

DPW celebrates

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



Latisha Huntley - Supervisor, Street and Alley Cleaning Division

Latisha Huntley started out in DC government at the Department of Public Works in 2000 as an office clerk in Special Operations of Street and Alley Cleaning Division. "I always thought I wanted an office job where I could wear nice clothes," she said. It took just a couple of years before she knew she wanted to get out into the field and moved to a position as a sanitation tech in SADC assisting dump truck drivers. "I was one of the crew getting out of the truck to sweep the alley or rake leaves." Two years later, Huntley got her CDL license and then worked her way up to a supervisor position, a position she has held for the past 15 years. How does she handle overseeing crews of mostly men? By enforcing the rules and earning the crew's respect, she said. "I used to try enforcing rules on everything around me. I learned to focus on the job in front of me."

Kathy Harrison Crews - ROSA Team Coordinator, Parking Enforcement Management

Kathy Harrison-Crews attributes her success as a woman supervisor in a male-dominated workforce to having an open mind, patience, staying humble and strong. "It's easy for someone to take you out of your character," she said. As coordinator of the ROSA team for the past 8 years, Harrison-Crews supervises a team that roams the city overnight to identify vehicles parked on public space that may be in violation of District registration requirements. Whether she's handling irate citizens or irate employees - she has encountered both - her approach is to stand her ground. Starting out with DPW in 1997, she worked for 4 years as an enforcement officer before she became shift coordinator, a position she held for 9 years prior to heading up the ROSA team. Harrison-Crews said she made it part of her job to educate herself about District regulations. "Knowing the regulations gives me support for whatever I'm doing and the leverage I need to stand my ground. I'm not insecure about what I'm doing."



Irene Jordan - Direct Maintenance Repair Manager, Fleet Management Administration

Prior to joining the Fleet management team in 2016, Darlene Mungin worked at PEMA for 13 years as a program support analyst. There are a lot of women in DPW management, Mungin said, and they have helped her succeed. But it was the men on the floor at Fleet - the mechanics and inspectors - who got to know and appreciate her somewhat demanding, but honest and direct style. They convinced her to work at Fleet. "Your office is ready, they would tell me." Fleet maintains the vehicles used in all DC government agencies, except Fire/EMS and MPD. As a budget and finance person at PEMA, Mungin visited Fleet often looking after PEMA vehicles. Now she looks after the Fleet budget and customer service. "When I went to Fleet, I explained I was the same person as before, but now I'm here to manage." So far, she hasn't had to look back. She promised the workforce she would build an inspection booth on the shop floor - a safe, contained, clean office space to help inspectors improve the work flow, and she delivered. She helped increase the amount of preventive maintenance work in the shop to 62 percent, up from 19 percent in the first year she was there.

