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## DEP UPGRADES ITS SPECIALIZED TRUCK FLEET

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DEP is in the midst of a major upgrade in its heavy-duty fleet supporting its three operational bureaus: Water Treatment, Water Supply, and Water and Sewer Operations. In addition to establishing their first formal capital vehicle replacement cycle with OMB, DEP is receiving dozens of highly specialized fleet assets, many of which are unique to DEP. Over 191 vehicles were funded for over \$36 million.

Jet flushers are a key part of maintaining sewer lines. These are box trucks equipped with a high power jet rodder. The hose is inserted into a sewer line and blasts water through the pipe at high pressure to clear blockages. Fifteen (15) of 21 trucks ordered have now been delivered.

DEP also relies on catch basin machines. These are dump trucks with a medium duty crane that removes debris. Eighteen (18) of 32 new catch basin machines have been received. Other capital vehicles include construction trucks and investigations vehicles.

Construction trucks are a key part of Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations (BWSO) and are outfitted with two heavy duty compressors and a small crane that aid BWSO's under-street infrastructure maintenance.

DEP Fleet Services Director Rebecca Behle said, "We are very excited about this major investment in DEP Fleet. Thanks to the staff at DEP, DCAS OCP and Fleet, and Tom DelGrosso's team at DSNY for all the hard work."

## SPOTLIGHT: BETTY JONES, NYPD TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

ARMENOUSH ASLANIAN-PERSICO



Our Women's History Month spotlights conclude with Betty Jones, a Level 3 Traffic Enforcement Agent at NYPD. Betty is a vehicle coordinator and tow truck driver at the Manhattan Tow Pound, part of NYPD's Traffic Enforcement Division.

Betty began her fleet work at DOT in 1987, where she started as a TEA Level 1 in Brooklyn and was soon promoted to TEA 3. At DOT, she was a "Minuteperson" on the Queensboro Bridge, clearing stuck vehicles obstructing traffic. In 1996, her unit merged with NYPD. As a vehicle coordinator at the Manhattan Tow Pound, Betty manages maintenance, repairs, inventory and driving for 67 vehicles, including forty one 8-ton tow trucks, four 30-ton heavy duty tow trucks, flatbed and rack trucks, and several light duty units. Betty also drives all of these trucks as part of NYPD's traffic enforcement operations. Her unit works 24/7 and is dispatched to all five boroughs as needed. The unit responds to emergency situations such as fires, building collapses, hurricanes, floods, snow storms, and vehicles obstructing traffic. The unit also tows illegally parked vehicles and supports special events which require street closures.

Betty has a Class A CDL with tow and air brakes endorsements, and received training at Floyd Bennett Field and NYPD. She is involved in DC37 Local 983, and has taken Shop Steward and computer classes. Betty works with approximately 120 tow truck drivers under the supervision of Traffic Manager 2 Cheryl Hodge. We thank Betty and her team for keeping New York's streets clear and safe.