

Reflections on 500 Newsletters

By Keith T. Kerman

The City of New York's fleet spans 50 agencies, includes over 29,000 assets, and up to 80,000 full- and part-time operators. One of the many challenges of unifying an operation this sprawling and complex is communicating with these fleet drivers, our nearly 2,000 full-time fleet and transportation staff, and partners inside and outside city government. In 2013, DCAS began a fleet newsletter to help spread the word.

The first [newsletter](#) was published on May 1, 2013, about the rollout of safe driver training for city employees. Since that announcement, we have trained over 100,000 city employees—and we're still going. This is the earliest evidence that when we say we are going to do something in this newsletter, we follow through.

In Issue Three, we placed the City's daily readiness report online for public access. It's still there 12 years later, updated [daily](#). In Issue Four, we expanded the automotive internships initiative. We grew the program further very recently, in Issue [479](#)—11 years later. Our first fleet spotlight featured a Department of Sanitation (DSNY) upholsterer in Issue Five. Highlighting the great work of fleet [staff](#) remains one of the newsletter's most important ongoing roles.





We talked about greening the New York City Police Department (NYPD) fleet in Issue Eight. NYPD deploys the largest alternative fuel police fleet in the United States, and we will have more to share about that soon. In Issue 11, we introduced the Fleet Federation Inter-agency Meeting—our 200th meeting is coming up this summer. We launched the fleet website in Issue 12 and all our notices remain available [there](#), updated weekly. Also in Issue 12, we encouraged all city employees to help us pursue those who damage city vehicles. It worked: we achieved a [record](#) claims recovery in 2024.



In Issue 13, we announced our largest acquisition program, totaling \$310 million in new vehicles. That program seems modest these days, given that over \$5 billion has been invested in more than 40,000 vehicles since the citywide fleet program was established. An update on the acquisitions program will appear in an upcoming newsletter.

Issue 17 outlined five new Local Laws for the fleet, including fuel efficiency, biofuels, diesel emissions reduction, and alternative power units for New York Fire Department (FDNY) ambulances. We've fully implemented all of them and expanded most, including biofuels as discussed in Issue [472](#), and the FDNY effort as discussed in Issue [496](#) in May 2025. In Issue 18, we discussed our inter-agency partnership to improve emergency resiliency. The most recent efforts in emergency preparedness were discussed in Issue [487](#).

We introduced the first Fleet Management Manual in Issue 26. The latest manual is available [here](#). In Issue 30, we led New York State with 679 plug-in vehicles. We still lead the state, now with over 5,500 plug-in vehicles and growing. In our first year-end issue (Issue 31), we highlighted the transformation of city fleet operations through consolidation. In our most recent year-end report, the [innovation](#) continues.

In Issue 33, we celebrated reaching 45.5 miles per gallon for new vehicles. We've exceeded [100 MPG](#) for nearly a decade now. Vision Zero was announced in Issue 38 and has remained one of our highest [priorities](#) ever since. In Issue 44, we completed the upgrade of the fuel management system. Systems age and must be replaced. Sometime in 2026, we plan to announce the next upgrade. Also in Issue 44, we spotlighted the Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC) fleet. We made our most exciting TLC fleet announcement just [recently](#) with a plan to electrify the whole city fleet by 2027.

In Issue 47, the City's fleet received national recognition for its efforts. The same happened in [2024](#) when the City fleet was named the nation's greenest. Closing out this review of year one of our newsletter, we launched our truck sideguard project in Issue 49 and [completed](#) it in 2020.

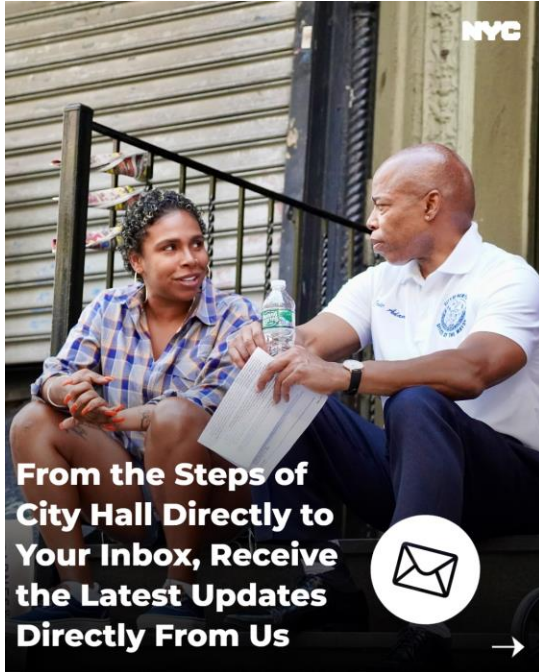
We lost many [friends](#) along the way and honored them in the newsletter. Too many fleet and city staff gave their lives [serving](#) the City during COVID, and many dedicated fleet staff have taken new roles, retired, or passed away. Destiny Fierro wrote one of the most meaningful [newsletters](#), one we all wish never had to be written.



Thanks to those who have helped bring you the newsletter over the years, including Mahanth Joishy, Lenin Fierro, Nate Koszer, Eric Richardson, Ramona Ledesma-Garrido, Armenoush Aslanian-Persico, Dan Shinn-Krantz, Sherry Lee, and the DCAS Communications team: Anessa Hodgson, Dan Kastanis, Gregory Weinstein, and Amy Liao. Thanks also to Government Fleet [Magazine](#), Fleet [Owner](#), Automotive [Fleet](#), Fleet Vision [International](#), and others for amplifying our message to the fleet industry.

The [first](#) 350 newsletters are [online](#), and we will soon post the last 150. Of course, nothing stops. Next week's newsletter will feature a new report on battery operations by DCAS.

Have a safe and wonderful Independence Day!

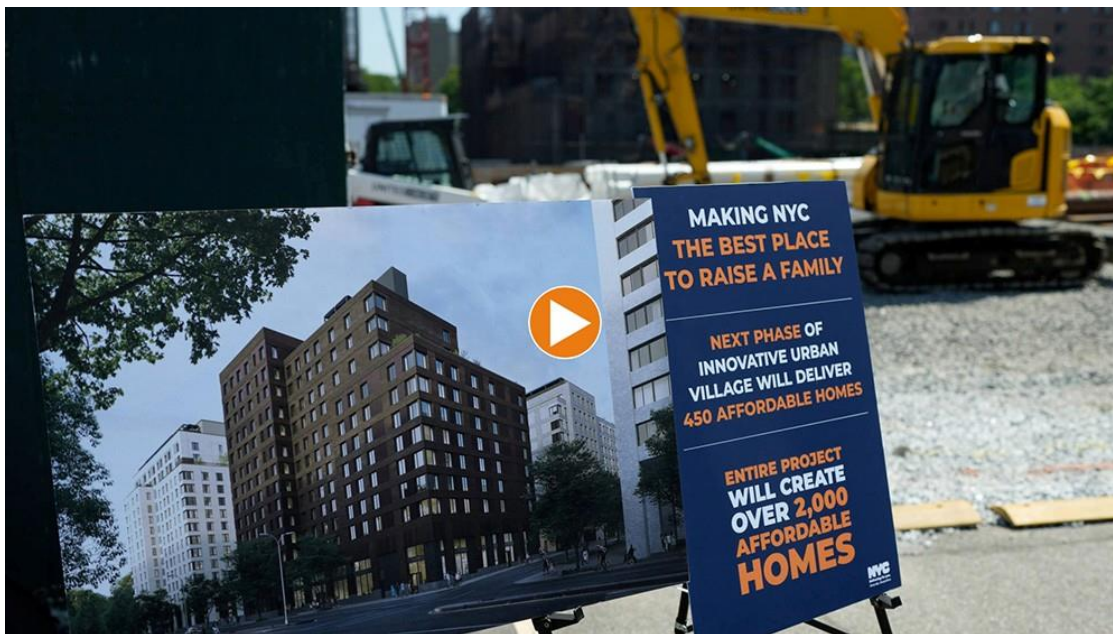


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Week in Review | June 14 - June 20



How do we beat the housing crisis? Build. More. Housing. That's been our motto since day one, and we are delivering big year after year. This past week alone, we advanced THREE major housing developments to build 2,000 new homes across our city — over 1,500 of which will be affordable

- Our new housing developments in Coney Island will [bring 1,110 new homes — 720 of which will be affordable and supportive units](#) — along with new community space to this waterfront neighborhood.
- The next stage of the "Innovative Urban Village" will [build 450 affordable homes](#) in the heart of East New York.
- The final phase of "La Central" in Melrose will [deliver 420 new affordable homes](#), along with retail space and a telescope for local high school students.

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[DCAS Celebrates the Release of FY24 Annual Report | City of New York](#)

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 499, June 17, 2025:](#) A New Way to Power Vessels

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 498, June 6, 2025:](#) Intelligent Speedy Assist from a New York Apprentice

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 497, May 22, 2025:](#) DCAS, NYC Public Schools, Recognize Spring Auto Interns at Annual Fleet Show

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