

## NYC Fleet: Women's History Month Spotlights

By: Keith T. Kerman and Lenin Fierro

In recognition of Women's History Month, this week's newsletter spotlights women at four agencies who have made great contributions to our City fleet management.

### **Crystal Devine, Collision Claims Coordinator, FDNY.**

Crystal joined the City of New York as an EMT in 1991 when EMS was part of Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC). In 1996, EMS and FDNY merged. As per Crystal, "the merger with FDNY opened a lot more doors in my career and diversified the force." In June of that year, Crystal was in the passenger seat of an ambulance responding to an emergency dispatch when it was involved in a line of duty collision with a flatbed truck. She was injured in that collision and couldn't return to full duty. After the collision, Crystal was assigned to the FDNY Safety Office and now serves as Collision Claims Coordinator at Metro Tech in Brooklyn. Crystal helps FDNY monitor and address crash issues, knowing from her own experience how important these issues are. Crystal is a graduate of Julia Richmond High School and was able to attend New Rochelle College thanks to DC37. She raised two children, Christopher and Nicole, and is now a grandmother to Jaylin, Neveah, and Elijah. She is also very active in her church, serving on the Board of Trustees, as Choir Director, and as Youth Supervisor. Crystal resides in Far Rockaway Queens with her beloved cat.



**Caren Chin, Vehicle Compliance Officer, NYC Parks.** Caren began her career with the City of New York in 1997 working for the Parks Advocates Office. She now serves at the 5-Boro Parks complex in Randall's Island as the Vehicle Compliance Officer. Caren helps administer several Citywide Vision Zero initiatives, including CRASH tracking, authorized driver compliance, defensive driving, claims management, and the fleet's telematics upgrade. Caren helps ensure that Parks operators are driving safely, understand fleet rules, and are setting a good example as fleet operators. New Yorkers come to Parks to get away from cars, and Caren takes her role seriously in making sure our park fleet is driven cautiously and responsibly. Caren also appreciates the dedication and camaraderie of her fellow Parkies. Caren attended Forest Hills High School in Queens and later St. Thomas Aquinas College in Spark Hill, NY. She is a resident of Forest Hills, Queens.

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**Valerise Charles, Clerical Associate III, Safety and Training, DSNY.** Valerise is assigned to DSNY's Division of Safety and Training based at Floyd Bennet Field, Brooklyn. She is part of the team that manages all collision data in the DCAS CRASH system for DSNY's 60 collection garages. Valerise also helps coordinate CDL license management and other safety reporting for DSNY, one of the largest public trucking fleets in the country. Valerise has been a civil servant for 31 years and notes that "with the city you learn about how capable and adaptable you are." Valerise worked for the Bank of New York before starting with the City in 1988. She has served at several agencies, including ACS, Sheriff, BIC, and now DSNY, and has enjoyed experiencing the different atmospheres and cultures of the different agencies. Valerise is a graduate of Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn, and currently resides in Rockaway Beach, Queens with her husband of 27 years, Eric Charles and her dog Shadow Charles. She is a proud aunt of 3 nephews and 3 nieces.



**Carol Green, Senior Project Manager, DCAS, NYC Fleet.**

Carol is a native of Massachusetts where she graduated from Newton High School and went on to Simmons College. She moved to New York City in 1983 to pursue her career in the telecommunications field. Carol began her public service with the City of New York in 1993 as a Purchase Director for the Division of Municipal Supply Services (DMSS) at the Department of General Services (DGS), what is now DCAS. She rose up the ladder, eventually serving as the Agency's Chief Contracting Officer (ACCO). Whether it's cars, fuels, parts or services, procurement is critical to the success of fleet operations. Carol's ability to navigate the world of City contracts and procurement rules, to write Requests for Proposals and Bids (RFPs and RFBs), and her dedication to supporting those around her, have earned her the deep respect and appreciation of her colleagues. This is a particularly bittersweet spotlight since Carol will be retiring this very day from City Service after 26 years. Carol can now look forward to pursuing her hobbies of reading mystery books, going to the theater, and supporting her hometown baseball team. We all wish her the happiest of retirements.

Thanks to all of you for your dedicated and skilled public service and support of our City's fleet program.

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