



# sanitation

Kathryn Garcia Commissioner

---

## Testimony of Kathryn Garcia, Commissioner

### Oversight Hearing on the New York City Department of Sanitation Snow Plans for the 2017-2018 Snow Season before the New York City Council Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 1:00 P.M.  
250 Broadway, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Committee Room

Good afternoon Chair Reynoso and members of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste. I am Kathryn Garcia, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Sanitation. With me here today is First Deputy Commissioner Steven Costas. I'd like to thank Chair Reynoso and the members of the Committee for this opportunity to discuss with you the Department's Draft Snow Plans and our preparedness for the upcoming snow season.

Our Draft Snow Plans detail the Department's snow-fighting procedures from the onset of precipitation to snow clearing operations after every snowstorm. The Plans identify how we will allocate personnel and equipment resources in each borough and district, the coordination of services among agencies, and customer service protocols. We will consider all comments and recommendations received by elected officials on our draft Plans, and then we will publish the Final Borough Snow Plans on the Department's website by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

During the 2016-2017 snow season, the City received 30.5 inches of snow. I am immensely proud of the dedication and determination with which our employees took on the task of fighting the 11 snow and ice events that occurred during the last snow season.

After every snow season, the Department takes the time to review our response during the previous snow season in an effort to identify our successes, as well as opportunities to continue to improve our planning, preparedness, and response.

As you know last year we invested \$21 million in capital funds to purchase additional snow equipment to more effectively remove snow from narrow streets, especially during storms with accumulations over 12 inches. This includes five (5) additional snow melters purchased this year and distributed across the City.

In total, the Department now has a total of 693 large and small salt spreaders in our snow-fighting fleet. This fleet not only makes us better prepared to respond more

effectively to large snow storms but also improves our ability to respond to ice storms and other types of frozen precipitation where plows alone are ineffective.

This year, the Department will also continue its successful Snow Sectoring initiative, which was expanded citywide during the last snow season. This approach has improved the efficiency of snow fighting operations by dramatically reducing redundant travel miles.

The increased number of small salt spreaders, combined with the expansion of the Snow Sectoring initiative allowed the Department to terminate the Tertiary Plowing Contracts previously used in large snow storms. These streets will continue to be plowed by Department employees and will receive the same high level of service that we have come to expect for all City streets.

Additionally, during the 2016-2017 Snow Season, the Department and DoITT made PlowNYC available in near real-time to the public and software developers through the City's Open Data Portal. For the 2017-2018 season, the data will again be made available during snow events, with plow locations being updated several times per hour.

The Department's snow budget for Fiscal Year 2018 is \$84.1 million. The Department has adequate staffing, with over 6,400 Sanitation Workers available to manage this winter's snow and ice storms including 316 new Sanitation Workers inducted at a ceremony last week. On November 13<sup>th</sup> the Department will begin Night Plow organization by increasing manpower on both night shifts to ensure coverage for snow or winter weather responses as necessary, and will perform a full-scale snow drill rehearsal in late-November.

We also have available at the onset of this snow season more than 340,000 tons of road salt stored at over 42 locations citywide, with contracts in place to deliver an additional 550,000 tons as necessary.

In closing, I want to assure you that snow-fighting is core component of our agency's mission, and the Department's workforce understands that their performance is critical to keeping this City functioning 24/7. The Department is a dynamic agency with excellent staffing levels for this snow season, and I'm confident that the Department's workforce can and will respond quickly and effectively to any major snow event. As we approach the official 2017-2018 snow season, I look forward to your input and suggested comments on our Draft Snow Plans.

My staff and I are now happy to answer your questions.

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 10/25/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KATHRYN GARCIA

Address: DSNY COMMISSIONER

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 125 Worth St - 7th Flr - NY, NY 10013

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

*Appearance Card*

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 10/25/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Costas

Address: DSNY, FDC

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 125 Worth St - 7th Flr - NY, NY 10013

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆