner, Executive Director of Empire Clean Cities, and Sara Houde, CEO of Propulsion Quebec. Empire put on an educational program this morning, and we are all live linked to Impulsion Montreal, a three-day celebration of sustainability.
- I also want to thank Benoit Charette, Minister of the Environment and the fight against Climate Change for Quebec, for partnering on this year's show. This week the City announced that DCAS will source all the electricity for government operations from Hydro-Quebec, a clean, reliable source of energy, including for our EVs.
- I want to welcome representative of the Cities of Cambridge MA and Pittsburgh PA to the show.
- I want to thank Health and Hospitals for having the vaccine and testing bus here today. The vaccines and testing are free. I want to thank the NY State Department of Health for being with us today and for all your leadership over this extraordinary and challenging two years. We also take this moment to recognize the mechanics, supervisor of mechanics, public servants from every agency, and our own DCAS Fleet Director of Safety, Lenin Fierro, who were lost to COVID while serving our great City.
- We thank all our agency partners for being here: NYPD, FDNY, DOC, DSNY, DOT, DEP, NYCHA, MTA and so many others.

- I also want to introduce you all to BioBus, a Brooklyn based non-profit focused on sustainable education. If we are going to solve climate change, we need everyone pushing in the same direction. Education, starting young, will be the key to that and we look forward to partnering, and fueling, BioBus.

- Finally, and most importantly, I want to thank Mayor de Blasio, who led off the day with a big announcement for fleet: \$75 million in new investments. This is the largest single investment ever for our fleet sustainability program and is an addition to our regular buying program.

- The highlight of that announcement, 275 additional fast chargers, adding to the 100 going in place now. I also want to recognize the extraordinary work of our Assistant Commissioner Brent Taylor who took charge of our fast-charging initiative, installed 90 so far on time and on budget, and whose efforts make clear, in the most tangible way, that transforming fleet emissions can and will happen.

- We will also add more portable chargers and solar carports.

- We will undertake our first program of repowering, retrofitting 125 diesel trucks, and making them electric.

- With the support of OMB, we will also order a new generation of electric vehicles to replace gas units including all electric police cars, sedans, SUVs, and vans. The announcement says 300 electric vehicles, but we are aiming a lot higher.

- I want to thank and recognize our Fleet Chief of Staff Sherry Lee, our Director of Vehicle Acquisitions Tamika Johnson, and Director of Fleet Procurement Masha Rudina who, in the last 8 years and working with all our agencies and OMB, have managed on average \$300 million and 3,000 vehicle procurements each year. Yes, we have spent over \$2.4 billion in fleet acquisitions, answering the question why we get good attendance at this show. That, and the hot dogs...

- Eight years ago, DCAS and FDNY began work on installing hybrid and plug in eligible battery power units to the City's ambulances. These units reduce emissions, fuel, and

maintenance costs, while keeping our City's EMTs ready to deploy at a second's notice. With the latest order of 78 hybrid electric ambulances, we are now on the verge of a complete ambulance fleet deploying this innovative green technology.

- In FY14, the average fuel economy for our new light duty vehicles, our Federal CAFE equivalent, was 51 miles per gallon. Not bad. This year, it was 102 MPG, our fourth straight year over 100 MPG.

- In FY14, we used 28.1 million gallons of fossil fuel for fleet. In FY21, we used 4 million gallons or 14% less, supporting more total fleet units. Or, if the dollars are more interesting, we spent \$93.9 million on fleet fuel in FY14 and \$50.7 in FY21.

- As of today, we operate 3,135 plug-in fleet units, on and off-road, and 1,071 charging ports. These are both the largest programs in NY State. We operate 89 solar carports, the largest such network in the world.

- We operate 19,532 fleet units on some type of alternative fuel. We believe this to be the largest alternative fuel fleet in the nation, public or private.

- Under Mayor de Blasio, we have pledged to cut fuel use by 50% by 2025, go to an all-electric fleet, and to implement more hybrids and biofuels until we get there.

- While sustainability is the talk of today, I also want to mention the extraordinary investment in fleet safety by this administration. Over 63,000 safety upgrades as part of our Safe Fleet Transition Program including telematics, driver alerts, side-guards, and so many products on display today. The City Council last week passed an expansion of our truck side-guard initiative. I want to thank our terrific Deputy Chief Eric Richardson who has led our safety efforts.

- I also want to recognize and thank the 2,000 full time staff in fleet services, especially our talented teams of mechanics and supervisor of mechanics. Fleet repair is a physically taxing and complex trade. While behind the scenes, our fleet professionals play an essential role in our City's life. Fleet services support nearly 80,000 fleet operators, working 24/7, to keep this City safe, clean, and live-able.

Finally, thanks to all of you, our vendors, for coming out to the show, providing the cleaner, safer, and more reliable equipment that we depend on.

Thank you and enjoy the day!