



Bill de Blasio, Mayor
 Stacey Cumberbatch, DCAS Commissioner
 Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer

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NYPD SMART CARS BEGIN ROLLING IN

ARMENOUSH ASLANIAN-PERSICO



Most of us have seen the GO-4 Interceptor 3-wheeled scooters operated by police officers for traffic control and enforcement throughout the five boroughs. They are useful for operating in tight spaces and difficult traffic conditions. The NYPD has begun piloting nine new Smart cars as a safer and more versatile alternative. The new cars are currently in a testing phase including the first one now operating in Central Park. NYPD is considering the purchase of up to 100 more Smart cars with the goal of replacing some of its 315 scooters, many of which are 10 years old.

Unlike the scooters, the Smart cars have airbags as well as air conditioning and heat for year-round operation. Each Smart Car costs up to \$14,000 less per unit than the scooters. The Smart cars can also seat two people comfortably, and have a fuel efficiency of 36 mpg. These new units will be used in school safety and parking divisions as well as at precincts citywide. Smart cars are designed and manufactured by Mercedes-Benz. “The Smart Cars are crash tested while the three-wheel scooters are technically motorcycles,” NYPD Deputy Commissioner Bob Martinez told *The Daily News*.

Smart cars are part of a wider citywide effort to right-size or down-size vehicles and equipment in order to improve safety and efficiency, while still fulfilling their operational missions. Other right-sizing examples include replacing F250 and 350 pickup trucks with smaller F150 units and purchasing electric carts to replace larger units for park paths, garages, DEP facilities, or parking lots. Congratulations to NYPD.

SPOTLIGHT: STEPHEN HARBIN, DSNY SAFETY DIRECTOR

MAHANTH S. JOISHY

Our Black History Month features continue this week with a leader at Sanitation who has worked closely with DCAS to implement Mayor de Blasio’s Vision Zero fleet initiatives. Stephen Harbin is a long-standing 3 Star Chief at DSNY in charge of the Safety and Training Division, and has been with the agency since 1989.

Harbin began his career as a Sanitation Worker in Brooklyn North. He moved up the ranks to Supervisor, General Superintendent, Deputy Chief, and Assistant Chief, completing successful assignments in Brooklyn, Queens, and Fresh Kills. As Deputy Chief for Queens East, Harbin oversaw all aspects of cleaning, sweeping, collection, and snow operations for 10 districts.

This hands-on knowledge of field operations came in handy when Harbin was appointed to lead citywide safety in 2003, where he has remained since. Safety and Training is run out of DSNY’s Floyd Bennett Field facility, with plenty of pavement space for outdoor truck instruction and driver evaluations, paired with large indoor classroom capacity. The division maintains the agency’s LENS program, investigates and records collisions, recommends driver discipline and hosts 4-week training for new Sanitation Workers along with remedial training. Harbin’s team is working with DCAS Fleet to integrate into the citywide CRASH database for collisions. DSNY and DCAS have led the City’s effort in defensive driving, with ongoing daily classes and **over 7,000 DSNY staff trained in just the last 7 months**.



“Smooth as silk, after the challenging buy-in period,” is how Harbin describes the major ramp-up for defensive driving. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School, and the Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard. Chief Harbin resides in Brooklyn with his wife Nadine and Maltese dog, Nina. When off-duty, he is an avid video gamer, and enjoys watching NFL football. We thank Chief Harbin for his work to make New York safer.