

# NYC Fleet Welcomes Automotive Interns

## 8/18/21, NYPD Shop 4, Queens

Hi. My name is Keith T. Kerman and I'm the NYC Chief Fleet Officer and a Deputy Commissioner at the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS). On behalf of Mayor de Blasio and DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo, I want to welcome you to our summer intern luncheon.

I want to thank the NYPD and Robert Martinez, Vartan Khachadurian, James D'Ambrosio, Michael Gorgia, and all their staff for hosting this get together and for their longtime leadership in this great partnership with the Department of Education and the automotive high schools.

And I want to welcome you all here to NYPD Shop 4 in Queens, one of our 37 dedicated fleet repair facilities citywide.

In partnership with the Department of Education, city fleet agencies led by the Police Department and also including Fire, Transportation, DCAS, and in previous years Sanitation and Parks, have hosted automotive high school interns for well over a decade.

Aspiring mechanics and energetic and terrific young people like yourselves have partnered with city mechanics and supervisors, gotten your hands dirty, quite literally, and experienced the inner workings of these important technical services shops.

Policing, fire, street maintenance, and other city services are essential to the daily functioning and safety of the city. NYC's big operational agencies depend on reliable fleet and emergency response vehicles to do their jobs, and our fleet depends on our skilled, capable, and dedicated mechanics.

This difficult COVID period has reminded us of how important fleet services are. Our emergency services, ambulance operators, and police, are taking on major challenges to keep the City safe, while DOT works to transform how we get around.

In the broader world, truck fleets are growing, and capable mechanic and commercial driving staff in short supply, as our society becomes more dependent on internet buying and the fleet and trucking operations that support it.

Fleet and automotive repair are truly essential services. In the last 18 months, thousands of city mechanics and fleet operators placed themselves at risk to keep this city working. Many dedicated and courageous city employees, including supervisor of mechanics and mechanics lost their lives serving and protecting this city.

Our own fleet director of vehicle safety, Lenin Fierro, was one of the first city employees to lose his life to COVID. For many years, Lenin managed this automotive internship program. Just a few weeks before we lost him, Lenin hosted a large recruitment event at the Municipal Building

with over 100 enthusiastic high school students, encouraging them to pursue public service as he had.

Lenin was a ten-year Navy veteran, a passionate public servant, and cared about advancing young lives and careers. You didn't know him, but he was out there advocating for all of you. I hope you'll think about public service in his honor and in recognition of all our great mechanics and fleet professionals.

A little about NYC fleet.

We have 1,836 total staff including 1,084 mechanics, 103 of which are auto service workers.

We have the largest municipal fleet in the US with nearly 30,000 vehicles.

Nearly 20,000 of our units use alternative fuels, the largest such fleet, public or private in the country.

We run the largest liquid fuels program in the state with over 400 sites, the largest EV fleet in the state with over 3,000 plug-in units, and the largest EV charging network in the state with 1,060 charging ports.

In a normal year, we spend nearly a billion dollars in staffing, parts, contracts, acquisitions, claims. Not bad for a town fleet.

NYC Fleet is part of an agency called DCAS, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services. Among many things we do at DCAS is manage the city's Human Capital and civil service programs. Or in other words, we organize job hiring.

We want this program to be a pathway to NYC employment for those who want to pursue that. An automotive high school degree qualifies as the experience requirement for our auto service worker positions.

So many of our fleet leaders of today, including NYPD Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez, began with the City as auto service workers. You just heard from Juan Lopez, now an NYPD mechanic who was once an auto high intern like you. We encourage you to consider this route for yourselves.

I want to thank the Department of Education Career and Technical Education (CTE) program for organizing these internships. Particularly Venkatesh Harini, Jessica Kemper, Gavaskar Reid, and Chandra Smith of Grant Associates. I also want to thank Tamika Johnson and Latia Riley of DCAS for organizing this event, certificates, and gifts.

Most importantly I want to thank and congratulate all of you on your summer with us and for pursuing this incredibly important field. We have a world that relies on cars, trucks, and machines for nearly everything, at least in part. We need technical experts who understand and can operate and maintain the machines we now depend on.

We are also beginning a transformation of how we power vehicles to reduce their impact to the environment. We must retire the use of fossil fuels to power internal combustion engines. There is no more important work in the world, and it can't happen fast enough!

The maintenance and transformation of these essential services will require smart, dedicated, skilled, and diverse technicians and fleet professionals. Automotive and fleet jobs can offer stable and well-paid work for the rest of your lives. It will also challenge your skills as traditional combustion mechanics merges with informational technology and electric battery development.

And, it is not an overstatement, to say that this industry holds the futures for all of us in its hands.

Welcome.

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NYC Fleet

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**NYC Fleet and the Department of Education CTE Program invite you to this years Automotive and Transportation Internship Recognition Luncheon to be held on Wednesday August 18th from 11:30am to 1:30pm at NYPD Shop #4 (49-21 Metropolitan Ave Ridgewood NY).**

Since 2013 NYC Fleet has partnered with DOE to provide internships for over 300 total students which provides valuable hands-on experience maintaining high-profile City vehicles, and the unique opportunity to learn from leading city fleet experts and professionals who service the largest municipal fleet in the United States. NYPD has played a lead role in this initiative. Interns are paid for their work while receiving practical experience that will help pave the way to future careers in the automotive industry. The internships are just one aspect of relationship between NYC Fleet and DOE's Automotive and Transportation Program which also includes providing old vehicles as loaners for hands on learning in schools, providing speakers for presentations to students, creating a pathway from the DOE High School to permanent citywide employment in the skilled trades via credit for experience for graduates of the CTE Automotive programs and chairing the DOE Automotive Commission alongside the MTA. NYC also regularly includes the automotive programs in training programs such as ASE certification for biodiesel and in special events including the annual Fleet Show in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

For more information on the Automotive and Transportation program you can visit <https://cte.nyc/web/industry-partnerships/automotive-and-transportation>



## **Program Agenda**

### **Welcoming Remarks**

James D'Ambrosio NYPD

### **Tour of NYPD Shop #4 and Interns at Work**

### **Featured Speakers**

Naatram Jotis Automotive Intern

Juan Lopez NYPD Auto Mechanic and Former DOE Intern  
Representatives from DOE and Grant Associates

### **Remarks and Awarding of Participant Certificates**

NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman

Lunch Following Conclusion of Formal Program