

## **Fleet Salutes Cliff Francis, DCAS Quality Assurance**

By: Keith T. Kerman

This week, we say thank you and happy retirement to Cliff Francis, a critical behind-the-scenes and technical support staff member for the Citywide fleet program. Cliff has served as Deputy Director of the DCAS Bureau of Quality Assurance (BQA) in the DCAS Office of Citywide Procurement (OCP).

Cliff entered City civil service on November 4, 1985, as a quality assurance level II specialist for the Department of General Services, now known as DCAS. Cliff directed the Quality Assurance Inspection unit, overseeing the inspection of all fuel, food, automotive equipment, and other commodities for use by City agencies. He also developed and oversaw testing of safety and safety-related equipment and provided technical assistance throughout City government.



Fleet was always one of his main clients. NYC Fleet uses an incredible variety of equipment. In NYC Fleet Focus there are 169 separate types of fleet equipment and 2,190 different makes and models listed. DCAS Fleet relied on Cliff and BQA to ensure that the City's fleet and equipment met technical specifications and performed reliably in day-to-day and emergency situations. Over 35 years, Cliff helped the City procure many generations of fleet units. In just the last ten years, Cliff has helped DCAS bring in over \$3 billion of fleet equipment for agencies, including FDNY, DSNY, NYPD, Parks, and DOT.



Most of us don't know what goes into the mechanical equipment we rely on. We expect it to work and sometimes become indignant when it doesn't. Cliff is where the rubber meets the road, our technical expert. He ensured that our fleet and machinery are properly designed and manufactured. Cliff has taken on an endless variety of complex technical challenges, working closely with agencies and vendors to ensure that the City has the equipment it needs.

We are particularly thankful for Cliff's work in sustainability. Cliff helped the City introduce ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel, biodiesel, and now renewable diesel. There are countless technical and regulatory issues that impact fuel changes, and Cliff has helped us navigate and deliver cleaner and less-polluting fuels for all New Yorkers.

Cliff also played a major role in responding to emergency situations. After 9-11, he and his team helped manage emergency fuel needs and assisted with the scale-up of temporary mortuaries. After the blackouts of 2003 and after Hurricane Sandy in 2012, Cliff and his team worked day and night helping the City establish and maintain emergency power. Cliff kept his cool during these incredibly tense and difficult situations. He has kept that work up during the current pandemic crisis.

Prior to DCAS, Cliff worked at ABC as a film developer and also with his uncle in the printing industry. Cliff will now dedicate his time to painting, traveling with his wife Debrah, and spending time visiting his family.



DCAS and NYC Fleet express their appreciation to Cliff Francis for his long and distinguished service to the City of New York and sincerely wish him a rewarding retirement, success in all his future endeavors, and continued good health for him and his family. He will be missed.

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