

Fleet Celebrates Black History Month

By: Keith T. Kerman and Lenin Fierro

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” In that spirit, NYC Fleet would like to take the opportunity to recognize the everyday contribution of some of our outstanding City employees in fleet related services.



Freddy Richardson, Collision Investigation Captain, Department of Correction (DOC). Captain Richardson currently manages the collision reporting process at DOC as part of its Transportation Division. Captain Richardson works to investigate and examine the cause of fleet crashes and administers the CRASH Fleet System at DOC, one of our Vision Zero initiatives. He went to Brooklyn Automotive High School and DeVry University, graduating as an electronics technician. Prior to his career at DOC, he worked at General Instruments, repairing robotic equipment. Captain Richardson has been with DOC since 1995. Currently in his 24th year of public service, he “likes the challenge of the work and it always keeps me busy.” In his free time, he enjoys golf, chess, fishing, and loves to bar-b-que any time of year.



Gerald Buchanan, Motor Vehicle Operator, NYPD. Buchanan has been with the Police Department for 29 years. He graduated from John Bowne High School and then joined the US Army where he repaired helicopters. He joined the NYPD as a motor vehicle operator starting at the Auto Pound. He later moved to Fleet Services working at NYPD Shop 3 as a tow truck operator. Buchanan’s love of driving is evident. As he puts it: “I like the challenge. When you go out, every job is different.” Buchanan has seen it all, from parades, public disturbances, and crime scenes of every type. His skill and experience led him to be a CDL license instructor for Fleet Services and he is very proud that his students have a 90% pass rate over the last 12 years. Buchanan’s family is committed to public service. His wife Betty Buchanan works at HRA. As for his children, Randolph works at DOE. Surrena is an MTA train operator. Jeanna is a teacher, and Gerald Jr. is currently in the US Army. Buchanan is also very involved with his church as a Deacon. He resides in Spring Field Gardens, NY.



Robert Farrow, Fleet Coordinator, Department of Probation.

Farrow provides fleet support to all Probation Officers as they check in on their clients. Probation officers depend on their vehicles for most of their daily responsibilities which makes Farrow's role critical. His work includes scheduling preventive maintenance and addressing break-downs, collision response and CRASH reporting, gas cards, tows, and being the go-to person for all things fleet and DOP's 86 vehicles. Farrow graduated from Thomas Jefferson H.S. and went on to Ferrum College in Franklyn County, VA on a full basketball scholarship. He is currently in his 32nd year of service with NYC. Farrow is a proud father of two: Robert Jr. and Kimberly. He resides in Brooklyn and his hobbies include playing basketball, chess, checkers, and any card game.



Weusi Charles, Auto Mechanic, NYC Parks. Charles joined NYC Parks in 2015 and currently works out of the Five Borough Repair Facility. Weusi says: "I love being a mechanic at Parks due to the challenges and the wide range of vehicles you're exposed to." At Parks, he services and repairs attenuator trucks, bucket trucks, packers, dumps, log loaders, front end loaders, flat beds and more. Charles is a native of Guyana and came to the United States when he was 19 years old. He worked a variety of odd jobs before deciding to enroll in Apex Technical School where he graduated as an engine repair technician. He resides in Brooklyn with his wife Rachel and he is the proud father of two. He spends his time off fixing cars, drag racing, and working on model airplanes.

This week's newsletter recognizes a skilled, talented, and dedicated team of fleet and Civil Service professionals with 89 years of combined public service. Thanks again to each of them and to everyone who keeps New York City's fleet on the road each day.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 253, February 22, 2019](#): Fleet in Local Law

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 252, February 8, 2019](#): NYPD Represents NYC Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 251, January 25, 2019](#): Exercising Extreme Caution With Left Hand Turns

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 250, January 18, 2019](#): NYC Fleet: Drive to 2,000 Electric Vehicles

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 249, January 11, 2019](#): Fleet Spotlight: Donald Cooke, Welder, DOT

Check out the [complete archive](#).

// CONNECT WITH DCAS TO FOLLOW NYC FLEET //



Visit us on the web at nyc.gov/DCAS