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NYPD LEADS INVESTMENT IN AUTO SERVICE WORKERS

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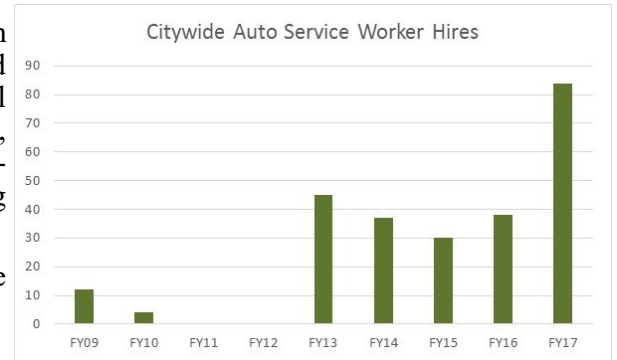
In FY17, Fleet on-boarded 84 auto service workers (ASWs), our highest single total. This was led by 66 hires at NYPD Fleet Services. Auto service worker is the entry-level technical repair and service title for the City’s fleet program and a critical career pathway to students and others into this challenging and rewarding field. DCAS, NYPD, and others have made a priority of developing these positions as potential openings for graduates from the City’s automotive high school programs and others.

In 2015 NYPD Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez of the Support Services Bureau led implementation of a plan to invest in auto service workers while also helping get more police officers on the street. Auto service workers were hired and trained to replace police officers who had been functioning in precincts as vehicle coordinators. This civilianization program will put close to 100 officers back on patrol while also creating new opportunities for many NYC automotive trade school graduates to be hired into the city work force.

NYPD’s auto service worker program placed the first ASW in the 44th Precinct in May of 2016 and to date there are now 60 ASWs assigned to precincts throughout the five boroughs. When the program is at full capacity there will be over 90 ASWs assigned to different precincts, transit districts, and housing service areas. Daily duties include keeping PM records, transporting vehicles in need of service, maintaining emergency equipment, and minor vehicle repairs and adjustments.

Overall, 743 total staff in all titles were hired for fleet citywide in the last four years compared to 259 the previous four years.

Thanks to Vartan Khachadurian at NYPD for his help with this article.



FLEET SPOTLIGHT, JOSE HERNANDEZ, PARKS

LENIN FIERO

As this month’s fleet spotlight shows, auto service worker is a first but certainly not last step for City technicians. Jose Hernandez is a Supervisor of Mechanical Equipment (SOME) with NYC Parks based out of the 5 Boro Repair Facility on Randalls Island. Jose has been working for the city for over 12 years and started his career in 2005 with Parks as an Auto Service Worker. He since progressed through the ranks to Auto Mechanic and now SOME.

Prior to 5-Boro, Jose worked at Parks Staten Island and Cunningham Park garages. Jose is currently assigned to the Acquisitions Unit where he plans and inspects new vehicle orders for compliance with City and Parks requirements including for safety and sustainability. Jose also prepares used vehicles for salvage and auction and coordinates this process with DCAS Fleet. Jose was part of Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts and was assigned to locations citywide for several months fixing generators, towing vehicles, and expediting vehicle repairs for critical response and operational units.

Jose graduated from Manhattan Vocational Technical HS with a machinist certification and grew up working on vintage motorcycles with his father in Harlem. He decided to pursue his professional certification as a mechanic with Apex Technical School and gained experience at JP Auto & Moto Works in the Bronx prior to working with Parks.

Jose’s passion for vintage vehicles continues including a 1967 Saab. Jose resides in the Bronx. City service runs in his family including his wife Maria who is a Corrections Officer of 35 years; daughter Iva Marie Morales an NYPD Officer; son-in-law Jimmy Morales an NYPD officer; and his son Joseph Hernandez a sophomore in Hunter College and intern with DOC. Jose also has a dog named Chico.

