

ACS Supports "Raise The Age" With New Transport Fleet

By: Keith T. Kerman

In April 2017, NY State passed legislation raising the age of criminal responsibility to 18 years old. The law provided the Department of Correction (DOC) and the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) with two years, through October 2019, to transition 16 and 17 year olds from Rikers Island to facilities managed by ACS and more appropriate for their age group.



As part of this transition, ACS is also assuming the role of transporting the youth to required court dates, enabling the youth to avoid transport with adults in Correction buses.

To make this transition, ACS Fleet has worked with DCAS to introduce 15 new Sprinter vans, specially designed and safeguarded for this new role. The units have interior outfitting to enable secure transport and new amber safety lighting and alert technology.

On June 19, 2019 the ACS Division of Youth and Family Justice (DYFJ) conducted its first training session with the new vans at the parking lot at Springfield Alley Park. The first crew of what will be approximately 60 Youth Development Specialists (YDS) got to inspect the units, talk to the vehicle manufacturer, and test drive these vehicles as ACS assumes this new and critical role.



A number of agencies worked together to ensure this project was implemented smoothly and on time. Thanks to Stuart Goldstein, Director for Office of Transportation Services at ACS; Catherine Drum at City Hall; Harris Kaplan, Shery Lee, and Tamika Johnson at DCAS; Philip Sparacio, Deputy Chief of Queens Parks Operations, and Matt Symons, Northeast Queens Parks Administrator.

Working together, Fleet is supporting the important changes and improvements to our correction system.

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