

Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Lisette Camilo, DCAS Commissioner
Keith T. Kerman, Chief Fleet Officer

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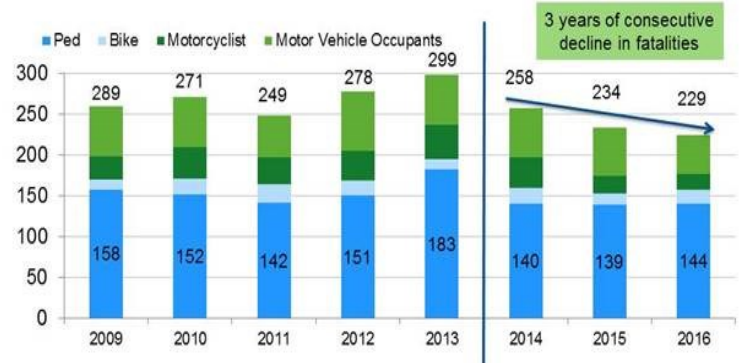
NYC CONTINUES DECLINE IN TRAFFIC FATALITIES

KEITH T. KERMAN

This week Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that 2016 was the lowest year for traffic fatalities since tracking began, with 229. This represents a third straight year of declines in fatalities and marks a 23% reduction since 2013.

“Under Vision Zero, we have now seen traffic fatalities in our City decline for three straight years, strongly countering national trends. I have said where Vision Zero is concerned, we are just getting started and can always do better, but I nevertheless want to thank the NYPD, DOT and supporting agencies on all their hard work to deliver another year of strong results,” said Mayor de Blasio. Nationally fatalities are up sharply, with a 7.1% increase last year alone.

NYC Traffic Fatalities: 2016 was safest year on record since 1910



NYC agencies are completing impactful projects in street design, engineering, data analysis, enforcement, training, and public awareness that contribute to traffic safety. NYC’s Fleet is also achieving reductions in fatalities, injuries, and preventable collisions with more work to do. Please begin the year with a renewed focus on promoting safe practices and enforcing safety rules including our ban on using portable devices while driving including hands-free, hand held, and texting. Let’s help make 2017 and every year forward safer than the one before.

FLEET SPOTLIGHT: JOSEPH TARANTO, MECHANIC, DOT

MAHANTH S. JOISHY



DOT is the lead agency for Vision Zero and traffic safety. DOT is also responsible for road, bridge, and tunnel maintenance, street signs, sidewalk repair, traffic lights, and violation enforcement. Many of these operations require a wide variety of vehicle types ranging from light duty to heavy duty. DOT owns or leases over 3,000 vehicles to fulfill its mission.

Joseph Taranto is an Auto Mechanic who works on every type of DOT heavy duty truck, and he is based at Harper Street in Queens. Joseph started working as a technician at Harper Street in 1984, and has stayed there ever since. He can be found working on boom trucks, dump trucks, container trucks, attenuators, generators, or light towers at any given time. Joseph is recognized as among the leading mechanical experts at the agency, and enjoys teaching junior mechanics the nuances of truck repair.

Over the years, Joseph has been crucial in emergency response as well. He was part of the mechanical crews that reported to Ground Zero immediately after 9/11 in order to complete necessary repairs for involved vehicles. During Sandy, Joseph worked around the clock at Harper Street and other locations to keep DOT trucks running, despite difficult circumstances including widespread flooding and infrastructure severely compromised by salt water.

Before joining DOT, Joseph worked for a Ford dealer and a Firestone dealer upon graduating from Francis Lewis High School. He was born and raised in Queens, and still resides there. Joseph is a Yankees fan, and enjoys working on cars for fun in his spare time. Many thanks to Joseph for 33 years of skilled work and commitment supporting DOT.