

Celebrating the 2023 High School Automotive Summer Interns

By: Keith T. Kerman



City fleet agency interns, DCAS Commissioner Dawn M. Pinnock, Deputy Commissioner Keith Kerman and others outside NYPD's Fleet Services Station in Queens.

On August 8, 2023, DCAS Commissioner Dawn M. Pinnock and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman joined Adam Breier, deputy executive director of career and technical education (CTE) at NYC Public Schools, along with fleet agencies including NYPD, DSNY, FDNY, Parks and DOT, to celebrate and recognize this year's class of high school automotive interns. The recognition event was held at NYPD's Shop 4 in Queens.

This year's class was made up of 44 students, our largest program post COVID. Since 2015, DCAS and fleet agencies have hosted 405 automotive high school interns in paid

summer jobs. These internships are coordinated by the Department of Education Career and Technical Education (CTE) program and are funded through federal grants.



Department of Education (DOE) interns being awarded their recognition certificates by DCAS and DOE.

Automotive internships started on July 10 and end on August 18. Students learned hands repair and maintenance skills on all types of vehicles including all-electric enforcement units. They assisted in installing vehicle safety retrofits such as telematics, surround cameras and pedestrian alerts. A group of 12 students also took our in-person defensive driving class. Along with these students, DCAS interns also learned fleet operations such as processing crash claims.



DOE interns and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman after interns completed the New York state defensive driving course as part of their internships.

DCAS is completing a donation of 15 electric vehicles to six schools to enable automotive high students to learn to repair and service these type of vehicles in the future. NY1 [featured](#) the donation to McKee High School in Staten Island in May.

With DCAS being a national leader in biofuels development, some interns are also working on obtaining biodiesel certifications through a program offered by DCAS and the American Lung Association.



DOE intern working on a City fleet vehicle.

Graduating from an automotive high school provides a direct pathway to city employment as an auto service worker. The certifications and graduation from a NYC automotive high school satisfies the two-year experience requirement for the auto service worker exam and offers a direct pathway to join city government. At the event, DCAS encouraged the students to look to join NYC government in one of the 1,800 full time fleet professional positions, or in other agency roles. Many students expressed strong interest to become City mechanics.



DCAS Commissioner Pinnock and Deputy Commissioner Kerman welcome interns to recognition event.

DCAS, fleet agencies and DOE have now partnered on automotive high school internships for over 20 years.

DCAS wants to thank NYPD for hosting the event and for their longstanding leadership in this initiative. DCAS wants to recognize the MTA who also hosts automotive interns. DCAS and MTA co-chair the Department of Education Automotive Commission which aims to support the City's automotive high students and help develop training and job opportunities.

Most importantly, we thank our agency fleet managers, supervisor of mechanics and mechanics who embrace this initiative each year and spend time with each student, teaching the trade and inspiring a commitment to public service. As with so many in the past, soon these interns will be your co-workers, colleagues and friends.



DOE interns working on a FDNY fire truck.

Thanks also to DCAS Fleet's Javier Nieves-Negron and Eric Richardson who coordinated this year's internship program.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

New York City Vision Zero Fleet Forum

VISION ZERO 
Building a Safer City

This year's New York City Vision Zero Fleet Forum will be held on Thursday November 2, at the Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows Corona Park

This annual event co-hosted this year by *Together for Safer Roads* will highlight the power and promise of building partnerships to solve our nation's roadway safety crisis, the safe system approach, and how vehicle design and technology plays a vital role in saving lives.

[View the event flyer](#) to learn more. Updated information like the event agenda and registration links will be posted on the DCAS Fleet Management webpage in the coming weeks. You can also [email fleet](#) for more information.



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Week In Review: August 6 - August 12

NYC celebrates the 50th anniversary of hip hop and Dominican heritage this week!



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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 432, August 9, 2023](#): DCAS Rolls Out Over 300 Electric Vans

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 431, August 3, 2023](#): Fleet Spotlight: Mark Aronberg, FDNY Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 430, July 17, 2023](#): DCAS Surpasses 200 EV Fast Chargers and Partners With the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) To Develop *Faster* Fast Chargers

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 429, June 30, 2023](#): Fleet Retools Through DCAS' Hiring Halls

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