

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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NOVEMBER 5, 2020
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HELD AT: REMOTE HEARING

B E F O R E: ANTONIO REYNOSO, CHAIRPERSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS: JUSTIN L. BRANNAN
FERNANDO CABRERA
MARGARET S. CHIN
ANDREW COHEN
COSTA G. CONSTANTINIDES
CHAIM M. DEUTSCH

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

NICOLE ABIEN (SP?): Committee Counsel

EDWARD GRAYSON: DSNY Department of
Sanitation Acting Commissioner

SALVATORE CERAULO: Director of Bureau of
Cleaning and Collection

GREGORY ANDERSON: Assistant Commissioner
for Policy and External Affairs

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2 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Sargeant
3 Bradley let's just make sure we wait on the
4 streaming.

5 SARGEANT OWEN: Cloud is going.

6 SARGEANT AT ARMS 1: PC is going.

7 SARGEANT AT ARMS 2: Backup is rolling.

8 SARGEANT BRADLEY: Okay, YouTube is on.
9 Sargeant Owen Katowsky you may begin.

10 SARGEANT OWEN KATOWSKY: Good afternoon,
11 and welcome to today's remote New York City Council
12 Hearing of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid
13 Waste Management. At this time would the Council
14 Staff please turn on their video. Please place
15 electronic devices on vibrate or silent. If you wish
16 to submit testimony you may do so at
17 testimony@council.nyc.gov. That is
18 testimony@council.nyc.gov. Thank you, we are ready
19 to begin.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Thank you
21 Sargeant Katowsky. I am gaveling in the hearing
22 (gavel pounding). Thank you for joining our virtual
23 hearing today on New York City Department of
24 Sanitation 2020-2021 Snow Plan. First I would like
25 to acknowledge my colleagues that have joined us

1 today. Um, we have been joined this far by Council
2 Member Chin, Council Member Cohen and Council Member
3 Deutsch. Uhm and I'm going to turn it over to our
4 Committee Counsel to go over some procedural items.
5

6 NICOLE ABIEN (SP?): Thank you. I am
7 Nicole Abien (SP?) counsel to the Committee on
8 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management of the New York
9 City Council. Before we begin, I want to remind
10 everyone that you will be on mute until you are
11 called on to testify then you will be unmuted by the
12 host. I will be calling on panelists to testify.
13 Please listen for your name to be called. I will be
14 periodically announcing who the next panelists will
15 be. We will begin with testimony from the
16 administration. During the hearing, if Council
17 Members would like to ask a question, please use the
18 Zoom raise hand function and I will call on you in
19 order. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Thank you,
21 so again good morning. I am Council Member Antonio
22 Reynoso and I am chair of the Committee on Sanitation
23 and Solid Waste Management, welcome to this oversight
24 hearing about the Department of Sanitation's 2020-
25 2021 draft Snow Plan. Local Law 21 of 2011 requires

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2 DSNY to submit to the Council a snow plowing and
3 removal plan for each borough and to make those plans
4 available to the public on the City's website. This
5 hearing will examine the draft Snow Plans that the
6 Council received from DSNY pursuant to Local Law and
7 the City's readiness for the 2018-2019 snow season,
8 2019-2020 snow season. I know how hard the whole
9 department is working during snow season so I want to
10 thank you all in advance. This year's Snow Hearing
11 is a bit different because we need to understand how
12 DSNY plans to complete snow removal with a reduced
13 workforce. I would like to try to understand how the
14 budge will impact snow operations? Will there be
15 enough DSNY employees to keep our streets and
16 sidewalks clear? I am also interested in household
17 operations by class from outdoor dining and the
18 coordination that any DSNY has done with New York
19 City restaurants to prepare for the upcoming snow
20 season? I look forward to hearing from DSNY and other
21 interested groups and individuals about the draft
22 Snow Plans. Thank you.

23 NICOLE ABIEN: I will now call on members
24 of the administration to testify. Acting Commission
25 Ed Grayson, Director of Bureau of Cleaning and

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3 Collections Sal Ceraulo and Assistant Commission for
4 Policy and External Affairs, Gregory Anderson. I
5 will now deliver the oath to the administration and I
6 will call on each of you individually to record your
7 answer. Please speak loudly and clearly when you
8 answer. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole
9 truth and nothing but the truth before this committee
10 and to respond honestly to Council Member Questions?
11 Acting Commissioner Ed Grayson?

12 EDWARD GRAYSON: I do.

13 NICOLE ABIEN: Director of the Bureau of
14 Cleaning and Collection, Sal Ceraulo?

15 SALVATORE CERAULO: I do.

16 NICOLE ABIEN: I'm sorry, can you repeat
17 that, you didn't pop up.

18 SALVATORE CERAULO: I do.

19 NICOLE ABIEN: Thank you. Assistant
20 Commissioner for Policy and External Affairs, Gregory
21 Anderson?

22 GREGORY ANDERSON: I do.

23 NICOLE ABIEN: Thank you, you may begin
24 when ready.

25 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: I'm sorry,
Acting Commissioner Grayson I just want to

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3 acknowledge that we have also been joined by Council
4 Member Cabrera. Thank you.

5 EDWARD GRAYSON: Good afternoon Chairman
6 Reynoso and members of the Committee on Solid Waste
7 Management and Sanitation. I am Edward Grayson the
8 Acting Commissioner for the New York City Department
9 of Sanitation and I am joined today by Sal Cerualo
10 our ranking tree from the Director of the Bureau and
11 Cleaning and Collection and Gregory Anderson our
12 Assistant Commissioner for Policy and External
13 Affairs. I thank you for this opportunity to discuss
14 with you the department's Snow Draft Plans and our
15 preparedness going into the upcoming 2020-2021 snow
16 season. In accordance to Local Law 28, our Draft Snow
17 Plans outline the framework for the department's snow
18 fighting policies and procedures from planning and
19 preparedness to implementation. The plans identified
20 how we will allocate personnel and equipment,
21 resources to each borough and district. The
22 coordination of services amongst agencies, the
23 customer service protocols. We will consider all
24 comments and recommendations received by elected
25 officials on our draft plans and then we will publish
the Final Borough Snow Plans for the Department on

1 our website by November 15th. While the department's
2 workforce and its vehicles and equipment are mostly
3 visit to the public during winter, the department's
4 preparation and planning process of each year snow
5 season is continuous throughout the year. After each
6 winter snow season, the Department undertakes a
7 review and assessment of its response to all storms
8 during the previous season and makes any operational
9 changes and adjustments where deemed necessarily. As
10 part of our annual assessment, Department Staff
11 review all of our snow routes across the five
12 boroughs and revised them as necessary based on the
13 prior year's experiences and adjusts for any changes
14 such as construction of a new large facility, changes
15 in the traffic pattern or a new street program or
16 programs, open restaurants. So, this year brings new
17 challenges to our snow fighting operations. In
18 September, Mayor De Blasio announced that the City's
19 popular open restaurant's program would extended year
20 round and made permanent. The program, which has
21 enrolled more than 10,500 establishments since its
22 inception in June has allowed New Yorkers to enjoy
23 their neighborhood restaurants safely by dining on
24 the sidewalk or in protected roadway seating areas.
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3 This program has been crucial to the survival of the
4 City's restaurants most of which are small businesses
5 and face an uphill battle for surviving during this
6 difficult time. Since before the Mayor's announcement
7 in September, we have worked closely with the Mayor's
8 Office and the Department of Transportation to plan
9 for snow operations in the context of open
10 restaurants and the roadway set ups. We are
11 confident that we will be able to safely clear snow
12 and ice in this context. Since the beginning of
13 October, the Department has held its annual snow
14 training for front-line sanitation workers and
15 supervisors. In this hands-on training our employees
16 practiced driving real snow routes on City streets
17 with actual snow equipment. This year, it has
18 provided a valuable opportunity to survey the open
19 street restaurant set ups and make any necessary
20 adjustments to our routes, where some streets have
21 narrowed slightly due to the outdoor restaurant
22 furniture and fixtures. On some open restaurant
23 streets, the Department will utilize smaller
24 holsters rather than the large plows and we will also
25 incorporate some of the brining pre-treatment on
certain roadways. We will work with the Department of

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2 Transportation and Small Business Services in the
3 coming weeks to provide additional tips and guidance
4 to restaurant operators as this program moves into
5 the winter season. I ask that all restaurants use
6 common sense when it comes to comfort and the safety
7 of their patrons and employees, ensure that all
8 roadway barriers and structures meet the DOT
9 specifications and guidelines, most particularly the
10 8-foot maximum width for roadway dining. During a
11 DSNY issued snow alert, businesses will be prohibited
12 from seating diners in the roadway area and they
13 should remove security tables and chairs and entirely
14 remove any heaters. In a more significant snowfall,
15 remember that plows push snow to the right and they
16 can do so with significant force. Typically, our
17 plows will push snow against parked cars or on to the
18 curb so restaurants particularly on the ride hand
19 side of the driving lane should be prepared for a
20 winter snow to form alongside their restaurant
21 structures. In advance of significant snow forecast,
22 the city may require restaurants to entirely remove
23 their roadway barriers and structures or consolidate
24 them into a smaller footprint along the curb to
25 facilitate safe travel or effective snow removal. The

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1 City will communicate early and often with business
2 owners in advance of any winter weather forecast to
3 ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities.
4 Properly preparing for snow season, safe and
5 effective equipment is essential for snow fighting.
6 The Department performed a record of maintenance on
7 all snow-related equipment and upgrades the equipment
8 as necessary. The Department also ensures that it has
9 adequate equipment, parts and supplies to carry out
10 our snow plans including salt, calcium chloride and
11 brine as well as snow-chains and plow weights.
12 Additionally, as a result of our prior investment
13 into the updated plow NYC and other GPS technology,
14 the Department's snow plow data continues to be made
15 available in real time during snow event with plow
16 locations being updated several times per hour.
17 Employing this frequent automation allows the
18 Department to identify challenges in neighborhoods
19 where the condition are detrimental so we can re-
20 allocate resources to those areas that need them the
21 most. The Department holds winter operations
22 training for sanitation workers from September
23 through December each year. Training includes
24 further operations, attachment of plows and chains,
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1 use of two-way radios and the use of our Magellan
2 return route navigation systems. We also conduct a
3 full scale mock snow drill once the night plow season
4 begins to get everyone in snow motor. The important
5 exercise involves all the Department Divisions
6 including both operational, administrative functions.
7 During night plow operations, the Department
8 increases staffing on night shifts to ensure
9 sufficient coverage for snow or other winter weather.
10 This year, the night plow season began last week,
11 actually on October 26 and will end the first Monday
12 in April. As you know, the Department has
13 historically used road salt in combination with
14 calcium chloride to treat roadways during winter
15 weather. During a 2018-2019 snow season, we began
16 testing the use of salt brine in a liquid form as a
17 pre-treatment to inhibit the accumulation of snow and
18 ice on roadways. Last year, the Department expanded
19 this program to all five boroughs for a pre-treatment
20 of certain roadways. The sodium brine solution will
21 be used as an anti-icing measure to further help
22 prevent dangerous road conditions in conjunction with
23 our use of rock salt. This year, we have added
24 additional large brine trucks to our fleet.
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1 Increasing our fleet of brine throws to 30 total
2 units. Throughout the duration of a storm, the
3 department field managers constantly monitor roadway
4 conditions, equipment use and variations in weather
5 patterns. Our field officers report this information
6 on an hourly basis back to their respective borough
7 commands which is then relayed to our operations
8 headquarters. Salt spreading operations continue for
9 the duration of snowfall. Once the accumulation
10 becomes greater than 2 inches, the Department deploys
11 its snow plows, plowing operations continue until all
12 the City's traffic lanes are passable. Following
13 completion of all roadways, we begin clearing bike
14 lanes, bus stops, crosswalks and other pedestrian
15 infrastructure. In recent years, the Department has
16 required additional snow equipment to more
17 effectively remove snow from narrow streets, ramps
18 and elevated roadways. Thanks to these investments,
19 the Department now has a total of 705 long and small
20 spreaders, 30 brine trucks, 17 small and 13 large in
21 that 30, 302 front end loaders, 569 SUVs for field
22 officer supervision and 36 snow melters. This fleet
23 not only makes us better prepared to respond more
24 efficiently to large snow storms but also improves
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1 our ability to respond to ice storms and other times
2 of frozen precipitation where plows alone are not
3 effective. The Department's Snow Budget for fiscal
4 year 2021 is \$101.4 million. That is a decrease in
5 \$10 million from our budget in fiscal year 2020. As
6 you are aware, the Snow Budget is determined by a
7 formula set forth in the Charter and is a 5-year
8 rolling average of actual spending in the previous
9 snow seasons. The Department has adequate staffing
10 with 6300 sanitation workers available to manage this
11 winter's snow and ice storms. Due to the hiring
12 freeze and the City's Budget Crisis related to the
13 COVID-19 pandemic, our staffing level is lower than
14 it has been in previous years and about 400 lower
15 than it was this time last year. I remain confident
16 that the Department will rise to the occasion and
17 ensure our streets remain safe and passable during
18 winter weather. We also have available approximately
19 315,000 tons of road salt, stored at our 43 locations
20 citywide with contracts in place to deliver an
21 additional 600,000 tons as necessary. We also have
22 300,000 gallons of calcium chloride stored at 52
23 locations and 66,000 gallons of brine stored at 7
24 locations. The Department makes every effort to
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1 clear snow and ice from the city's highway, streets
2 and bicycle lanes and pedestrian infrastructure as
3 expeditiously as possible but this can be an extended
4 process when persistent or heavy snowfall or is
5 combined with falling temperatures and high wind.
6 Because every storm brings different challenges which
7 impact the speed and accumulation and it impacts our
8 speed in which we are able to clear streets, we ask
9 the public to be patient and allow the Department
10 workers who are performing under tough or often
11 brutal conditions to safely complete their timely
12 tasks and effective wait. The Department's 2020-2021
13 Draft Snow Plans detail our preparedness for this
14 winter season. We are an agency that responds
15 quickly and we are ready for any type of snow event.
16 Snow fighting is a core component of the Department's
17 Mission and I ensure you that our workforce
18 understands that their performance is critical to
19 keeping this state functioning 24/7. On an
20 individual note, I personally have a great deal of
21 first-hand experience in snow fighting. I started as
22 a sanitation worker operating plows and spreaders in
23 the worst conditions and worked my way throughout
24 various positions such as the Assistant Chief of Snow
25

1
2 Operations and our Ranking Chief of Field Operations
3 in our Operations Bureau. We, as we approach the
4 official start of the 2020-2021 season, I am
5 confident that the department's workforce can and
6 will respond quickly and effectively to any major
7 snow event. I look forward to your input and
8 suggested comments on our Draft Snow Plans and I
9 thank you and I am happy to answer your questions
10 along with my team.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Thank you
12 Commissioner Grayson, I appreciate your testimony. I
13 am going to ask only a few questions to allow for my
14 colleagues to ask questions, uhm and so the first
15 question is just we know there have been cuts to the
16 budget and I know you've, you've talked about it in
17 your opening statement to some degree but let's be
18 perfectly honest, the snow doesn't care about
19 budgets, it wants to, to, it needs to be handled and
20 with less workers, equipment, I am very concerned
21 over our ability to handle the next snowstorm in the
22 City of New York and I just want to hear very clearly
23 from you because I think what we want to do is set
24 expectations and the tone for the City of New York to
25 understand that the implications of these cuts are,

1 so can you, to the best of your ability let us know
2 how confident you are in being able to handle a
3 significant snowstorm and remember last year, even an
4 insignificant snowstorm can cripple the City so I
5 just wanted to ask how do you feel? How confident
6 are we with our ability to handle snow?
7

8 EDWARD GRAYSON: That's a great question
9 chair and I think you and your support has always
10 been critical for us and I know you are a big
11 champion of ours, our head count is lower and as I
12 stated in the opening remarks, I'm not going to
13 remain focused on that, we are going in about 400
14 less. To put that in to context though, in heavy
15 snow events or even in small events where we make a
16 major deployment, we split our shifts into two
17 shifts, so that would be somewhere in the
18 neighborhood of I don't know 2-3 active plow
19 operators per district. Now that doesn't mean, when
20 you think about it, alright if its 400 people, cut
21 that in half and then go into two shifts so when you
22 look at that across the 59 community boards and I am
23 not making light of that. I can tell you now Chair
24 that I wish I had 400 more people; however, the
25

1 headcount wasn't tied to the snow program, it was
2 tied to the other programs that were cut.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Okay.

5 EDWARD GRAYSON: So, I am very confident
6 in the men and women of this Department, their
7 dedication, the way that we've been training to
8 prepare for this situation and while I would love to
9 have 6700 sanitation workers again, I have a plan for
10 the 6300 that I have.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Okay, so
12 the snow operation, the number for the snow operation
13 still makes sense. Uhm, the overall budget is cut
14 and of course I still want to make sure that I let
15 the administration know that we need to really have a
16 conversation about the essential services during,
17 even during a financial crisis and really being able
18 to be more thoughtful about where we are cutting and
19 the Department of Sanitation took one of the heaviest
20 cuts in all of the City of New York's Budget. So
21 again, this is mostly for my colleagues and the City
22 of New York there are significant cuts and because of
23 it there is going to be a decline in service and
24 there is no better group of people than the
25 sanitation workers in New York City that are as

1 professional and as high quality as they are but
2 still, a deficit is a deficit. So, the snow laborer
3 program, what do we have to date? How many folks are
4 we ready to deploy? Can I get it by borough if you
5 have it? What we are looking in to or what are we
6 thinking about with the snow laborer program?

8 EDWARD GRAYSON: Chair, I will follow up
9 with you with a borough, by borough breakdown but for
10 now, so what we did this year because of COVID is we
11 actually in order to keep the volunteers who are
12 going to register safe as well as the workforce we
13 changed our registration. Normally, every year the
14 Department solicits for registrations and we
15 basically do an open call, please come to the
16 District, sign up and give us your information.
17 Naturally, in an era or trying to keep everybody
18 safe, everybody who is coming to the District to an
19 online appointment. It has been very successful.
20 We've had in only a few short weeks we've had over
21 900 applications for an appointment and to date we
22 have about a 30% return on that so I feel some of
23 those are future casting appointments because we are
24 being very temporal and time sensitive. We are also
25 being flexible with the volunteer's time, when they

1 can make it, we want to make it as convenient as
2 possible. For every part to make it mutually
3 beneficial but so far, it looks very optimistic. We
4 have over 900 appointments for applications you know
5 to sign up and we have almost 300, we are running
6 about 30% success rate on the applications for now
7 which is good.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Okay,
10 that's, that's good to hear, that's very good to
11 hear. Now I know you mentioned in your opening
12 statement the brine conversation. You know, last
13 year was supposed to be a pilot, just some, what are
14 some quick answer on whether that pilot was
15 successful? From what I understood in different
16 hearings it was and what does that mean? How much
17 more brine are we going to be, how much more brine
18 would be using in our City and then also a big
19 concern in and around the hunt for dining and
20 thinking about brine instead of salt which I think is
21 less invasive, and these are expensive structures
22 that a lot of these restaurants are putting out. So,
23 just want to know how much brine do we have? And
24 whether or not we should be thinking about using
25 brine in heavy commercial districts that have this

1 outdoor dining as to protect their property? Just
2 want to know if that is a conversation you are
3 having? Maybe, something that you are thinking
4 about? So, so please.

5
6 EDWARD GRAYSON: Thank you, it's a great
7 question, so one of the things that we are definitely
8 looking at brine for all of its potentials. Last
9 season as everybody remembers was one of the lowest
10 activity rates, that's why we, that's why when you
11 think about it that's why there was the significant
12 drop in the snow budget because we didn't really have
13 the biggest snow year thankfully. I am knocking on
14 every piece of wood that we could have ever had last
15 year so the expansion of that program and the real-
16 time results, uhm we didn't, we didn't get as much
17 situation, real time knowledge as we would've, only
18 because of a lack of the active pattern, which is a
19 good thing. Also, conversely to that, we are
20 certainly looking at where the outdoor dining is and
21 the use of brine as a pre-treatment but that is the
22 big thing to remember and especially for the members
23 of the panel, brine is in fact that it is a pre-
24 treatment and it is not a bulletproof vest in snow.
25 What it is, is basically giving you a saline solution

1 which is the exact compliment of what the rock salt
2 does only in liquid form first. This way, it gets
3 into the roadway ahead of time and what that does is
4 it suppresses roadway icing and it makes the plowing
5 more effective so that build up of snow has a, let's
6 call it a thin candy shell for real life example. It
7 has a little bit of a delay; however, you have to
8 deploy brine in the right circumstances. For
9 example, New York City gets many rain to snow or snow
10 to rain events. So when the temperature isn't
11 completely in that sweet spot where it is going to be
12 a little bit dry and we are looking at colder ground
13 temps into a dry leading to the precipitation and
14 when it is going to start to snow that's the best
15 situation for us to deploy brine. If it is gone to
16 rain on the front end, that rain would deplete the
17 effectiveness of the brine because with all the added
18 moisture, it just dilutes the concentration that is
19 giving the roadway heat. So, we loved the use of
20 brine and one of the things that are part of our
21 messaging strategy and it is part of a global
22 citywide messaging strategy working with the
23 administration and DOT and small business services
24 and all the various stakeholders is to let these
25

1 restaurants know what we are doing. This way, they
2 can have a plan for how they can also react during a
3 snow storm because we are going to certainly be
4 pushing snow toward them which is one thing that we
5 need them to have that cognizance. In fairness to
6 them, you will hear in other conversations about
7 preparedness. COVID has been in New York since
8 March. We didn't know that we were going to go into
9 a, nobody wanted to go into a winter season with some
10 of the new things, all the way that the great
11 citizens of this town and all the administrators and
12 we have to pivot and grow. So, this is the
13 relatively new and we look for the entire process to
14 be very open, very transparent to what our
15 expectations are and our abilities are and work with
16 all the stakeholders so that they can actually have a
17 plan to how they will pivot in snow because a snow
18 storm in New York City is hard under the best
19 conditions. It is one of the toughest places in the
20 world. That's why people come from other cities and
21 other countries to find out how we do a smaller
22 mobile program in such an amazing dotham. Adding
23 structures in the roadway, adding other things is
24 just another layer and that's why we are identifying,

1 we are very accepting of that challenge. We
2 understand how important it is to have this outdoor
3 dining work for a multitude of reasons to the best
4 that it can but we will not, we are going to keep our
5 eye on the ball of our role as the traction provider
6 and the snow removal people for public safety. We
7 will not fail in that. We are going to need everyone
8 to kind of be cognizant of what is going on so that
9 we can work cohesively together. It's not just
10 Sanitation, it is your help, it's the messaging teams
11 help so that we can get people and I think that our
12 responsibility Chair and what you are getting at and
13 I totally accept that as our agency is to be part of
14 the team of all, all the agencies in the City that
15 say this is a reality, how do we understand that
16 leading into before the first flight? This way we
17 can hit the ground running. That is not to say that
18 we will know all of the answers. We have all
19 certain, and you think about what has happened over
20 the last seven to eight months in the City, how many
21 lessons we are learning in real time because we have
22 never seen some of these things before. With snow
23 removal, we have a very good process, we have a very
24 good plan, we have a well thought out communication
25

1 strategy and we are looking to work with everybody
2 who needs to be in that to basically get the word out
3 of what we expect.
4

5 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Yeah and
6 look and I want to make sure that I talk to the
7 hospitality lines, the Latino lounge and bar and
8 restaurant association and just be able to help in
9 getting some, some standard, some standard across the
10 board, because the last thing I want to do is the
11 snow storms happens, the snow gets pushed over and
12 then I am getting tons of calls from restaurant that
13 snow is on my, destroyed, the Department of
14 Sanitation destroyed my structure, the snow went over
15 the structure. I'm like let's all work together and
16 be I always ask for patience. You know we are all
17 learning about outdoor dining right now and there
18 needs to be some level of understanding and I am
19 hoping that the restaurant industry buys in to that
20 and I am hearing from your testimony and your
21 statement now it seems like you are very conscious of
22 that. I really want to do right by these business
23 owners so I appreciate that. I am going to hold out
24 on any further questions so that I can allow for my
25 colleagues to ask questions. I just want to

1
2 acknowledge that we have been joined by Council
3 Member Constantinides and also Council Member Justin
4 Brannan, so I am going to allow for the Committee
5 Counsel to call on the elected officials as they
6 showed up.

7 NICOLE ABIEN (SP?): Thanks, I will now
8 call on Council Members in the order that have used
9 the Zoom Raise Hand Function. So, first we will hear
10 from Council Member Cohen, followed by Council Member
11 Chin, followed by Council Member Cabrera. Council
12 Member Cohen?

13 ANDREW COHEN: Uhm, thank you very much.
14 Uhm, thank you Chair and it is good to see all my
15 colleagues, good to see you Commissioner. I do
16 appreciate your testimony and I am going to say
17 before I go off topic that I do have a lot of
18 confidence in DSNY you know, you have a good track
19 record of snow removal in my district and I am
20 appreciative of that. So, I want to thank you for
21 that and thank the men and women that do the work.
22 By and large, I always say that in my time in office
23 we really get very few sanitation complaints. DSNY
24 does their job and they do it you know pretty
25 seamlessly that we get very few complaints. I am

1 going to just go off topic first and then I will
2 circle back. I am very concerned about the alternate
3 site parking cuts. You now I have a district, a
4 diverse district and parts of my District received no
5 cuts because you know their ratings were high and
6 they had alternate side, once a week on each side but
7 in high concentrations in my District you now
8 coincidentally, poorer sections of my District, they
9 took a 50% alternate side parking cut and cleaning
10 and it looks filthy. And that's not a reflection of
11 DSNY, you, if you reduce cleaning by 50%, it is going
12 to be 50% dirtier or 100% dirtier. It's really a
13 problem. I don't think it was done in a thoughtful
14 way. Just again, a service cut in the highest entity
15 portions of the District just makes no sense and it
16 is really have an impact on the streets in my
17 District. You know, Community Board 8 in the Bronx
18 and Community Board 7 got a 50% cut. It doesn't make
19 any sense, so I am very concerned about that. There
20 has to be a more thoughtful way that make sure that
21 the parts of the City that need cleaning get it. And
22 again, you know I voted for this Budget and it was
23 one of the most difficult votes I have taken at the
24 City Council but I also see it in overflowing trash
25

1 cans. It has been much harder to manage overflowing
2 trash cans and you know this is the first time really
3 that we have been getting complaints about that with
4 some consistency so I am concerned about that. I
5 just really wanted to go on the record with that.
6 Uhm, regarding snow removal, can you talk a little
7 bit about how time of day impacts you know obviously,
8 I forget exactly when that incident was but we had
9 that terrible incident that coincided with evening
10 rush. Can you talk a little bit about how, the time
11 of day or the different circumstances go into your
12 planning and how adaptable it is?
13

14 EDWARD GRAYSON: Great question and yes,
15 we have very cognizant of November 15, 2018 uhm that
16 was exactly the day that an event that was not
17 completely on the forecasted radar for those amounts
18 hit at the perfect time and it was a really perfect
19 storm so to speak to come at the peak of rush hour, a
20 couple of traffic concerns that have happened that
21 were, you know accident related that had some shut
22 downs and then we found ourselves behind the 8-ball
23 and that has never been our plan and it is certainly
24 not our plan going forward and part of the aftermath
25 of that was that we had explored brine prior to that

1 and then that was really going to be up there and
2 make sure that those critical pretzels and those
3 critical roadways that we saw where there a long jam
4 of traffic and those on and off ramps of specific
5 highways that are prone to icing that we can get
6 there and give a treatment. Specifically, the time
7 of day, that is when we are monitoring the forecast
8 that is one of the biggest planning caveats. Because
9 it helps with our messaging plan and it certainly
10 helps with setting expectations and when we sit, we
11 have three contract weather vendors we also get the
12 direct feed from the National Weather Service through
13 New York City Emergency Management and we have these
14 big calls that are you know across all state calls to
15 other agencies with regard to transportation, public
16 safety and of course naturally the program and time
17 of day always plays in to it. Naturally there are
18 less impactful events where we expect to have more
19 access to be able to cover more ground sooner simply
20 because the traffic wouldn't be there. Clearly rush
21 hour storms are always something that we are on heavy
22 alert about. The interesting thing this year,
23 Councilman and I think you will totally relate is
24 we've all, we have a completely different, while the
25

1 traffic hasn't gone away by any stretch of them
2 means, the thing that we are hoping for this year is
3 that with the number of people that may potentially
4 now have the ability to telecommute will do an
5 alternative plan thanks to what they have already had
6 to adapt to. We are hoping that when the strategy
7 goes out where we ask people to be mindful and to
8 limit travel to only essential travel and following
9 the global messaging plan that they stay off the
10 roads and let the plow plan or the removal plan work
11 its magic then we may have more takers on that this
12 year only because of availability of alternate means
13 to do their job. However, we do remain consistent
14 and completely devoted to the essential workers and
15 the people who do have to come to work every day and
16 have no choice, especially in a New York City that
17 now has this new definition of what is essential.
18 Everybody who was in throughout the pandemic,
19 supermarkets and grocery stores and you know everyday
20 we all redefined what an essential worker is and we
21 are committed to all of those folks.

22
23 ANDREW COHEN: I appreciate that. Thank
24 you Chair.

25

1
2 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Thank you
3 Council Member Cohen and I just want to just followup
4 on one of those questions. Do we have, have you had
5 a conversation about the Mayor about being about
6 maybe mandating through an executive order that
7 vehicles can't move during a snowstorm and so forth.
8 Just said, just wanted to know if those conversations
9 are being had given that we are in crisis and we you
10 know we've been shutting down public transportation
11 and so forth. If it makes the job easier considering
12 the lack of resources that we have, we need, we need,
13 we need every opportunity that we can get to get it
14 right. I just wanted to know if those conversations
15 are being had with the Mayor?

16 EDWARD GRAYSON: Uhm, directly me and the
17 Mayor I have not had that, had that conversation. In
18 the conversations that I've had with the Deputy
19 Mayor's Office and uhm OEM we are talking about what
20 the new messaging strategy will be and what some of
21 the new triggers could be in a post-COVID.
22 Naturally, we all have a lot of unknowns. You know,
23 we have these great questions and they are, and they
24 are great questions about you know, uhm rises in
25 COVID numbers or changes to you know travel orders or

1 you know sheltering orders and those are all very
2 completely legitimate and valid points but all I
3 could commit to you now is we are talking about them,
4 but to answer you chair, I have not directly spoken
5 to the Mayor about that but I am definitely sure that
6 it is in the wheelhouse of our general conversations
7 and we will be speaking as we continue through the
8 season.
9

10 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Thank you.

11 NICOLE ABIEN (SP?): Next, we will hear
12 from Council Member Chin followed by Council Member
13 Cabrera. Council Member Chin?

14 MARGARET CHIN: Thank you. Thank you
15 Chair, thank you uhm Commissioner and to your staff.
16 And it is really good to hear that you are you know
17 preparing well and you have sufficient equipment and
18 you are ready. I just hope that we don't get too
19 much snow but this year, the new thing is the outdoor
20 dining and it is very popular. Uhm, in my District
21 in Lower Manhattan and we have a lot of narrow
22 streets. I just envision the snow piling up which
23 they always do anyway when the plows come through. So
24 I guess my, my question is that, first is that how
25 soon are you going to alert the businesses, you know

1 with the outreach to let them know, you know multiple
2 languages how to prepare if there is a snowstorm. If
3 they have outdoor dining, whether you know their
4 structure is strong enough or if they have to remove
5 it? At least to let them know what the criteria are
6 and let them know early enough. So, when are you
7 going to start doing that? Uhm, in multiple
8 languages? That is one thing. Secondly also in my
9 District fortunately, we have a lot of local business
10 improvement district and I think that is very helpful
11 to coordinate with them because they are the one that
12 is out there early on if there is a snow storm, they
13 are the ones that are cleaning the crosswalk even
14 before you know, they take care of it so sanitation
15 don't have to go deal with it and they can be a great
16 resource to work with the businesses uhm to really
17 compare and the third thing is that once the snow
18 builds up are there ways to working with the BID or
19 sanitation to sort of like remove the snow? Put it
20 somewhere else so that there is possibility of some
21 of these restaurants if they can continue to operate
22 or just not let the snow just pile up there for days
23 and days. If it could be safely removed and put it
24 and store it somewhere else where this way we don't
25

1 see the snow piling up like on many of the streets,
2 especially in the narrow streets.
3

4 EDWARD GRAYSON: Thank you for the
5 questions, they are all very good. As far as
6 messaging, so there is going to be a suite of
7 messaging that goes out uhm because there are
8 different triggers, for example, in the executive
9 order that governs outdoor dining a DSNY issued snow
10 alert ceases the restaurant's ability to serve food
11 outside anymore. So, that's the sensation of their
12 business structure. It doesn't require them to
13 remove the structure but you certainly can't serve,
14 right now the way it is written is that you can't
15 serve food and serve customers outside anymore once
16 we are in a snow alert. So, the real, the real thing
17 behind that is not every, we would be in a snow alert
18 if we expected you know the snow to be plowable uhm
19 and then we would have a different trigger for
20 something where we only expected to possibly using
21 the brining on the front end or only passing the salt
22 spreader. And, our hope is to have that in multiple
23 languages, messaged out within 24 hours advance
24 notice whenever that allows. The challenge for
25 everyone. I am glad that we are talking about this

1 because this brings up a great topic of how hard it
2 is to plan for some of this. That is why the more
3 engagement that we can have now before the season
4 really gets started, the better off we will all be
5 including the business owners and the residents
6 because the truth of the matter is, is that for
7 example, and I hate to reference it because it is
8 that sore point at least from my department I was
9 here for it. The morning of November 15, 2018, we
10 were looking for a slushy coating to an inch and then
11 it became 6 inches of snow because the forecast in
12 the mid-day changed alright and more cold air stayed
13 and the moisture lingered and that was one of the
14 thing and it is not, I don't want to relive that
15 moment but the truth of the matter is the weather is
16 forecasted, so what we need to be able to do is have
17 an open dialogue with the stakeholders, particularly
18 the community organizations and the bids and these
19 restaurants that are struggling to survive and say we
20 are going to tell you as early as possible that we
21 are expecting some level of snow. If it is plowable,
22 we are going to be driving plows through here and we
23 will be pushing snow toward your structure and if it
24 is not plowable, or if it is we are also going to
25

1
2 coming by with this salt product either in liquid
3 form or solid form that we are going to throwing on
4 or about the centerline roadway and near your
5 structure certainly and then at the cessation of a
6 snowfall event where you are going to come out and
7 naturally, if I am a business owner I am going to do
8 what I am supposed to do anyway which is clear the
9 sidewalk and naturally I am going to try to get back
10 in to business and clear some of that snow and more
11 importantly working with them on giving them best
12 tips on how to put that snow somewhere that it
13 doesn't adversely impact their structure or the
14 pedestrians. So, there is a multi-tiered thing. In
15 some of, especially down in your District where the
16 streets are definitely tighter. There is now going
17 to be a competing spatial need where we also have to
18 be cognizant of pedestrians that need to pass and we
19 don't want to block the catch basins because that
20 will make sure that now we are not draining. So,
21 there is a lot, there is a very big caldron of a pot
22 of information that needs to be relayed. So, we are
23 going to do our best Councilmen to try to get that
24 word out through the messaging team. We are working
25 in City Hall, we are working with DOT to make sure

1 that those business that don't have to register, that
2 they are getting that information blast to say hey,
3 this is what's happening and at the local level I can
4 assure you that our District officers are going to be
5 talking to the BIDs, we have a really great
6 relationship with everybody to make sure that they
7 are setting some expectations. That's where we want
8 to be with regard to snow removal. As far as putting
9 it somewhere, it will all depend. There is no, and I
10 don't mean that cavalierly, not a re-event that
11 something is going to stack a ton of snow, so
12 normally when we have a severe snowstorm, you know
13 double digit depths, etc. we are going to a snow
14 removal, complete where we pile it, and then we come
15 back and pick it up, bring in trucks and drive it to
16 a melter location, etc., we have no intention of
17 stopping that. Whether or not the new triggers are
18 advanced because of what we are seeing with outdoor
19 dining, that's still like a work in program and I
20 mean that because I won't know where all the piles
21 will be and how accessible they will be because if
22 the business owners put a huge amount of snow
23 somewhere where I can't get it without hurting you
24 know like this, it is going to be something that is
25

1 literally built in real time. I can assure you that
2 we do intend to have a snow removal program in
3 significant events. We do intend to have messaging
4 that hopefully could be about 24 hours in advance of
5 what we are anticipating doing, whether it just be a
6 spreading operation or whether it is a plowing
7 operation that triggers another you know chain of
8 events, then we have to stop dining, you know seating
9 folks or trying to back down the hatch so to speak on
10 those structures. But we are definitely looking with
11 the local communities and the BIDs, because you said
12 it best, the BIDs are fantastic, they come by, they
13 try to make it nice for everybody and they truly are
14 a partner of ours, out there, we value those
15 relationships very much.

17 MARGARET CHIN: I mean when I was talking
18 about the messaging, I think that is good that you
19 let them know it is 24 hours, but what I am talking
20 about is even before that, like now if you plan is
21 ready let people know that that's what's going to
22 happen. So, they can start preparing now. So, I
23 don't want to get a complaint now you know, we didn't
24 know that they were going to do this. That's why I
25 think as early as possible, to let the community

1 board, the businesses know, this is the plan for snow
2 removal, you will get a 24 hour notice when the snow
3 is forecast but let them know now so it's not like
4 down the road that they hear about it 24 hours, that
5 they didn't know that that was the plan. So, I guess
6 what I am asking for is early notice that once you
7 have your snow plan in place, whatever, that the
8 messaging in different languages needs to go out as
9 soon as possible you know to the electives, the
10 community boards, the BIDs, to the restaurant
11 association, to the restaurants themselves so
12 everybody knows what is coming. I think that will be
13 the best way to prepare and for them to know this is
14 what it is and you had better be prepared for it.

16 EDWARD GRAYSON: Councilman, thank you and
17 my, my media and messaging team will be a little
18 remise because they are still tweaking language but
19 in essence we have a campaign that we are going to
20 start almost in the very immediate future that is
21 exactly that. It is basically, what's your plan,
22 because we have ours so in essence we are going to be
23 doing a lot of messaging both to public groups and
24 community groups. We are basically going to do a
25 thing, because the department thank to Local Law and

1 thanks to this year and every year, we get to publish
2 our plan and we kind of try to set an expectation and
3 these questions and this forum that the council hosts
4 is great because it gives everybody a chance to hear,
5 first hand, where all the stakeholders who care and
6 we are talking about how prepared everybody is. This
7 year, because of all the changes, and because of the
8 realities and we want to make sure particularly in
9 the areas impacted with outdoor dining and just with
10 out spatial concerns that we are saying up front
11 what's your plan, so thank you. It is a great idea
12 and we are working toward that, you will see it
13 shortly.

14
15 MARGARET CHIN: Thank you, thank you for
16 your partnership. Thank you Chair.

17 NICOLE ABIEN (SP?): Next, we will hear
18 from Council Member Cabrera.

19 FERNANDO CABRERA: Thank you so much to
20 the chair and Mr. Chair thank you, you are always so
21 gracious to allow your colleagues to ask question and
22 not wait a whole hour so, and you are very consistent
23 with that so thank you so much, it means a lot. Uhm,
24 Commissioner, welcome, so glad to have an opportunity
25 to ask a couple of questions. I want to echo Council

1
2 Member Cohen's sentiments regarding the good job that
3 we find the Department of Sanitation doing in our
4 District. With the exception of course of that
5 horrible day in November in 2018, I, it seems just
6 like yesterday, forgot it has been that long. I do
7 want to, I do want to ask a followup question that
8 the Chair was asking and the direction that he was
9 going. Can you give us a percentage of lay, of
10 anticipated delay that we are going to have as a
11 result of having less plows, less workers on the
12 road?

13 EDWARD GRAYSON: It's a good question and
14 I think I think that the best that we will certainly
15 have a service going and with regard to this, I want
16 to, I want to frame it so that you can see it
17 contextually. We will be, so our frontline snow
18 operation when it starts snowing are those salt
19 trucks and the brine trucks, they will be out there.
20 Our head count reduction does not impact that. So,
21 our first wave of defense is right out on time, we
22 haven't missed a beat. Our second wave is the plows,
23 and we have a tired plow response plan, so in the end
24 we are going to have plows out in the same
25 expeditious manner that we always would have. Where

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1 we now run out of band width so to speak is toward
2 the tail end of the storm when it comes in to, we get
3 back into traditionally we would have reverted back
4 to some level of collection operations and snow, you
5 know at the end, we would start, so I think that our
6 delay in all fairness, that is, I want to be up
7 front about it and honest because I wish I had 400
8 more people, but I don't have function for them
9 without snow. So, with that in mind, the plan we
10 have is good. Over the last few years when we were
11 hosting the additional head counts because of the
12 organics program and the other programs that didn't
13 make it past this year's budget for, you know for
14 cost, uhm, we were able to be a little bit more
15 nimble so when we were done salting and plowing we
16 were done quicker because we had more plows on the
17 front end, don't get me wrong, we had additional
18 plows with those manpower but then we were able to
19 revert back. More conversely prior to the start of
20 snowfall we could have stayed on some of the more
21 routine collection and cleaning functions without
22 pivoting into a total snow. Our plan for this year
23 is to be aggressive with snow but to the point where
24 I may be on snow operations longer than your
25

1 constituents have seen in the past and therefore, I
2 may have collection delays. I may not be able to
3 pivot back. So, when I think of a delay for this
4 snow season on the front end, it will be on what
5 happens immediately in the shift or two after snow
6 and how fast we can pivot back to also getting some
7 garbage, also getting some recycling. It could also.

9 FERNANDO CABRERA: Can you give me,
10 because I don't want to be long but can you give me
11 like a percentage related to delay? Do you do
12 analytic studies and do you have models that show how
13 much slower it is going to be? Do you guys have like
14 a software that gives you that type of estimate or is
15 it pretty much through experience?

16 EDWARD GRAYSON: It is usually, and, and
17 there are some models and some forecasting that we
18 can do. The truth is that on a traditional salt
19 spreading event, that may, where we don't have to
20 deploy a full plow deployment and we are not doing
21 residual passes because you know heavy plow storm we
22 may have to go down the same block four or five
23 different times just to make sure that we have a
24 passable roadway. On a street one and done, we have
25 treated the roadway, we are going to get some warming

1 depending on the time or day, we may, it may cost us
2 a shift, whereas we may have a one shift delay.
3 Really, it could be as little as an 8-hour delay from
4 where we would be typically on the similar
5 circumstances and that would be categorically,
6 because we fight the snow in real time, we want to be
7 prepared, we do a citywide response, so we may have a
8 one shift delay from where we would normally be on an
9 insignificant event. On a significant event. Go
10 ahead.
11

12 FERNANDO CABRERA: I'm sorry
13 Commissioner. Uhm, and how does that play into the
14 potential attrition, I would imagine between now and
15 the end of the February you are going to have more
16 people retiring, I would imagine there is a freeze
17 also and therefore you are not going to be able to
18 re-hire so are we looking for 400 going to 500? What
19 are you anticipating?

20 EDWARD GRAYSON: Uhm so we are, we do
21 have forecast attrition in there and there is a
22 little bit of bandwidth to get it. Because our
23 budget headcount, we are about 6300. We are looking
24 to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 6200, so our
25 plan is on a 6200 headcount around there, so we still

1 have a little bit of play of there when we get there.
2 We are aware of attrition. Typically, in winter for
3 us we see a slower trend. Normally, just being an
4 ex-uniform employee responder if you are going to
5 retire, you will retire before winter not, not
6 during. It's just, that just the way if you are
7 thinking of going, you don't want to see a single
8 flight by the time you are done.
9

10 FERNANDO CABRERA: Right.

11 EDWARD GRAYSON: But in fairness, we have
12 some play left uhm and I don't mean to say cavalierly
13 but there is a little bit of bandwidth left to where
14 our planned headcount is supposed to be. We will get
15 there throughout the winter but I can assure you we
16 are talking with OMB about that. They are aware of
17 the numbers, we look at it constantly and we do have
18 an open ear despite hiring freezes. People are
19 cognizant of how important we are and we are
20 certainly having those discussions ongoing.

21 FERNANDO CABRERA: And the last thing is
22 more of a comment/suggestion actually and that is
23 when we are anticipating heavy snowstorm can we have
24 some kind of plows or for that matter tow trucks at
25 the GW Bridge. Last time, from what I remember the

1
2 Commissioner mentioned that part of the problem is
3 the City ended up having a traffic heart attack
4 because of the accidents that took place at the GW
5 Bridge which is non-conceivable especially on the
6 upper deck because it tends to freeze faster right?
7 Because it is suspended in air, the bridge. So, but
8 it took hours uhm and hours to get that type of help
9 to be able to get you know those who needed to get
10 out of the City which were causing a jam in the
11 Deegan, and I am right next to the Deegan and let me
12 tell you the Bronx was just immoveable. And so, it
13 is just a suggestion and with that I will give it
14 back to the Chair. I wish you the best with this
15 winter, the forecast is that we are going to have
16 more snow than ever so that's what I heard and I
17 guess those of us who have faith will be saying a
18 prayer or less no. But we can ...

19 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Council
20 Member you got to be careful, we don't want you
21 speaking that into existence. You got to cut that
22 out, cut that.

23 FERNANDO CABRERA: But we need the water,
24 right? We need the. Alrighty so let me check out,
25

2 thank you for the time uhm Mr. Chair, always
3 wonderful to be with Committee.

4 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Thank you
5 Council Member, I got a couple of, uhm, are there any
6 other Council Members that are in, are in order to
7 speak Committee Counsel?

8 NICOLE ABIEN (SP?): Uhm, no one has used
9 the Zoom Raise Hand Function. If they want to, they
10 should now.

11 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Yes, so
12 just a very quickly, electric vehicles, uhm you know,
13 if you know anything about me you know we are in a
14 climate crisis. We are in a time where we want to
15 move away from fossil fuels and you know our trucks
16 are heavy, our trucks are going to consume
17 significant amounts of gas, uhm, we were supposed to
18 have some type of new testing being done in a garbage
19 truck. I just want to, it's a, everyone, everyone
20 cares about where we are with the electric truck. So
21 please let us know that we are going to buy you know
22 2,000 electric trucks? Like what's happening, talk
23 to me Commissioner?

24 EDWARD GRAYSON: So, right now we are
25 testing. We are still testing and we have and its

1
2 planned to go out and run its paces on some
3 collection routes in Brooklyn and in some other areas
4 of the City but we are going in Brooklyn. It needs
5 to be close to its charging source.

6 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: North
7 Brooklyn?

8 EDWARD GRAYSON: Yes.

9 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Yes.

10 EDWARD GRAYSON: Very close to where you
11 are sir. Uhm, so we should have. I would love to push
12 out a campaign and I have a lot of trash nerds in
13 north Brooklyn that care deeply about this if you
14 know if you had a hashtag so people could take a
15 picture of it if they see it and if there is some way
16 to do a pro... make it exciting if you can but I would
17 love for it to be something that I can, I can help
18 with. I know I have a bunch of other trash nerds or
19 trash members that would love to push this out. Uhm
20 but I, when can we see it on the street? When are
21 you thinking?

22 EDWARD GRAYSON: Uhm, we, it's suppose to
23 be out on the initial testing by the end of this
24 month. So, I will and I will definitely followup
25 with you on the exact date that we deploy because

1 there will be a team of people both the DSNY and the
2 manufacturer who are following the truck, so we are
3 going to make a spectacle out of it because we are
4 also excited about what the potential can be. Our
5 main goal is to see how well, look, I think that
6 eventually, we are going to see an expanded fleet in
7 our, especially in DSNY of much more electric use, I
8 definitely see that coming. I think it is great
9 technology. Our main concern too and we are also
10 going to be look for, especially now, so here we are,
11 we are having our snow preparedness hearing, we are
12 very excited about the use of the truck to see where
13 it goes. We are also excited to see the battery
14 life, because as you know, you know, the reliance
15 that we have on fuel because in certain situations,
16 typically snow our trucks now have to run extended
17 hours and we need to make sure that we have a you
18 know a battery solution that is cognizant to that or
19 at least understand how we can incorporate the use of
20 electric vehicles into our overall snow plan always
21 having a fallback position so that we can stay mobile
22 as needed for no matter what the duration of the
23 snowfall event is. But it is an exciting time for
24 the department. We have electric broom that we have
25

1
2 piloting, we have an electric garbage truck. These
3 are great things and I will definitely keep you
4 posted on where we are.

5 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: I
6 appreciate that and I am excited to see. If you
7 could show us the route, I will promote the route on
8 Twitter, on Facebook, everywhere can. I am pretty
9 sure you will have folks outside waiting for it to
10 pass by. Now, speaking of electric vehicles, I want
11 to talk about a big issue in the City that we have
12 been trying to deal with is the cleaning of bike
13 lanes after snowstorms and how we get it that the
14 emergency vehicles have to move through and we have
15 to make sure that we take care of our roads first,
16 but there has to be a better way to handle the bike
17 situation. These bicycle lanes, they fill with snow
18 for weeks in some cases. And I just, I just don't
19 know if we've found the solution to it or whether or
20 not it is a priority I know right now given the
21 crisis that we have financially that you know we
22 can't be investing in new things but I just really
23 want to do as much as I can to let you know that we
24 need to find a solution for cleaning snow in these
25 bike lanes.

1
2 EDWARD GRAYSON: Chair, I couldn't agree
3 with you more and I know that when you worked with my
4 predecessor there was, there was a dialogue and we
5 have a dialogue with DOT and we have a dialogue with
6 City Hall about where we are going to go be as, as
7 bike lanes expand and we all are very cognizant now
8 of this year particularly will be a year where we can
9 further evaluation, we can clearly pivot to try to
10 get to these bike lanes as fast as humanly possible
11 for us with the smaller equipment. Every bike lane
12 that fits us, we are going to go. Our looking
13 forward, where our concerns are is the bike lanes as
14 they expand the program they can't be as wide as they
15 would be to host even one of our smaller plows, what
16 piece of equipment are we going to be able to get in
17 there? We are very anxious to know what that is and
18 how fast we can implement. For this year, we have a
19 plan for the bike lanes that are out there and we
20 recognize more than ever that the way people have
21 traveled in the wake of COVID has changed and a lot
22 more people are relying on bikes because they want to
23 be out in fresh air and that this year, they may even
24 be willing to brave the cold and brave other elements
25 because they value the fresh air that they can be in

1 in that exposure versus getting in to mass transit or
2 whatever. We are cognizant of that and we appreciate
3 your partnership, we appreciate your help and
4 support. We are working with DOT and we are looking
5 at those routes, looking at those lanes to see what
6 are the right pieces and we are going to be committed
7 to come up with a plan to make sure that we can get
8 there. For this year, we have the fleet that we have
9 as you said. We didn't do an expansion of those
10 smaller tractors or anything else but we have a good
11 number of holsters, we know where the bike lanes are,
12 we are going to get in there with everything that
13 fits and we are going to do everything that we can to
14 keep as many bike lanes free and clear of snow and
15 ice as soon as we finish our plowing operation, like
16 immediately right after for the primary roads to make
17 sure that we give that opportunity for people to get
18 back out biking.

20 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Okay. And
21 I just want you to be conscious and I appreciate
22 that, it shows that you guys are having the right
23 conversations and it isn't a subject that is not
24 being paid attention to. Uhm, you know whoever wins
25 this election, uhm, hopefully we will find out by

1 Friday, there could be a significant amount of money
2 coming into the State and the City for a lot of the
3 relief that we would need and so I'm hoping that DSNY
4 gets a significant amount of that and that we can one
5 get the 411 workers or any workers that were cut back
6 into the Department of Sanitation so that we can be
7 at full capacity but when it comes to the equipment
8 that we buy that we think about the new alternative
9 to traveling as we want to limit single use vehicles
10 in the City. It doesn't help. We are doing more
11 cycling so maybe we should be putting more of our
12 money into buying equipment that is specific for
13 thinner or smaller lanes and it will solve other
14 problems, right now we can't do bicycling in certain
15 areas because it has to be a certain width. If we
16 buy smaller vehicles, the opportunity to put more
17 bike lanes would expand as well so it solves many
18 problems if we could just equipment that makes sense
19 for, for what we are trying to do. So, when that
20 money comes in, we will be having a hearing. So,
21 don't worry about it, we will be having a hearing and
22 I will be asking for this if we get the money. But
23 look, I have a lot of questions that I feel like I've
24 asked for six years now so I feel like I am very well
25

1 acquainted with the operations and the snow plan, I
2 want to I'm going to give you the benefit of the
3 doubt here. You know, I want you to do a good job. I
4 have the utmost faith and confidence in the
5 Department of Sanitation to do a good job and
6 hopefully when and if we get snow we will come back
7 and recap and hopefully it's good news. I have,
8 there is nothing that has happened over my time that
9 makes me feel like that's not going to happen. So, I
10 really appreciate your time. If there are no other
11 members that are going to speak, uhm, Commissioner
12 thank you for your time. Thank you to Mr. Ceraulo,
13 help me out, am I saying that right, Ceraulo?

14
15 SALVATORE CERAULO: Yes, you are Chair
16 Ceraulo.

17 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: There you
18 go. Thank you so much for your time here, we
19 appreciate you all and to all the staff members, I
20 appreciate you as well but I think we are done here.
21 I am ready to bang my fake gavel (gavel pounding).

22 EDWARD GRAYSON: Thank you for the time I
23 really appreciate it.

24

25

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND
2 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

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3 CHAIRPERSON ANTONIO REYNOSO: Thank you,
4 Commissioner. Thank you all. Good job staff and
5 Sargeants.
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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date November 21, 2020