

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

COMMITTEE ON FIRE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HOUSING

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February 9, 2011

Start: 6:00pm

Recess: 7:37pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:

JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS,  
LETITIA JAMES,  
ELIZABETH S. CROWLEY, and  
PETER F. VALLONE, JR.  
Chairpersons

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Lewis A. Fidler  
Council Member Vincent J. Gentile  
Council Member Michael C. Nelson

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

Izzy Tagor  
Representative  
Department of Sanitation

Carl Kruger  
Senator  
New York State Senate

Neil Duncan  
President  
United Canarsie South Civic Association

Ed Jaworski  
President  
Madison-Marine Homecrest Civic Association

Jim Valiotis  
Treasurer  
Marine Park Civic Association

Lynne Palpin  
Resident  
Brooklyn

Rosemary Papor  
Resident  
Marine Park

Zisa Schwartzberg  
Resident  
Kings County

Shawn James  
Resident  
Marine Park

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

Michael Benjamin  
Vice President  
Community District Education Council for School  
District 22

Harold Cohen  
Resident  
Brooklyn

Lillian Zeppler  
Resident  
Jersey Beach

Joseph Garber  
Civic Leader  
Brooklyn/Williamsburg

Steve Brandon  
Resident  
Brooklyn

Paul

John Douglas  
President  
Gerritsen Beach Cares

Joseph Dorritson  
Representative  
Local Civic Association

Robert Malguchi  
President  
Frasier Civic Association

Kevin Peter Carroll  
Democratic State Committeeman and District Leader  
60th Assembly District (Bay Ridge)

Michael Marquez  
Volunteer Ambulance  
Bensonhurst

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

Patel Ashley  
Resident  
Kings Village

Janet Barons  
Secretary  
Gerritsen Beach

Marcos Mazi  
Resident  
New York City

2 [background noise]

3 MALE VOICE: She can start.

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Ready?

5 MALE VOICE: Yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Good evening,  
7 everyone welcome to the joint hearings of the New  
8 York City Council. In fact, this is our seventh  
9 hearing and our last hearing. And I'm, and I'm  
10 happy that we are here to, that we're here in  
11 South Brooklyn. My name is Letitia James, I'm  
12 from Brooklyn, Chair of the Council's Committee on  
13 Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, and joined  
14 - - by my colleagues to my right, Chair of the  
15 Investigation Committee, Council Member Jumaane  
16 Williams, and your Council Member, the one who  
17 demanded that we bring this hearing to South  
18 Brooklyn, you all know him as Council Member Lew  
19 Fidler [applause] Over the past - - my colleague  
20 and I have held a series of hearings regarding the  
21 City's response to the, to the December blizzard.  
22 Through these hearings, we have been bothered by  
23 the immense amount of - - that transpired before,  
24 during and after the blizzard, which caused - - on  
25 of our city's great missteps. I'm proud to note

2 that my colleagues and I are in the process of  
3 developing a variety of legislative policy  
4 proposals to ensure that an event of such poor  
5 preparation in mismanagement never, never again.  
6 Without a doubt many of our policy decisions and  
7 objectives have been colored by the information we  
8 received from the Administration in the past week.  
9 But I think it's worth going today in our final  
10 borough - - hearing on top of - - in the final  
11 weeks of our policy direction, move directly out  
12 of - - at the residential, the subject - -  
13 provided for our communities exactly like this  
14 one. We don't have all the information, and it's  
15 important for us to go to all the boroughs and  
16 hold town hall meetings, so that we know which is  
17 the consistent - - . For example, we've heard  
18 from multiple loved ones of residents who lost  
19 their lives during the blizzard, after not  
20 receiving timely medical attention; in fact, when  
21 we had - - downtown Brooklyn we heard about a  
22 gentleman whose wife died, and her body was stuck  
23 in the car for four days. We heard about that in  
24 Queens and elsewhere. And we've heard about it in  
25 multiple boroughs, who tried to obtain information

through 311, and were not, as a direct result their local community boards, none of which have any idea about preparation or management, in some places they were closed. We heard tales about volunteers who tried to help and couldn't find any direction. And of course many firsthand accounts - - that were being - - . - - added - - go over here to - - I notice that a significant number of streets still have issues, and still have problems with the roads. But I don't want to - - our policy proposals will be missing a vital part of what occurred during the blizzard. For this reason, I am emphasizing that the testimony you provide for us in this hearing, it is an important part of preparing the law and preparing the management of - - ensuring that, but ensuring that which happened during the December blizzard does not happen ever. With that in mind, - - to the public, we want to hear you testify, and look forward to hearing from you shortly. I urge all of you who are interested in testifying, please fill out one of these slips, and hand it over to our Sergeant-at-Arms. In a moment, we will turn the floor over to a representative of the

2 Department of Sanitation, who will share some  
3 brief remarks and will remain at tonight's hearing  
4 to listen to testimony provided by the public.  
5 Let me just say, as I said to Jerry here, how busy  
6 the representative at the Department of  
7 Sanitation, he is an employee, and I'm pretty sure  
8 he's not - - as individual, but it is meant, and  
9 is not intended personally or otherwise. But what  
10 it is, is a castigation, and an indictment of this  
11 Administration for failing to present here, to  
12 produce a representative of Department of  
13 Sanitation that represents South Brooklyn. Every  
14 borough has a borough superintendent, and the  
15 Mayor's, the City of New York should have produced  
16 for this hearing the Superintendent of the Borough  
17 of Brooklyn and/or any manager responsible for  
18 South Brooklyn. The failure of this  
19 Administration to do such, to do that, to me is,  
20 is an indictment of the Administration and the  
21 fact that he has, it's a slap in the face to the  
22 residents of South Brooklyn, to Council Member  
23 Fidler, Council Member Williams, and to, to me as  
24 Chair of this Sanitation Committee. Nonetheless,  
25 we will respect these people, we'll hear from the



2 City, and we will give them time to address it  
3 shortly. I'd like to acknowledge Council Member  
4 Mike Nelson has just joined us, and before we turn  
5 it over to - - I'd just like - - share in the old  
6 remarks, this first begin with Council Member  
7 Jumaane Williams, Chair of Operations and  
8 Investigations.

9 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you  
10 very much, Madam Chair. I want to recognize  
11 Member of your State Senate, Paul Kruger, who's  
12 also here. [applause] I'm going to tell you  
13 something, I actually made, I made some comments  
14 last week - - when she said that parents who are  
15 planning to let their voices be heard, was in fact  
16 - - that the Mayor's management response to this  
17 day, of the December blizzard was an embarrassing  
18 thing. This is the same Mayor who would fire  
19 someone for playing solitaire on the computer  
20 during a New York City - - . To this day, there  
21 have been no formal reprimand, there have been no  
22 firings, there has been no demotion of anyone who  
23 had control, to correct what needed to be  
24 corrected, save one person who had - - . This was  
25 a storm where people died. And these employees

2 that made the huge errors, the huge mistakes, and  
3 no punitive measures have been taken until this,  
4 even until this day. And - - isn't even - - here,  
5 but is not allowed to have a conversation with the  
6 people.

7 FEMALE VOICE: - -

8 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: And this is  
9 what, this is a dis to the value of life of New  
10 York City residents, and another word to use, it's  
11 embarrassing to New York City, for New York State,  
12 for America, this is not democracy. So I would  
13 ask the Mayor, one, to take a civics class,  
14 because he's confused about the history of  
15 America, and to please stay focused on things that  
16 are important, like giving the people of New York  
17 City the feeling that he is accountable for what  
18 happened, and ask him to state - -. Thank you.  
19 [applause]

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: The next  
21 speaker is an individual who represents this  
22 district. Ladies and gentlemen, Council Member  
23 Lew Fidler.

24 [applause]

25 COUNCIL MEMBER LEW FIDLER: I'm

2 going to be brief, because I feel we - - an  
3 opportunity for all of you. I guess I've always  
4 had - - and I think it's a little ironic that our  
5 first attempt to hold this hearing, I was told  
6 that we had ice, and it was pretty bad. And the  
7 response was a little better, a little better. I  
8 think they learned some lessons on December 26th  
9 and days after that. But I want to say this: I  
10 was about ten years old when the great blizzard of  
11 - - and I still remember it. I mean, I'm not as  
12 angry about it today, as I was back then, but I  
13 still remember it. And clearly had this hearing  
14 been held two weeks ago, three weeks ago, we would  
15 not have had enough seats in the house. That  
16 doesn't mean that we're still going to remember  
17 it. As children, we're taught to learn from our  
18 mistakes, so for me, tonight's hearing is for two  
19 reasons. First, so that we can hear you, we  
20 recognize that government does not have a monopoly  
21 on all wisdom. We can hear from you what could be  
22 done better, and try to convince the  
23 administration that that's the way it should be  
24 done in the future. But I'm also okay with people  
25 who came in disgusted - - disgusted and - - with

2 the fact that their tax dollars did not do the  
3 jobs that should've been done and he had to accept  
4 - - or their - - . I know that in my district, we  
5 had people - - who hadn't had garbage pickup for  
6 15 days. We had to beg and plead and bring 20  
7 trucks in from outside of Sanitation District 18  
8 to get garbage picked up. So, we're still doing  
9 that. So, you have something to say, we'll  
10 listen. Understand that our roles here is  
11 oversight, the Administration's role to get the  
12 job done. And I do want to thank Chairman James,  
13 Chairman Williams, and my colleague Mike Nelson  
14 for joining us here today. And I'd, I would like  
15 to, to you know, say to the comments of the Chair  
16 that what the City really should do are local  
17 district superintendents - - tear it all up, it's  
18 not even to answer questions, and I guess he'll  
19 bring back the anger and frustration that you  
20 expressed, you all expressed. But a logical  
21 hearing at this stage would include us being able  
22 to ask our local superintendent, "When did you  
23 tell them we needed more plow? How many more  
24 plows did you tell them you needed? Do you in  
25 fact, did you in fact get the additional plows?

2 How long did it take? Did you adjust to a  
3 schedule for plowing in neighborhoods like - -  
4 school is in recess for the schools that are not  
5 in recess, how parochial schools and yeshivas, to  
6 make sure that those streets are clean as a  
7 priority, 'cause those kids are still going to  
8 school. Do you do that stuff? I don't know what  
9 they're afraid of. I don't know why they're  
10 afraid to let their local, on-the-ground  
11 supervisors come here to testify. And frankly,  
12 it's a disservice. I'm not so worried about the  
13 Bloomberg Administration dissing me. We share  
14 disses back and forth all the time. I'm concerned  
15 that they're dissing you. That's not right. I'm  
16 very disappointed that they're not here to answer  
17 those questions. Some of my colleagues are not  
18 here, in protest, in fact, that they're not here  
19 to answer those questions. So, I, I look forward  
20 to hearing from you tonight, and I know we're  
21 going to continue - - with what you have to say.  
22 Thank you.

23 [applause]

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: - -

25 [background noise]

2 MALE VOICE: Testing, test, one,  
3 two. Excuse me. Mr. - - interested as this. - -  
4 You see plows going around in circles, and you put  
5 two or three onto the ground, I think, how many  
6 people saw that where they lived? And just going  
7 around in the same area. Alright, this is, I  
8 think, one of the most disgusting parts about  
9 this. There was definitely something suspicious  
10 that was going on, essentially it was useless.  
11 New York City - - disease, it's very embarrassing,  
12 really disgusting and disgraceful. And I had a  
13 another - - to qualify what happened. So, I'm  
14 sure the Taliban - - in a cage, I mean, if this  
15 could happen to New York City, snow, I don't know  
16 if snow is, but anyway, the theme of tonight  
17 should be that this doesn't happen again, can't  
18 happen again, and to come out tonight, we really  
19 appreciate your taking the time, thank you, thanks  
20 for that, Mrs., Madam Chairperson.

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.  
22 Thank you. - - Let us begin with Iddy, Izzy  
23 Tagor [phonetic] representing the Department of  
24 Sanitation.

25 MALE VOICE: Itsy [phonetic]

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: - - Izzy.

3 [crosstalk, laughter]

4 IZZY TAGOR: Good evening, Council  
5 Members.

6 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Good evening.

7 IZZY TAGOR: I am - - and I'm here  
8 tonight to represent the Department of Sanitation  
9 on behalf of Commissioner John J. Doherty. I'm  
10 here tonight to listen to the community's concerns  
11 regarding the public response to the December 26th  
12 blizzard. Despite our efforts, our snow plowing  
13 operations did not meet the standards of which New  
14 Yorkers have come to expect from the Department of  
15 Sanitation, which we also have said was not  
16 acceptable. We are continuing to assess the  
17 storm's response with all the other agencies, and  
18 will implement changes necessary to enhance our  
19 interagency coordination, as well as  
20 communications with the public. Some of those  
21 changes already have been implemented during the  
22 past few snowstorms and ice storm. We take pride  
23 in our work. We will continue working to - - the  
24 Department's reputation for being the world's best  
25 snow fighters. I will now listen to your comments

2 and report them all back to the Commissioner  
3 Doherty. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: So, Mr. Tagor,  
5 the first comment I need you to report back to the  
6 Administration that this is a major disappointment  
7 and we are dissatisfied, obviously, with the  
8 response. At the hearings, at the - - in  
9 anticipation of this community town hall meeting,  
10 because at that time we thought that each  
11 borough's superintendent would be before us, so  
12 that we can ask 20 questions. The failure to  
13 produce them remains a slap in the face of the  
14 residents, not only of Brooklyn, South Brooklyn,  
15 but all throughout the City of New York. Please  
16 take that back to the Mayor of the City of New  
17 York, and tell him it's from Letitia James. Thank  
18 you. [applause] First speaker, again  
19 everything's - - some who called, called on me to  
20 hold hearings right after the storm. I believe he  
21 called me to have hearings in the middle of the  
22 storm. Ladies and gentlemen, you know him as the  
23 fighting senator, ladies and gentleman, Senator  
24 Carl Kruger.

25 [applause]



2 CARL KRUGER: Thank you so much,  
3 Madam Chairman, my colleagues in government,  
4 Councilman Nelson as well as my good friend  
5 Jumaane Williams, our newest Councilman,  
6 representing our communities. And to the  
7 Department of Sanitation, thank you for the  
8 company line. Now that we've established that as  
9 the basis, let's go forward. Snowstorms are not a  
10 stranger to New York City. I'm 61 years old, I've  
11 lived as Lew points out, I was only a few years  
12 older than him, and I lived through the Lindsey  
13 snowstorms. And I remember that that was sort of  
14 like the Maginot Line that separated the Lindsey  
15 Administration from any kind of future government  
16 in this City. Lindsey went on to run for  
17 President after the snowstorms, and people were  
18 flying banners across the beaches in, in Miami,  
19 which was the site of one of the first  
20 conventions, "Lindsey means some tsouris," and for  
21 those of you that don't know what tsouris means,  
22 that means that Lindsey meant trouble. Well, you  
23 know what? We saw trouble in the making here in  
24 our December blizzard. And make no mistake if you  
25 go outside tonight, you can still see the mounds

2 that represent not past snowstorms, but rather the  
3 remnants of that blizzard that took place. And  
4 you know, one of our Mayor's once said that God  
5 brought it there and God will take it away. Well,  
6 our tax dollars would mean that we're entitled to  
7 something better than that. And we know that the  
8 Sanitation Department could do better than that.  
9 They chose not to do better than that. And it's  
10 as simple as that. Because when they were all  
11 previous to this storm, they always met the  
12 obligation. Sometimes not to our total  
13 satisfaction, but nevertheless, not to a point of  
14 total malfeasance in office. And that's just what  
15 happened that night. Next day, I was on the phone  
16 with Councilwoman James, on the corner of East  
17 32nd Street and Kings Highway, which is the Beth  
18 Israel Medical Center, Kings Highway Division.  
19 And they were trying to get ambulances onto the  
20 ambulance dock. And they were trying to get food  
21 delivered. And they were trying to get an oxygen  
22 delivery. And they couldn't get down their own  
23 street. And that was not an hour or two after the  
24 storm, that was 24 hours after the storm. And  
25 when I called the office, your office, the

2 Department of Sanitation, I was told, "Oh,  
3 Senator, you know, that's not a priority street."  
4 I said, "But it's the street where our hospital  
5 loading zone is." "Oh my god! I can't believe  
6 it, we must be making a mistake, let me see what  
7 we can do." And then lo and behold, a caravan an  
8 hour later of front end loaders and dump trucks  
9 and sanders and salters, and the street was  
10 cleared in over an hour. You know where Beth  
11 Israel Hospital is because you cleaned there  
12 whenever there was a previous storm. Then I went  
13 to my - - house, and my - - was trying to get a  
14 fuel delivery for their emergency generators. And  
15 I stood on the floor along with the Administration  
16 of my - - while we got the tanker truck to bring  
17 in longer lines, and they were delivering fuel a  
18 block away from the hospital, to feed those  
19 emergency generators. That's a shame, that's a  
20 disgrace. We put ourselves into a position where  
21 we wanted, we want praise that here in the City,  
22 that took the brunt of the terrorist attack, and  
23 we're prepared for any and all emergencies. We  
24 can't even handle a snowstorm. And that's the  
25 message that we're sending out. The arrogance

2 [clapping] the arrogance and the disrespect to  
3 these communities, to communities like Garret's  
4 Beach, Garret's is basically a landlocked  
5 community, with only Garretson Avenue as its only  
6 way in and out, was unserved by the Department  
7 of Sanitation, for seven days after that blizzard.  
8 And that's inexcusable. And quite frankly,  
9 there's got to be something more, because you  
10 always do better. You always do better and you've  
11 done better subsequently. So why that day? Why  
12 that day was there such a total breach of  
13 responsibility? I don't think we'll ever fully  
14 find out. I know that this Council has proposed  
15 numerous bills to try to lasso in the issues  
16 surrounding that day. Councilman Fidler and I,  
17 along with Mike Nelson, toured this district day  
18 after day after that day. I was with Jumaane  
19 Williams all the way down by the markets, down at  
20 the farthest end of my district - - where - - is.  
21 And you know what? Trucks couldn't get through,  
22 streets were impassable. Right around your own  
23 section offices, couldn't get through. Councilman  
24 points out that plows with - - blades, driving  
25 through the streets. I didn't even see that! I

2 didn't see any trucks. I didn't even care if  
3 there was a - - I would hope that somebody would  
4 have the good sense to drop the blade. Why would  
5 starting snowy or the snow is pelting down, no one  
6 could find a salter. I was the Chairman of the  
7 Community Board, Community Board 18, for ten  
8 years, before I was elected to the Senate. We  
9 used to have meetings, it was a snow plan for the  
10 district. There was a snow superintendent. There  
11 were priority streets. We had the opportunity to  
12 review those priority streets and decide if new  
13 ways had to be changed. There were streets that  
14 came about here because there was new development,  
15 and they were going on the different routes. And  
16 there was a plan in place, and that plan was  
17 implemented from the time that the first flake  
18 fell, the snow was dealt with, there was a  
19 priority established. You know, we see these  
20 sites that says, "Snow emergency street." What  
21 does that even mean? What does it even mean?  
22 There are cars still buried in the snow of  
23 December. Now, what we've done, you've done, is  
24 that you said now alternate parking is now in  
25 effect. You try to find a place to park? You try

2 to move a car? And in the interim, the parking  
3 meters have to be fed. I wouldn't mind feeding  
4 the meter if I could get to it. [laughter]  
5 [applause] It's like a - - . So, that's the  
6 arrogance, that's the arrogance that we're dealing  
7 with. We're dealing with an Administration that's  
8 lost touch. What happened the day after the storm  
9 was like a different world, it's like we landed on  
10 another planet. All we had to do was cross the  
11 Brooklyn bridge, same Sanitation Department, you  
12 don't have any more - - today than you had then,  
13 and you're able to do the job, you've proven it  
14 after these storms. You don't have any more  
15 manpower today than you had then, you probably  
16 have less, and you were to handle this storm.  
17 This community, this community does not have mass  
18 transit, this community has been shortchanged its  
19 entire existence. It's at the end of the subway  
20 line, it's at the end of the bus line, it's at the  
21 end of the sewer line, it's at the end of  
22 everybody's line. And you know what? We found  
23 ourselves that we're now also at the end of the  
24 line for the Department of Sanitation. I mean,  
25 you can at least collect our garbage. If you want

2 to do alternate parking, then why don't you get  
3 some of those plows out there and clean those  
4 mounds so that we can park our cars legitimately,  
5 and not make a third lane of traffic. And long  
6 term - - come back to us, we've put back to this -  
7 - the Oversight Chairman is here, the, the  
8 Chairman of the Sanitation Committee, our local  
9 representatives, and explain to them what happened  
10 that day. And most important, but the blame where  
11 the blame belongs, because there's more than  
12 enough blame to share. And the stonewall silence  
13 and the disrespect of this Administration, not  
14 coming forward and attending these hearings, and  
15 not saying that we, you we know that it should  
16 have been better, and we know we can expect that,  
17 and it's our job to do better. You're not doing  
18 the job any different today that you were ever  
19 have to do before. John Doherty was a  
20 Commissioner, left and came back. He's a line  
21 guy. He was a guy that rode those plows, he was a  
22 guy that was on those salters. He was a guy that  
23 knew how to use that screw that they took out of  
24 storage, when nobody even knew how to use that  
25 water screw snow - - . He was the guy that used

2 the melters. We never saw a melter on Broadway,  
3 but if you go to Manhattan, you can find 'em and  
4 they're doing the job. We still have the snow in  
5 front of our houses, we can't get into our  
6 driveways. We can't park and car and we don't get  
7 our garbage collected, and that's December 2010.  
8 This is February 2011. Shame on you. Thank you  
9 very much. [applause]

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you for  
11 all - - and thank you very much, and obviously the  
12 anger has not gone away. The Administration  
13 should know that the anger would simmer somewhat,  
14 but nonetheless it's still inside of people and  
15 your constituents, I'm glad you've come out and  
16 you are a wonderful public servant. Let's give  
17 another round of applause to Senator Kruger.  
18 [applause] - - moderation - - leader, Hayley - -,  
19 please stand. Let's give you a round of applause.  
20 [applause] - - taking care of our business. The  
21 first speaker, and I'd also like to recognize the  
22 mother of Council Member Williams, Jumaane, - - ,  
23 where's momma Williams? Thank you very much  
24 [applause] - - your son is a good son, sometimes.  
25 [laughter] The first speaker is Neil Duncan from



2 the United Canarsie South Civic Association. Mr.  
3 Duncan?

4 NEIL DUNCAN: Okay. Now--

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Duncan?

6 NEIL DUNCAN: Yeah.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I just wanted  
8 to let everyone know that we are - - a number of  
9 speakers, we're going to put you on a clock for  
10 three minutes, make sure your comments are  
11 succinct, to the point, and respectful. I'm sure  
12 that they will be. Mr. Duncan.

13 NEIL DUNCAN: Neil Duncan,  
14 President, United Canarsie South Civic  
15 Association. Like to thank the Council for having  
16 this hearing today. And having me speak. Thank  
17 you. I just want to say that after December 26th,  
18 I lost a lot of faith in the Department of  
19 Sanitation. - - if had down to one of my heatings  
20 [phonetic], I'd pick the last year. I don't know  
21 if you recall, we spoke about different issues in  
22 Sanitation, we always had issues with garbage  
23 collection and so forth. But snow removal was  
24 never a big issue until that day. I as a civic  
25 association president always liaison with the

2 people in the community, and after the December  
3 26th storm I kind of had to keep to myself, 'cause  
4 every time I went outside, I was almost always  
5 abused by residents as to why we weren't dug out  
6 on time in the area that I live. And I had to  
7 make several explanations and excuses. I had  
8 contacted several of my elected officials, the  
9 Councilman was very helpful in the efforts to get  
10 some of the residents and the streets in my area  
11 plowed and snow removed eventually. But one of  
12 the members of the association came up to me at my  
13 last civic meeting, and told me that she had an  
14 issue with one of her grandchildren had a  
15 temperature way above normal. She contacted 911  
16 to get an ambulance, and the ambulance did not  
17 respond. And she tried calling some of her  
18 relatives to come, they couldn't get through, her  
19 street was totally blocked. She eventually called  
20 the local precinct and they were able to park one  
21 block away, walk in, take the baby from her with  
22 her daughter, and rushed over to the, to the  
23 hospital. So, we really thank the 69th Precinct  
24 was involved in that, we're thinking about giving  
25 those officers a commendation at our next civics

2 association meeting. But it was a terrible  
3 travesty. I want to say personally that - - I  
4 have sent in the last three weeks several emails,  
5 voice mails, and text messages to you and I have  
6 not yet gotten a response, because the members are  
7 crying out to get a representative to our civic  
8 association meeting, and I was trying to reach out  
9 to you, to get you to that last meeting we had  
10 this Tuesday. If you can respond to that, we'd  
11 like to have you at our next meeting, so we can  
12 adequately address the failures that evolved  
13 during that last storm, so they don't repeat  
14 themselves. But other than that, I'd just like to  
15 thank everybody else for chipping in trying to  
16 address some of these issues, so they aren't  
17 repeated in the next major storm. Thank you very  
18 much.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
20 Duncan. [applause] Please - - the response is  
21 coming? Thank you. Ed Jaworski, representing the  
22 Madison-Marine Homecrest Civic, followed by Jim  
23 Avonotis [phonetic].

24 ED JAWORSKI: Good evening, I'm Ed  
25 Jaworski, President of the Madison-Marine

2 Homecrest Civic Association. Thank you for still  
3 holding this, this evening's meeting. Last month,  
4 the Manhattan Beach Community Group held a snow  
5 removal - - meeting in collaboration with several  
6 civic groups at the Center Brooklyn. While  
7 December's breakdown of Sanitation and Transit  
8 Services was the focus, attendees were also  
9 mentioning concerns about other agencies. So,  
10 while we appreciate tonight's hearing, please  
11 consider extending this outreach gesture by  
12 holding similar hearings on topics like first, the  
13 operation and need to reform the BSA, and the  
14 impact of the special permanent variance  
15 decisions. Second, longtime building problems,  
16 and ineffective violations by DOB. Since there's  
17 \$150,000 in uncollected funds on just one house a  
18 few blocks from here, I wouldn't be surprised if  
19 there's a billion in outstanding DOB fines  
20 citywide. And third, how about DOB's community  
21 input efforts? And fourth, decision making  
22 efforts of the Department of Education--they just  
23 don't listen. The outrage over the snowstorm and  
24 other issues actually points to a much larger  
25 concern in New York City. That is a lack of trust

2 in officials and agencies. We ask who and what  
3 should we believe? Who do we, where do we find  
4 honestly and ethics? With all due respect to this  
5 panel, there are Council Members who rarely peer  
6 out from behind Mayor's shoulder and - - and pat  
7 him back, and quickly pass all the bills that he  
8 wants. The New York Times had a recent story  
9 noting that the Mayor "has been lucky in that he  
10 has a weak City Council." In discussing the  
11 snowstorm at a civic meeting, I quote Councilman  
12 Nelson, "If anybody thinks that state senator,  
13 congressmen or council member has the power to do  
14 anything except make phone calls or emails or  
15 whatever it is, well you are a freakin' lunatic."  
16 Can we trust Council Members who may hope one day  
17 to have eventual jobs at the Bloomberg  
18 Corporation. What if services like free living  
19 [phonetic] and the City's payroll system, and the  
20 NYPD's copy staff wind up there? And the  
21 Corporation even finds a way to take over the  
22 functions of community boards. If enough fingers  
23 point to Sanitation's performance during the  
24 blizzard, will we see another media executive  
25 appoint a - - Commissioner like at the Department

2 of Education. In the back of my mind, I hear a  
3 sentence from a 1970 protest rock song,  
4 "Something's happening here, what it is ain't  
5 exactly clear." What is clear is that we the  
6 people want to be listened to, we want more public  
7 hearings like I suggested. Ask us what we want  
8 passed, and give us a hint as to who we can trust.  
9 Mike Bloomberg may enjoy exercising control and  
10 want to be known as the greatest Mayor. We want  
11 to enjoy and maintain the character and quality of  
12 our neighborhoods, because we're staying, not  
13 going to Bermuda. Again, thank you. We look  
14 forward to working with you and having all of you  
15 visit again real soon.

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Jaworski,  
17 hold on, everybody wants to respond. Let me just  
18 say I'm on record suing the Mayor a couple of  
19 times, and I don't think you'll ever see me  
20 standing next to him, we will not - - [clapping]

21 ED JAWORSKI: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: I'd like to -  
23 - that, 'cause I've sued the Mayor twice and won  
24 both times, so. [applause] I want to tell you  
25 that, well, actually I probably have, that - -

2 get, so [laughter] I just wanted to make this  
3 comment, because you know, it's one thing to say,  
4 "Oh, you're - - weak City Council." I don't  
5 believe that we do. I think what we have a  
6 charter in this City that is executive centered.  
7 The power of the executive branch in this  
8 covenant, and has not - - Court of Appeals, which  
9 makes it judicial range - - make respect as well,  
10 is overwhelming. Now, I know that we had a  
11 Charter Revision Commission last year, - - asked  
12 that some of those powers be adjusted, because I  
13 do think that the purpose of having a legislative  
14 body should be a check on the powers of the  
15 executive. Our Charter doesn't do that in so many  
16 ways that it's sad. And with the Court of Appeals  
17 rule that the Mayor of the City of New York can  
18 ignore a piece of legislation that the Council has  
19 passed, if he does not think that it's legal, and  
20 - - the Court of Appeals as well, that was a stand  
21 in the wrong direction. So, you know, I would  
22 ask, you know, those who, you know, believe in  
23 checks and balances in government, the next time  
24 we have a Charter Revision Commission, come out,  
25 join that Commission, that the government, the way

2 we govern needs to be changed, in order to empower  
3 a legislative body to be a true check. And, you  
4 know, I'm extremely proud of all those members of  
5 the legislature who voted no on mayoral control of  
6 our schools, some of whom are here. And frankly,  
7 you know, their ability to sit in front of a room  
8 and disrespecting the, of everybody, are not a  
9 member of this school right now. What they are  
10 right now, disregarding the wishes of this  
11 community for how this school building is to be  
12 used, would not be happening if there was  
13 municipal control of the schools as opposed to  
14 mayoral control of the schools - - [applause].

15 ED JAWORSKI: What you said about  
16 the Charter Review, now a lot of folks here, I  
17 know I went to several charter review hearings,  
18 and spoke at them, including the December one that  
19 was done on Land Use out in Flushing. What  
20 happened to all that business? Maybe we need to  
21 hear about what happened to all of that, aside  
22 from time, term limits and all those other lumped  
23 together revisions that went in there, nothing  
24 ever happened.

25 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: You're



2 absolutely right, and let me just say that I'm  
3 going to one-up everybody, because I oppose the  
4 extension of term limits, sued the mayor on - -  
5 [applause] the first mayor who is very  
6 dictatorial, still being in place. But I also  
7 agree with you that we should have hearings. I,  
8 My shared hearings, as all of you in downtown  
9 Brooklyn, because I opposed that arena which  
10 exercise eminent domain and just destroyed my  
11 district. - - [applause] Buildings, DOT,  
12 Department of Education, I'm 100 percent with you,  
13 and I believe sometimes democracy is messy and  
14 loud, and that's the way that it should be.  
15 [applause]

16 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I haven't  
17 sued the Mayor yet, - - time [laughter] but I have  
18 been very talkative, as much as I'm - - including  
19 trying to shut up black folks, and a bunch of  
20 other people. The way he just doesn't listen to  
21 us. And Council - - relevance talk about, which  
22 was the charter, sometimes it gets lost, many of  
23 us, many of us don't understand what it is, they  
24 don't understand - - like that, but we really need  
25 to pay attention, because we have one of the

2 strongest executive branches in the country. The  
3 Mayor has way too much power in the Charter, and  
4 we need to change that, so we can - - to talk  
5 about. All right, and I want to say that we're  
6 going to be putting up a sign for the - - I'll put  
7 up a sign when you have 30 seconds left, just to  
8 let you know. All right, thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And thank you  
10 for your comments, we love these debates. We've  
11 been Council Member Mathieu Eugene. Now  
12 [applause]

13 [background noise]

14 [gavel]

15 COUNCIL MEMBER NELSON: All right.  
16 In context, I just want to say that, yeah, I said,  
17 blaming an elected official, other than the  
18 mayoral, as the - - and his delegates, have the  
19 power that the, mayors, and so on. - - Fidler or  
20 - - you know, we don't have, we can't tell them,  
21 "Move this snow." We can yell, we can tell them,  
22 they don't have to. They do not have to listen to  
23 us. That is the context. Because we don't have  
24 the power. Opposite - - . Power. Let's get that  
25 straight. - - Anyway. That's, that's - - the

2 concepts. Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

4 Next speaker, and we've been joined by Council  
5 Member Mathieu Eugene. Next speaker is Jim  
6 Valedotis. I apologize if I butchered your name.  
7 Please correct.

8 JIM APOLIOLIS: - -

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That bad?

10 Okay, there you go. Representing the Marine Park  
11 Civic Association. Mr. Apoliolis.

12 JIM VALIOTIS: Yes, Jim Valiotis  
13 [phonetic], resident of Marine Park, and Treasurer  
14 of the Marine Park Civic Association. One of the  
15 areas which seem to have gotten, fell through the  
16 cracks because of all the other stuff going on,  
17 was the MTA's response to the snowstorm, and how  
18 they functioned prior to the calamity occurring.  
19 Down here in South Brooklyn, we're known as a two-  
20 fare zone, so basically most of us have to take  
21 buses to trains. It is very hard in finding out  
22 information on what's running and what's not. The  
23 morning of the first snowstorm, a lot of people  
24 were asking in the neighborhood, "Can I get to the  
25 train?" "Is the train running?" "I don't know,

2 I'll try and find out." Through the MTA system,  
3 we were not able to get that information. Also,  
4 it seems like the media doesn't focus well enough  
5 on the trains, the subways, in the city, and the  
6 buses. You hear about metro law, New Jersey  
7 Transit, the Long Island Railroad. And it's hard  
8 to pick up any information regarding the subways.  
9 If something could be impressed upon the MTA to  
10 work with the media better, I could appreciate  
11 that, and I think we would all appreciate that.  
12 Most of the people in the neighborhood did not  
13 know if they could get to work and when they could  
14 get to work. So, I ask about, you know, maybe  
15 somebody could get back to me on that. Right now,  
16 we are in the aftermath of the storms, and  
17 potholes will become a big issue. Some of them  
18 are potholes that are beyond repair, so, I, you  
19 know, can understand about them not being able to  
20 fixed. But if these streets that are beyond  
21 repair, one of them is right here, Fillmore  
22 Avenue. If you head east when you leave here  
23 tonight, you'll see sections of it that are like  
24 craters, as they refer to, like the Moon's  
25 surface. If these streets are not scheduled for

2 milling and paving in the spring, can we please  
3 get them on? Hospital clean up. That was a  
4 problem. Senator Kruger touched base with some of  
5 the issues [bell ring] with the hospitals. My--?  
6 Well, with the hospitals, and it's important that  
7 they're all cleaned. I believe a DOT and Parks  
8 department procedure was put in place after the  
9 storm, to do cleanups around hospitals. Does this  
10 include City hospitals only? Or is it all  
11 hospitals? If it's not all hospitals, it needs to  
12 be all hospitals.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Can you  
14 conclude your remarks, sir?

15 JIM VALIOTIS: I'm sorry?

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Can you  
17 conclude your remarks?

18 JIM VALIOTIS: Okay. One on  
19 sanitation. They're doing a good job, aftermath  
20 now, cleaning up the garbage, trying to keep  
21 abreast with the new snows. There's a lot of  
22 trucks out there. I've seen on more than one  
23 occasion trucks coming down certain blocks, more  
24 than necessary. We may be overkilling the cleanup  
25 at this point, of catching up with garbage. And

2 that's costing us money. And the first thing you  
3 hear Mayor Bloomberg say, well, "We're going to  
4 have to raise more money." How do you raise more  
5 money? By charging us more fees, surcharges,  
6 taxes, and summonses. So, I would appreciate if  
7 maybe you can maybe have someone look at these,  
8 borough people look at the scheduling, 'cause  
9 there are trucks going down blocks that are like  
10 picking up five or six garbage cans.

11 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
12 Valiotis. We are looking into sanitation issues,  
13 also looking at DOT and the potholes, particularly  
14 the building and paving, and want a  
15 recommendation, I know that we are talking about  
16 executive communication of MTA, because a  
17 significant number of buses was, were stuck  
18 because of the blizzard, particularly those  
19 articulated buses. And we do know during this  
20 past storm, they suspended bus operations at an  
21 early hour, so that that would not happen again.  
22 Thank you for your - -

23 FEMALE VOICE: May I make a comment  
24 to that, if you don't mind?

25 MALE VOICE: Not--

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: You were given  
3 a speech--

4 FEMALE VOICE: Yes, I have a  
5 comment on what was just said.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: You'll have  
7 to wait your turn. Just to Jim and anyone else  
8 who lives in my district, there's a particularly  
9 bad street that requires - - or paving, please  
10 call my office, the number is (718) 241-9330,  
11 we'll make sure to put that, because it slipped  
12 through the cracks. And I just want to  
13 acknowledge that we've been joined by Saul Needle,  
14 who is the Chairperson of Community Board 18, and  
15 I see Saul--

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Saul, stand up.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I just saw  
18 him. [applause] - -

19 SAUL NEEDLE: Thank you, - - , I  
20 can't hear. [laughter]

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. Sam  
22 Pierre, from the Mayor's Office of Community,  
23 stand up Sam. Thank you very much. Next speaker  
24 [applause]

25 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I just want

2 to also - - my district, please come to me with  
3 any issues - - the most egregious one I am  
4 planning to meet with the Commissioner to get a  
5 plan of action for my district - -

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: What is your -  
7 -

8 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: (718) 629-  
9 2900, (718) 629-2900.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Council Member  
11 Jumaane Williams, 629-2900, and Council Member Lew  
12 Fidler, 241-9330. Mrs. Lynne - - , followed by  
13 Rosary - - .

14 LYNNE PALPIN: I'm Lynne Palpin  
15 [phonetic], I live in the - - here. And this is a  
16 letter that I sent to the Councilman, Councilman  
17 Fidler, back on January 23rd. I did expect to be  
18 at the meeting on the 26th, my husband was  
19 hospitalized. He was discharged this Friday, on  
20 the 4th. Bilateral knee replacement surgery, he  
21 had just - - So let me read from this. And again,  
22 this is dated January 23rd, it would've been for  
23 the meeting of the 26th. Thank you for your  
24 letter of January 12th in response to my call the  
25 day after the December 26th blizzard. I



2 appreciated your staff's concerning, call back  
3 concerning a message I had left on your machine.  
4 My husband just had surgery on January 19th, and  
5 will be hospitalized for a few more weeks, so I am  
6 unable to attend the hearings. You have my  
7 permission to read from this letter the problems I  
8 encountered the day after the blizzard. I also  
9 had two vacation sick days taken from my time for  
10 not making it into work. Having the  
11 transportation in my neighborhood of the Garretson  
12 Beach/Marine Park area, I would have been in. On  
13 the third day, I made it to work after a four hour  
14 commute by walking a mile to Flatbush Avenue,  
15 where I caught a bus to the junction at - - and  
16 Flatbush Avenues, where I was able to board a  
17 train. It took, normally takes me two hours to  
18 get the Mt. Sinai Hospital where I work, on the  
19 upper east side of Manhattan. I want to reiterate  
20 what the problems were and why I couldn't get to  
21 Manhattan. Commuters were lined up at the bus  
22 stops along Garretson Avenue, waiting for buses  
23 that didn't come, the - - 31 - - . I left home at  
24 6:00 a.m. that day to leave extra time to get in.  
25 I walked to Avenue U and no buses, the B3 were

2 running there, either. Even the Nostrand Avenue  
3 bus, the B44, wasn't running. - - was stuck  
4 outside Marine Park and Avenue U and was told that  
5 it was there since the night of the blizzard. As  
6 a result, plows hadn't gotten the same  
7 thoroughfare to clear the street and traffic kept  
8 backing up since drivers are unaware that a bus  
9 was stuck up ahead. There was no excuse for any  
10 of this. A woman told me that the buses on  
11 Flatbush weren't running either, and I wasn't  
12 about to try and hike down there on an unplowed  
13 road. I spent four hours with going home, going  
14 out again about a half hour later, in failed  
15 attempts to get to the City. And the Q and the B  
16 were, weren't running either, our lifelines to the  
17 City. And again, to go back to a comment that was  
18 made by the gentleman before, on the news on 1010,  
19 [bell ring] if you even called - - my husband and  
20 I, there were not, they were saying slowdowns, bus  
21 slowdowns, transportation slowdowns, but you never  
22 heard them say that these buses were not running.  
23 Period. There was no transportation here. And  
24 that was not said. The Q and the B are lifelines  
25 to the City. As an aside, my street--Okay, that's

2 not important. On the second day after the  
3 blizzard, I ran into the same problems that I  
4 encountered the day before. I even attempted to  
5 call for a taxi, together with some other folks to  
6 take us to the City. But the taxi companies we  
7 tried didn't answer their phones. From home I  
8 tried some others and those each told me there  
9 would be at least a two hour wait. [bell ring]  
10 They were also charging double their usual fares.  
11 I also told Brad of your office about a child on  
12 life support. This is friend of mine, who lives  
13 on Hendrickson Street. Her mother, a retired  
14 teacher, is also in poor health and rarely leaves  
15 her house. Her street hadn't been plowed, which  
16 presented a potentially life threatening situation  
17 for them. Her daughter has round-the-clock who  
18 needed to be able to get to the house. Oxygen and  
19 other life supporting supplies are delivered to  
20 the house weekly to keep her alive. If she  
21 suddenly needed to be hospitalized, an ever  
22 present concern, no ambulance could have gotten to  
23 her. Brad immediately contacted the mother and  
24 worked to resolve this potentially fatal situation  
25 as soon as we hung up. There needs to be a

2 centralized listing of people who are on life  
3 support, pregnant or in frail health so that their  
4 streets are given priority in situations like  
5 these. Other issues I raised are that the bus  
6 shelters are not shoveled out. This is chronic.  
7 So people can stand in them and step from the curb  
8 to the bus safely. It's widespread. Look at  
9 Avenue U, look Garretson Avenue, when the bus  
10 stops at Kings Highway Station, to name a few. I  
11 see parents, they're carrying their children over  
12 icy--

13 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Please, can  
14 you wrap up?

15 LYNNE PALPIN: --I see watery  
16 messes, they could all fall down. It's, it's life  
17 threatening. Why these are not cleared out at  
18 the, at the stations, so people can walk safely.  
19 Why we have to step on blocks of ice to get on and  
20 off the bus. There's no excuse for this, it's  
21 dangerous. - - paths in the area are not shoveled  
22 out, you might find a sidewalk shoveled, but you  
23 get to the curb and it's not shoveled. Well, what  
24 good is that if you can't get from the sidewalk  
25 down to the street and vice versa. The curb cuts

2 off the people in wheelchairs more than anyone.  
3 Forget it, they cannot get through. It's a real  
4 problem.

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Can you  
6 conclude your comments?

7 LYNNE PALPIN: Yeah. So, for  
8 people who use wheelchair, canes, walkers, or who  
9 are blind, it's nearly impossible to get around,  
10 and which we've got to do better. This is New  
11 York, snow is not foreign to us, neither are  
12 snowstorms. We have the equipment, we have the  
13 people to handle that. Teams from the Sanitation  
14 Department should've been out citywide on that  
15 holiday weekend to start preparing the streets  
16 before the blizzard got out of control. There are  
17 plenty of people who are willing and people who  
18 are able to do this essential labor intensive  
19 work, who would've been happy to help and to earn  
20 some income as soon as a call for help would've  
21 been made.

22 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Ms.

23 - - .

24 LYNNE PALPIN: They could have been  
25 supplemented, supplemented the Sanitation

2 Department, who certainly have their hands full  
3 since their staff - -

4 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Ms. - -  
5 thank you very much. Thank you for your--

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.  
7 Rosemary - - , we would like recognize Mr. - -  
8 Council Member from - - are you? Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: This - -  
10 bell for us when we have 30 seconds left, and the  
11 second is when you need to finish up.

12 ROSEMARY PAPOR: Good evening, my  
13 name is Rosemary Papor, I'm a resident of Marine  
14 Park for over 45 years. I have never seen  
15 anything like the - - it was terrible. Not only  
16 was it terrible, the plows weren't put down, it  
17 took days before anybody plowed. Now, where were  
18 you when you weren't plowing? You weren't seen on  
19 the street, where were you? Someone should be  
20 accountable. The way the residents of Marine Park  
21 have to be accountable for the curbside, we must  
22 bring our pails out to the curb, if they're too  
23 far in nobody will touch them; if your garbage  
24 pail covers are too tight, they won't take them  
25 off; if you put more than one pail out, or two,

2 something is said to you. Now we're holding you  
3 responsible. We want to know, where were you?  
4 What was being done? Where were these men who  
5 have shifts? Three shifts of workers. We're  
6 accountable, you should be accountable, for taking  
7 care of this area. Thank you. [applause]

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. - -  
9 representative have a response?

10 MALE VOICE: No.

11 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Okay. Zes  
12 Schess or Schwartz, I apologize. Zisa. Followed  
13 by Shawna James.

14 [background noise]

15 ZISA SCHWARTZBERG: My name is Zisa  
16 Schwartzberg, and I'm nobody. I'm a little  
17 nervous 'cause I'm only used to yelling at one  
18 person at a time, my husband, not all of you.  
19 [laughter] Just please bear with me.

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: You are  
21 somebody.

22 ZISA SCHWARTZBERG: Well, I'm not  
23 anybody, other than someone who believes in--

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: No, you're a  
25 very powerful woman because you have mic for the

2 next few minutes, and all of us are focused on  
3 you.

4 ZISA SCHWARTZBERG: I think you all  
5 need to remember of the people, by the people, and  
6 for the people. And I tend to find out that we  
7 don't. My biggest problem was my husband works at  
8 Kings County Hospital, couldn't get out of his  
9 driveway because cars were triple parked on - -  
10 between East 35th and East 36th, a block away from  
11 the hospital. When I told the Police Department,  
12 they told me, "Don't worry about it," and even the  
13 car is in front of the pump, there were two cars  
14 covering the pump, they told me that they would  
15 break down the windows to get a Fire Department to  
16 be able to put the hoses through the windows of a  
17 car. That's really not the answer I was looking  
18 for. So, of the people, by the people, and for  
19 the people. We've blamed you and when we continue  
20 to blame you and we will blame you for her to  
21 tomorrow. I don't want to blame you anymore. I  
22 want to know what you're going to do to fix it.  
23 How is it going to be better next time? When is  
24 common sense going to take over these guys?  
25 [clapping] You know, I find, I find that



2 supervisors beat their chests. My boss doesn't  
3 know anything about what happens in my office,  
4 because he's too big to walk around. And so are  
5 these guys. They just don't know what's going on.  
6 So, when the guys stacking the crane on the corner  
7 of East 35th Street and Kings Highway and Avenue  
8 M, and he's sat there for a day-and-a-half, and  
9 then actually did switch shifts, there are shifts,  
10 because that crane sat there for a day-and-a-half,  
11 and the guy in there, they switched guys. So the  
12 next day-and-a-half, so that was the early  
13 morning, and then the next day-and-a-half he moved  
14 to East 36th and Avenue M, so I can see them  
15 outside my bedroom window. So, I was just  
16 wondering, weren't they cold sitting there? I  
17 mean, what, what do you do all day in a crane that  
18 doesn't move when there's tons of snow all around?  
19 The other thing I have a problem with is the ten,  
20 15 foot mound of snow where they can push up and  
21 on my corner they're still there. There are no  
22 parking spaces. And yet when I ask, I was asked  
23 to take a look at the, the circle on FUM, it's  
24 called Frasier Square, but it's round. So, so  
25 right around there, there's places for [bell ring]

2 20 cars on either side. Why can't for hospital  
3 use, why can't that be cleaned up? I just, I just  
4 find that people at the top don't know what the  
5 people at the bottom are doing, and I don't know  
6 why. My--they say it's lonely at the top, and I  
7 know why: because they're not around any of the  
8 people who are doing the work. Thank you.  
9 [applause]

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: - - I totally  
11 agree with her and Frasier Square, despite the  
12 fact that it's round, should be shoveled. Shawn  
13 James. We've been joined by Council Member  
14 Vincent Gentile, let's hear it [applause] let's  
15 give a round of applause for Council Member  
16 Gentile. I notice in the back Assembly Member  
17 Maisel so Assembly Member are you hear to testify,  
18 or do you need to catch your breath?

19 ALAN MAISEL: No, I came to listen.

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Okay, very  
21 well. Let's have a round of applause for Assembly  
22 Member Maisel. [applause] Mr. Jennings.

23 SHAWN JAMES: My name is Shawn  
24 James, I live in Marine Park. I want to say it's  
25 disgraceful what Sanitation did, one. I should

2 say what they didn't do. There were buses, there  
3 were buses on Avenue U by Marine Park. Eight  
4 buses Monday morning, sitting there for like 24  
5 hours, could not get by. Avenue U was shut down  
6 to one lane east of exit, for a week. It was a  
7 major thoroughfare for Brooklyn South. They did  
8 not come to my block, East 32nd Street, until  
9 Tuesday morning, plowed in that lot with the plow  
10 up, got stuck on the corner. A few of us tried to  
11 dig him out and he said no.

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I want to give  
13 you more volume.

14 SHAWN JAMES: Okay. That better?  
15 I plowed, - - said no, we couldn't help him  
16 because we weren't Sanitation employees. He got  
17 out of it, after being stuck; halfway down the  
18 block he got stuck again. And about 20 people  
19 helped him. He said he was going to come around  
20 the block, to plow the block; never saw that  
21 driver again - - . I don't understand it.  
22 Wednesday afternoon was the first time we actually  
23 had a plow come down and clean the - - . I think  
24 it's horrible. And then as far as the parks, with  
25 - - itself [bell ring] at Marine Park, there was

2 mounds like eight feet high across Avenue U, and  
3 like I said before, it was down to one lane in  
4 each direction for a solid week before they came  
5 and they cleaned it up. I, I think it was just  
6 horrible, it was disgraceful what Sanitation did.  
7 I got to admit, the second storm, did much better.  
8 The first Christmas storm, totally blew it up.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
10 James, thank you very much. [applause] - - and  
11 will not have to wait on the non-activated, non -  
12 - Brooklyn/Bronx/City of New York, they'd just be  
13 part of the coordination. Michael - - Benjamin,  
14 representing Community District Education Council  
15 for School District No. 22. Mr. Benjamin.  
16 Followed by Mr. Harold Cohen.

17 MICHAEL BENJAMIN: Good evening,  
18 honorable Committee Chairs and Honorable Council  
19 Members. I'm here this evening in my capacity as  
20 the First Vice President of Community District  
21 Education Council for School District 22, which  
22 under Mayoral control oversees public and  
23 intermediate schools. The schools comprising  
24 School District 22 are primarily right here in the  
25 46th Councilmatic District, and IS278 for one of

2 our perfectly wonderful, nurturing and success  
3 schools. By the way of full disclosure, I am a  
4 policy analyst for the City Council, in other  
5 subject areas. But this testimony is provided in  
6 my personal role as community education council  
7 member only. As community education council  
8 members, we are volunteers who advocate for  
9 children and their parents or caregivers, in any  
10 way we can. The failure of the City to adequately  
11 clear the streets of snow and ice caused  
12 incalculable and inordinate stress and danger to  
13 parents, caregivers and school children alike.  
14 The failure were dismal and unacceptable, and  
15 sadly by my observations particularly severe in  
16 every borough other than Manhattan. If the Mayor  
17 were here, I'd simply say, "Your Honor, this is  
18 just not right" [bell ring] "Just not fair and  
19 just plain wrong." But he's not. And many from  
20 the Administration are taking the blame for  
21 failure from the top, to take the needs of  
22 citizens health and safety seriously. The City  
23 apparently tried to deal with this storm on the  
24 cheap, and it backfired in the most Mayor Lindsey-  
25 esque way. So, shame on you. That said, most

2 likely future storms will be dealt with as the  
3 last mini-storm was, with overkill. Some sort of  
4 like makeup storm, an opportunity to get it right.  
5 Well, in my opinion the Administration still  
6 hasn't gotten it right. The streets around here  
7 are still ice slicks in many, many areas, curb  
8 cuts have still not been cleared of ice and snow,  
9 and just this morning, for example, I observed  
10 streets near PS 236 on Avenue U and saw parents  
11 slip sliding away as they attempted to cross the  
12 street. If I may say, the snow and ice are two  
13 damn high. How can curb cuts not be cleared right  
14 after a storm, let alone weeks and weeks later?  
15 December 26th was six weeks ago at the point, and  
16 the ice lingers. The goal is simply [bell ring]  
17 not to clear the blacktop and go home.  
18 Intersections and sidewalks are still unnavigable,  
19 dangers and icy and no one seems to care about  
20 that. The City needs a much more sophisticated  
21 plan than to hope for rain [bell ring] and warm  
22 weather to clear the mess away. And the City  
23 still does not get it. Who lowers the bar such  
24 that we should all be thankful for them clearing  
25 the major streets, but somehow the rest don't

2 matter. It's all part of the same job and as far  
3 as I'm concerned, an awful lot still needs to be  
4 done. And what about member of the disability  
5 community, both students and parents? How dare  
6 government essentially abandon these members of  
7 our community, with outside - - which are to be  
8 cleared by the homeowner [bell ring] and curb cuts  
9 and intersections which are the responsibility of  
10 the City, cleared of ice and snow, we essentially  
11 abandoned [bell ring] that community, isolate and  
12 marginalize them, and that's so very wrong on so  
13 many levels. So a lot still has to be  
14 accomplished but it has to be accomplished this  
15 time, not next time. Curb cuts have to be cleared  
16 immediately in School District 22 and everywhere  
17 else in the City. Everywhere else that the City  
18 has abandoned this critical role, and done this  
19 fastidiously and professionally as they have been  
20 cleared a long time ago in Manhattan. Until this  
21 is accomplished, the City has failed and continues  
22 to fail its citizens. And that's just not  
23 acceptable. Shame on you, Mayor Bloomberg.

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Benjamin. [applause] Mr. - - and - - we will

2 continue to remove the ice at PS 236, and we will  
3 be also doing an examination of the curb cuts in  
4 School District 22. That's - - gentleman, thank  
5 you, we appreciate that. Was that yes?

6 MALE VOICE: Yes, ma'am.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. Mr.  
8 Cohen? After Mr.--After Mr. Cohen, Lillian Zipe--  
9 Zapata, Zapaya?

10 MALE VOICE: Zappa.

11 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Zappa, I  
12 apologize, ma'am.

13 MALE VOICE: And ladies and  
14 gentlemen, please make sure you turn off your cell  
15 phones, - - vibration. Okay, please turn off your  
16 cell phones. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Cohen.

18 HAROLD COHEN: Dear Council  
19 Members, especially Mr. Fidler, pleasure to see  
20 you. There's a very high level of anger and  
21 frustration in this room. If we were not polite,  
22 there would be four letter words hurled at the  
23 Sanitation Department without a stop. We are just  
24 angry. And everybody should know it. And the  
25 Council people do know it, but I don't know



2 whether the Sanitation Department is aware of it.  
3 It is even very possible that they're sitting in  
4 their offices today, laughing their heads off and  
5 saying, "Look at those piles of snow in Brooklyn."  
6 Well we don't need that. I didn't come here to  
7 criticize, I came to offer some suggestions. I  
8 represent the citizens of Brooklyn. I live in  
9 East 35th Street off of Kings Highway. When we  
10 have a snowstorm like we just had, on our street  
11 everybody cleaned off their walk from one end of  
12 Kings Highway all the way to Flatlands Avenue.  
13 Within one day you could walk up the street. We  
14 had one - - sanitation truck with a plow. That  
15 was it. What I wanted to say was, that it affects  
16 the citizens, the walking citizens, not the  
17 automobile citizens, the walking citizens. We got  
18 to go to shop, you can't go out shopping when you  
19 can't cross the corners. The corners of all the  
20 streets need shoveling. There are thousands of  
21 people out of work and nobody had an idea to hire  
22 people to shovel the corners? [applause] Is  
23 there a total lack of ideas in the Department?  
24 Carriages couldn't get across, wheelchairs  
25 couldn't get across, pedestrians couldn't get

2 across. People going to pray in churches and in  
3 synagogues, they couldn't get across. You slip,  
4 you fell, you had to go through the deepest snows,  
5 for what reason? [bell ring] A lack of ideas.  
6 And all those unemployed people, sitting around  
7 waiting for a job, they could've had themselves a  
8 good pocketbook. Nobody thought of it. The other  
9 thing I wanted to mention was, when there's a huge  
10 snowstorm like we just had, and today [beeping]  
11 the predictions for snowstorms are pretty good.  
12 [bell ring] The fact that the - - television - -  
13 move from station to station, they really are on  
14 the ball and really predicting properly. I would  
15 like to suggest that the Department of Sanitation  
16 undertake the thinking on, if there is a huge  
17 snowfall expected, everybody that has a driveway  
18 should have his car in the driveway. Not on the  
19 street. Two cars in your family, two cars in the  
20 driveway. Get 'em in there. So we get all the  
21 cars away from the curb. Now we can send out  
22 plows to eliminate the snow along the curb so the  
23 cars can park. Now only that, you can have  
24 alternate side of the street clearing. One side,  
25 let's say the even sides, park on the left, with

2 the odd sides one day as it is announced, come  
3 down the street and plow, come down the street  
4 with the snow blowers, into the trucks. Get the  
5 snow off the streets. What happened to all the  
6 snow blowers? Did they disappear?

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Cohen, can  
8 you--

9 HAROLD COHEN: That's the way to  
10 get it out, now they're left with all these piles  
11 of snow and no one's going to take them away,  
12 they're going to wait until June when it'll melt  
13 by itself. [laughter]

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Can you  
15 conclude your remarks, Mr. Cohen?

16 HAROLD COHEN: So I think all that  
17 snow that they remove now, you can ask me where to  
18 put it? Well, we can thank all the greenies that  
19 you can't put it in the water anymore, 'cause  
20 they're going to dirty the river. [applause] I  
21 remember, I remember--

22 MALE VOICE: Okay, crazy man.  
23 [laughter]

24 HAROLD COHEN: I remember in 1932  
25 and 1933, they opened up the sewers in the streets

2 and dropped the snow right down there in the  
3 center, [laughter] got rid of it.

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I guess you  
5 don't like the - -

6 HAROLD COHEN: And shovels in those  
7 days, they were like 36 inches wide, and then  
8 moved them.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Cohen, I'm  
10 afraid to ask you about my biplanes. [laughter]

11 HAROLD COHEN: I'm sorry, I don't--

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I'm afraid to  
13 ask you about biplanes, but you need to conclude  
14 your testimony, sir.

15 HAROLD COHEN: One final thing I  
16 wanted to say--

17 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

18 HAROLD COHEN: You can't, you can't  
19 put the snow into the river, but we have Floyd  
20 Bennett Field. Hundreds of acres. Take it out of  
21 there and put the piles into Floyd Bennett Field.  
22 It's not being used in the great part. In the  
23 front parts, where they have the various  
24 activities, fine, but move the snow out, there's  
25 no reason why not.

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you,  
3 thank you, Mr. Cohen.

4 HAROLD COHEN: Thank you.  
5 [applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: - - I just  
7 wanted to add a very embarrassing admission. I've  
8 been a practicing attorney for - - and - -  
9 [laughter] But I happen to tell you, guarantee  
10 you, without knowing the specific instance, there  
11 is at least one person who has slipped and fallen.  
12 On the course of any bad lawsuit would have hired  
13 every person - - sometimes we do not see for the  
14 forest for the trees, in that we will pay that  
15 bill a dozen times over, but if we had done what  
16 Mr. Cohen had just mentioned, went out and hired -  
17 - surplus, - - are still asked for it--

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes!

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: And I  
20 guarantee, slam dunk lawsuit, some - - now six  
21 weeks later, you know, we could've done it. I  
22 mean, it just makes [crosstalk]

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Oh, ideas,  
24 okay. Ms. Lillian--what's your name, ma'am?

25 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: Zeppler.

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Zeppler, you're  
3 on.

4 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: Thank you. I  
5 reside at, on Gartman Place, in Jersey Beach,  
6 which is considered the old section of Jersey  
7 Beach. There are no sidewalks on Gartman Place.  
8 It runs from Abby Court down to Just Court, which  
9 is the end of the water. That opens up into  
10 Jersey Creek. Now, we have parking on one side of  
11 the street all week, and there are no sidewalks so  
12 you have to walk in the runway, where the cars  
13 drive. Last week, we had a fire on Deer Court.  
14 One, one house burned down, the house adjacent to  
15 it burned down. On each side of those two houses,  
16 there were damages made by fire. We've had these  
17 mounds of snow 50 feet high, in a walkway that  
18 cannot accommodate two cars. So, the Sanitation  
19 Department comes eventually on December 29th, and  
20 they [bell ring] clear the street. They put it  
21 all on one side where the cars park. Now you  
22 can't get a fire truck down the street, where four  
23 fire trucks stuck on Garretson Avenue, and  
24 couldn't get down, they had to use smaller trucks  
25 to stop the fire. What kind of mentality is that

2 plows all this snow in one area that you can't  
3 even walk in the street, never mind getting two  
4 cars down the street.

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank god there  
6 was no loss of life.

7 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: - - not, just--

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: We're very  
9 lucky.

10 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: Very lucky in  
11 that respect.

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Very lucky.

13 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: But this is  
14 nonsense that they, they consider the Jersey Beach  
15 area an area they forget about. They started in  
16 the new section [clapping] with starting the snow  
17 plowing.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

19 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: They think they  
20 ended this new section, then they, they turned  
21 around and they told the drivers to go down to  
22 Sheepshead Bay.

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's right!

24 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: The constitution  
25 of Garnet Place, 87 people that reside there are

2 senior citizens, I'm one of them. And I'm  
3 concerned about my health and getting an  
4 ambulance, a fire truck down. Now, per that  
5 incident last week--

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

7 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: --I'm thinking of  
8 selling my house and getting out of the  
9 neighborhood, because that's an unsafe area as far  
10 as I'm concerned.

11 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I would hate  
12 for you to do that. Mr. Teranova, Mr. Pierre, Mr.  
13 Glover, do you think that we could get some  
14 attention to this area, remove the snow  
15 immediately, to prevent a further mishap?

16 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: You want to see a  
17 picture of the scene in front of my house?

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Ma'am, if you  
19 could share your picture with these three  
20 gentlemen--

21 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: Sure, I'd love  
22 to.

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: --present it  
24 and Mr.--and Council Member Fidler would like to  
25 say something.



2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah, and  
3 first of all, I want to thank - - thank - -  
4 [applause, cheers]

5 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: In reference to  
6 that, give them some money. They need \$500.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yes,  
8 already sent. Already sent, - - and I sent in - -

9 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: That's the City,  
10 putting that -- on them.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah.  
12 We're not, I don't think--that's one of those  
13 unintended consequences again. I have a piece of  
14 legislation that will change that.

15 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: Okay.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: No - - the  
17 risk - - the issue as it relates to the courts in  
18 the old part of Garretson Beach, is such that the  
19 streets are narrow and you need to send plows with  
20 smaller trucks and smaller plows. And I know that  
21 the plows did not get to - - Garretson Beach  
22 games, and beyond. And they couldn't actually  
23 send in the regular plows because they, they don't  
24 work on narrow street. I think we even make sure,  
25 and I don't know what your answer is, and I know

2 you had - - right here in front of everybody.

3 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: Scuze me, I  
4 wondered--

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: We need to  
6 know, let me say this, we need to know that  
7 Sanitation has the equipment, and has it  
8 available, for smaller courts in the old  
9 neighborhoods of Garretson Beach, and other  
10 communities like that. Because, you know, to pick  
11 at those - - plow one, 'cause you don't have the  
12 equipment, is just not going to be acceptable.

13 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: I have one more  
14 comment. [clapping]

15 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Go ahead,  
16 ma'am.

17 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: Garretson Avenue,  
18 the whole side of Garretson Avenue is a parked  
19 area.

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

21 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: It runs about  
22 maybe four miles. Why can't they take the snow  
23 and put it up there? Across the street from the  
24 park area.

25 FEMALE VOICE: They used to.

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's - -

3 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: They used to do  
4 that years ago. No problem. No all of the sudden  
5 they don't do it.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: If we can take  
7 that into consideration again, ideas, innovation,  
8 individuals who have been on the ground, know  
9 their communities better than anyone else, I would  
10 urge that we take it into consideration, into  
11 consideration, recommendations of this great  
12 woman. Thank you for your civic responsibilities  
13 and for coming out here today.

14 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: Which one in  
15 particular? [applause] - -

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Ma'am? You - -  
17 [crosstalk]

18 LILLIAN ZEPPLER: I don't know  
19 about that, I'm not promising anything.

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Okay. I want  
21 to recognize that this gentleman, I have a  
22 boyfriend, I want to acknowledge him tonight.  
23 Chief Joe Fox - - let everyone know it's South  
24 Brooklyn, Joe. - - [applause] - - South Brooklyn  
25 know we can't hide anymore, we can't deny it.

2 That's - -

3 MALE VOICE: - - I'm representing  
4 Chief Fox, [crosstalk]

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.  
6 Chief Parks is brilliant. [crosstalk, laughter]

7 MALE VOICE: Thank you for that.

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. - -  
9 Thank you, next speaker Charles Simon, and  
10 followed by - - Chang. Mr. Simon? And  
11 representing the Mayor's Office is Charles Glover  
12 of Brooklyn - - Any complaints, give 'em to Mr.  
13 Glover. No, I'm sorry, I'm sure you're coming  
14 back. - - what you tell them. Mr. Simon, you're  
15 on.

16 CHARLES SIMON: I'm Charles Simon,  
17 I'm a resident of - - . For nine years, this  
18 Administration has screamed about accountability.  
19 That's the one word that it keeps talking about,  
20 accountability, accountability. And I am tired of  
21 this mantra because it seems the accountability  
22 only applies to everyone outside of the executive  
23 branch. [clapping] Their responsibility for what  
24 happened, where is the accountability for your  
25 department that did not do the job. I can tell

2 you, if I had done the equivalent bad job, I  
3 would've been taken out and fired.

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Absolutely.

5 CHARLES SIMON: There would be no  
6 doubt about it, there would be no question, that  
7 would be it. One, two, three, Mr. Simon, you're  
8 gone. You didn't do what you had to do. Not you  
9 personally, your department. It has a  
10 responsibility not just to the City, and not just  
11 to the Department, everybody. People were hurt,  
12 and I have a feeling it was to save money. All of  
13 you, I'm sure you have walked around your  
14 neighborhoods, you see what's there. You  
15 mentioned the school on Avenue U, I can tell you  
16 at 312, just further up Avenue T, there is a mound  
17 right by a school, it's amazing that no one has  
18 gotten hit by a car.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: What's the  
20 address, sir?

21 CHARLES SIMON: 71st Street and  
22 Avenue T. Mr. Fidler, you know that coordinates,  
23 you give to her. With all the warm weather that  
24 we've had, with all the rain, the amount of snow  
25 in this neighborhood is beyond belief. 45 days

2 after the storm, everything is gone except the  
3 December 26 storm. You can tell, just look at the  
4 color, look at the frozen feces, it's there. This  
5 is what happens when things are not done properly.  
6 Yet, a week after the storm my wife and I went  
7 into the City. We were in the Times Square area.  
8 I will tell you right now, you would not even know  
9 that there had been a snowstorm, there wasn't a  
10 hint of snow, not a flake, not even a little  
11 puddle, it was empty. You want to know something,  
12 I count as much as the tourist area. This  
13 neighborhood counts as much as the tourist area.  
14 [applause] Plows, salt spreaders, were not seen.  
15 Not at the beginning. I heard stories of a snow  
16 plow [bell ring] and a woman did ask me if I'd  
17 seen one. Our first week of January, the  
18 Commissioner said he would give an A plus to the  
19 clean up? In what universe is this acceptable?

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Not here.

21 CHARLES SIMON: I expected the  
22 Administration, I expect the supervisors of the  
23 Department of Sanitation, to do what they're paid  
24 to do. Nothing more. I don't want 'em to lose  
25 sleep, they had a job to do. Figure out how to

2 clean the streets, it's not rocket science. Huh.  
3 [bell ring] You know what? Gimme, gimme a couple  
4 more seconds, please.

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
6 Simon, I like your emotion and your passion.

7 CHARLES SIMON: Okay. In terms of  
8 the City Council being weak, before - - the City  
9 Council had a chance last year to take away the  
10 third term, you know, the third term, the  
11 abdication of responsibility. I testified there, I  
12 got to tell you, the City Council blew it on that  
13 one. For whatever their reasons, and they be  
14 legitimate, I'm just one person. They may have  
15 thought that was the best course for the City, but  
16 after eight years of listening to Mayor Bloomberg  
17 and his dictatorial style, I didn't think it was  
18 going to change in the third term. [laughter]  
19 Lastly, the only thing I will say, waiting for  
20 spring does not constitute snow removal.  
21 [laughter, applause]

22 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Simon. [cheers, applause] Very good. Justin  
24 Chan? Justin Chan. Moving on. Mr. Garber.  
25 Frank, Mr. Garber? Frank, to everyone else, Mr.

2 Garber, Steve Brannon. Gentlemen, are you from  
3 the voluntary - -

4 MALE VOICE: - -

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Stand up and  
6 give you a round. Thank you very much.

7 [applause] - - thank you very much, thank you. -  
8 -

9 JOSEPH GARBER: Good - - , good  
10 evening members of the Council, Council Staff,  
11 Sergeant-at-Arms and members of the public. My  
12 name is Joseph Garber, I'm a civic leader from  
13 different vantage points. I'm here today, I live  
14 in Brooklyn, Williamsburg, and I figured I had to  
15 come today. In the Talmud there's a concept,  
16 [Yiddish] the last is the most important. So even  
17 though this might be the last meeting, it's the  
18 most important. Also, coincidentally, this past  
19 Sabbath, we ushered in the new month, the Jewish  
20 month of Adar, and there's a concept of [Yiddish]  
21 when the month of Adar comes, [Yiddish] we engage  
22 in great happy occasions. So let this be a very  
23 good omen that this meeting tonight resulted in  
24 fruitful and positive relationships and better  
25 coordination. Let me quickly summarize some



2 issues. When I left the B44 this evening, I went  
3 through icy snows and curve issues. Councilperson  
4 James.

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

6 JOSEPH GARBER: I'm sure you  
7 couldn't imagine the DSNY could bring the salt.  
8 If we ask them for additional litter baskets, on  
9 Broadway and Marcy, five months ago, that's  
10 flowing over, and I keep on calling BK1, and it's  
11 still flowing over, so you have a mess. So, can't  
12 we get another litter basket on BK1, at Broadway  
13 and Marcy? That's a disgrace. I'll go with this,  
14 I'll call John Doherty 25 times. The bus stops  
15 have not been cleared by DOT, as per charter  
16 mandated function. NYCHA is extremely terrible,  
17 terrible, terrible, terrible, and I can't wait for  
18 the, for the Council Meeting by Rosie Mendez on  
19 Oversight. Now it's going to be a year soon, on  
20 February 11, 20101, I was yelled at by - - general  
21 manager Gloria Fickman [phonetic] of the - -  
22 Authority, because I called her up and told her  
23 that there was an icy patch in front of my  
24 building, and I still have it on tape, and nobody  
25 at NYCHA's done anything about it. Okay. I have

2 to disagree with the Councilman Levin, at the  
3 Brooklyn hearing at the Borough President's  
4 Office, that he tried to downplay the issues of  
5 snow removal in, in his district. He was 100  
6 percent wrong. I still have a problem, the  
7 Department of Parks has not cleaned the school  
8 playground on Lee and Taylor. Okay, - - the Plaza  
9 Bus Terminal--

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Oh where?

11 JOSEPH GARBBER: --which hasn't--  
12 which hasn't--

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Which - - ?  
14 William and Taylor?

15 JOSEPH GARBBER: Lee and Taylor? L-  
16 E-E. Okay? I've called the Brooklyn Parks  
17 Commissioner's Office and the Brooklyn North lady,  
18 and she didn't even return my call. I have a  
19 serious - - Washington Plaza Bus Terminal, which  
20 takes up the whole street between, on Broadway  
21 between Havermeyer and Robling [phonetic] [bell  
22 ring] has a sizeable patch of ice, and even the  
23 bus area has not been cleaned. So I don't know,  
24 being it's the whole periphery belongs to the MTA,  
25 maybe it's not DOT, but--

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Garber, if  
3 you have specific locations, could you provide  
4 them--

5 JOSEPH GARBER: Yes, I do, I do.  
6 Let me continue, please.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Okay, you have  
8 a second--

9 JOSEPH GARBER: There was no  
10 general coordination between garbage collection  
11 and snow removal, and you may, I strongly suggest,  
12 when I started studying public administration and  
13 reading the chief [phonetic] as a teenager in the  
14 '60s, I recall that there were two, that there  
15 were probably 8,000-9,000 sanitation workers, not  
16 including supervisors. I honestly feel we cannot  
17 do more with less at this time.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
19 Garber.

20 JOSEPH GARBER: We have to do more,  
21 we need 2,000 more Sanitation workers.

22 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
23 Garber.

24 JOSEPH GARBER: Thank you. I also  
25 suggest, I also suggest [bell ring] - -

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Garber--

3 JOSEPH GARBER: Wait! You didn't  
4 stop anybody else, if you stop me, I'm going to  
5 sue you. [laughter] Okay? All right, come on,  
6 honey, - -

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Okay.

8 JOSEPH GARBER: All right? I'm  
9 going to end that the Sanitation Department should  
10 consider establishing community councils at the  
11 police department. I think that would bring  
12 members of the community with certain people  
13 banning together to discuss issues.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: All right.

15 JOSEPH GARBER: Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
17 Garber. [applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I just, I  
19 wanted to ask about the Talmudic reasoning and the  
20 last is most important, because those of us who  
21 studied - - now finally understand that when it  
22 came to snow removal, it was because we were - -  
23 [laughter]

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. Mr.  
25 Brandon? Mr. Brandon. Mr. Garber, I wanted to, I

2 rushed you because this is South Brooklyn, we're  
3 [crosstalk] you testified--

4 JOSEPH GARBER: Then I'll go, I'll  
5 go with - -

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I know, Mr.  
7 Garber, I love you. Mr. Garber [crosstalk]  
8 [background noise, laughter] Mr. Brandon.

9 STEVE BRANDON: Okay, my name's  
10 Steve Brandon. The gentleman before this  
11 gentleman spoke, kind of viewed my, you know,  
12 stated my views. But I wondering if there's any  
13 kind of, I know my job is--

14 FEMALE VOICE: Can't hear you!

15 MALE VOICE: Can't hear you!

16 STEVE BRANDON: - - on my job, if  
17 something went wrong, I got penalized, suspended,  
18 even monetarily docked. What happened to all  
19 these characters on the Sanitation Department?  
20 You know, sitting in these, as she said, the  
21 crane, just sitting there for a whole day?  
22 Making--

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Promotion.

24 STEVE BRANDON: Huh?

25 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Promotion.

2 STEVE BRANDON: You know, what goes  
3 on here?

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yeah, Mr.  
5 Brandon, as far as I know, no one has been held  
6 accountable, resulted in one demotion as far as I  
7 know - -

8 STEVE BRANDON: Why not?

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: That's my  
10 question.

11 STEVE BRANDON: Why not?

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: It's an  
13 excellent question. [background noise] Mr.  
14 Teranova, - - question.

15 STEVE BRANDON: I mean, there's no  
16 accountability. Absolutely none. No punishment,  
17 no nothing. On my block, three garbage trucks,  
18 there forever. Then the King Mike said, "Oh,  
19 well, the streets were plowed." [background  
20 noise] Seven--7:00 o'clock that morning, here  
21 comes, "Hey, we got a plow." With this, the plow  
22 was up.

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: King Mike is -  
24 -

25 STEVE BRANDON: Huh? [laughter]

2 [crosstalk] I mean, what are we going to do? Why  
3 can't he be fired. Why can't that, the leprechaun  
4 be fired, Doherty? [laughter] I mean, let's get,  
5 let's get real. You know, it's a lot of crap.  
6 They're not going to change. Mike, Mike, Mike.  
7 You know, you know what it was, let's face it, a  
8 union slowdown, right, a union slowdown. That's  
9 all it was.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Well, Mr.  
11 Brandon, I'm going to say that there's a number of  
12 investigations that are currently both on the  
13 federal and on the local level. This is not the  
14 purpose of, investigation is not, that's not the  
15 purpose and our purview. Law enforcement officers  
16 are looking into it, if in fact there was a  
17 slowdown, I - -

18 STEVE BRANDON: Obviously,  
19 obviously people have to--

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: As soon as the  
21 - - report their findings, I am positive that your  
22 elected officials will report back to you.

23 STEVE BRANDON: Yeah.

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Brandon.

2 STEVE BRANDON: - - elected  
3 officials--

4 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Mr. Brandon,  
5 I want to say that the questions that got posed at  
6 the beginning, I said pretty much the same thing.  
7 This is a Mayor--

8 STEVE BRANDON: You had some good  
9 points.

10 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: This is a  
11 mayor that - - mentioned earlier, who played  
12 solitaire on the computer. During this blizzard,  
13 people died. And no one has been held  
14 accountable.

15 STEVE BRANDON: How about drinking  
16 beer in their car?

17 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: And there's  
18 people who were, they even testified before us,  
19 about all the mistakes, all the errors, and  
20 determined the slowdown, even if there was a  
21 slowdown, there should have been proper  
22 communications so that the Mayor or the Deputy  
23 Mayor understood there was a slowdown, so they  
24 could take appropriate information. We learned  
25 there was no - - response - - maybe they did cause



2 - - they didn't understand the power of Deputy  
3 Mayor of the OEM, to settle the - - . The MTA  
4 came to us unprepared, with no testimony, they  
5 declared they - - so they should've called. All  
6 these errors have been documented, they Mayor  
7 still hasn't gotten around to anyone - -

8 STEVE BRANDON: And you think he  
9 is?

10 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I don't  
11 know.

12 STEVE BRANDON: I think we know  
13 what it was.

14 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: And it's  
15 been elaborated like he said--

16 STEVE BRANDON: The Sanitation  
17 Union's saying, "King Mike, - - "

18 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: It's the  
19 management of New York, New York City, and - -

20 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: The next  
21 speaker is - - from the - - Association. Paul - -  
22 [laughter, crosstalk] I'm sorry, I--I couldn't  
23 read your, your appearance card. It's Paul, it's  
24 Paul.

25 PAUL: I was like, is this is cow?

2 Go, cow, go.

3 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: After Paul it's  
4 Joanne Douglas, from the - -

5 PAUL: We'll carry on, - -

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Sorry, - -

7 PAUL: - - Madam Speaker and  
8 Council people on our Council, welcome - - We hear  
9 this numerous times here what happened, or what  
10 did not happen. I could tell you this, that on  
11 August 3, 201, nobody specific, but also under  
12 this - - of the 63rd Precinct Community Council,  
13 posted national night out [phonetic], and we had  
14 the opportunity to meet Commissioner Doherty at,  
15 in Georgetown Shopping Mall. What I failed to do  
16 that night, when he did come up and give a  
17 proclamation to the community, was ask how many  
18 plows and how many spreaders do we have in the  
19 District. I should've asked that question prior  
20 to that. I know that we've heard community  
21 leaders here, and I stand with them, but I, that's  
22 a question I ask. Are we numbered the correct  
23 way? I know we heard about people staying in  
24 their vehicles. I can tell you this, that on  
25 Avenue U and East 71st Street, a block up from

2 where the gentleman stated, there were nine MTA  
3 buses, and they were stuck, as they were on Avenue  
4 U. Within those buses, there were nine bus  
5 drivers. And I think that the café did very well  
6 that afternoon, because every time a bus driver  
7 got stuck, they shopped in the café. That's  
8 probably one of the only stores that did well  
9 because the other stores you could not get to, if  
10 it was Avenue U, Avenue N, Flatbush Avenue. There  
11 was also a car that was a derelict vehicle that  
12 was stuck on Avenue U and Flatbush Avenue. Well,  
13 it wasn't stuck on Monday and Tuesday, it was  
14 stuck still on Wednesday, at around noontime, when  
15 I finally drove by there. And I said to myself,  
16 why is that vehicle still there, when we have to  
17 now drive two lanes out to now make a right on  
18 Flatbush Avenue? Which is a five lane road at  
19 some areas. So, I asked, and I did this as a  
20 point with the Council, and I feel great respect  
21 here for each one from Councilman Eugene to our  
22 Councilman Fidler, Councilman Gentile, yourself,  
23 the Councilman Jumaane Williams, that you're going  
24 to go back and you guys are fired up with all this  
25 information, you're fired up because you know that

2 in the midst of this, we also had voluntary  
3 ambulance corps.

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

5 PAUL: And you know what? They  
6 worked hard. We should be hiring our voluntary  
7 ambulance corps [applause] I guarantee you, too, -  
8 - Those are the guys that know that whoever - -  
9 also, also, there's the fellow citizens that are  
10 here [bell ring] our fellow civic leaders, even  
11 our senator, you know what, let's get a  
12 proclamation from what he did with our hospitals.  
13 They were heroes. And the heroes came out. The  
14 question is, can we do this every time? And I  
15 guess that's a question I ask you, sir. Is that,  
16 even with the gentleman that did get stuck, the  
17 sanitation workers, I saw a superintendent driving  
18 around. Honestly, I don't think he got any sleep  
19 in District 18, for probably over two weeks. So  
20 I'm not looking at him. But did he [bell ring]  
21 have the equipment. Did he have your back? Did  
22 he have the proper manpower? Because I know that  
23 they were out there. But were they sitting in  
24 their vehicles because the vehicles were stuck, or  
25 was there a slowdown or union thing? You know

2 what? You guys have a lot of work ahead. God  
3 bless you and let's not, let's not let this happen  
4 again.

5 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you. And  
6 that is one of the reasons why [applause] we  
7 wanted the borough superintendents to - - this  
8 hearing, so that he could answer those questions  
9 regarding - - plows and all the equipment in your  
10 district. Councilman Lew Fidler.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: All right,  
12 and - - I, at our first hearing, the questions  
13 that - - raised, - - I still don't have an answer  
14 as to how many plows we asked for, how many we  
15 asked for that we got. I have also since sent a  
16 letter, I know you got it because you didn't use -  
17 - or you get a letter saying, "Got your letter,  
18 thank you, we'll answer you in the future," all  
19 right, about the number of the salt spreaders that  
20 there are in Sanitation 18, which, you know, I  
21 don't want to get anyone in trouble, somebody  
22 works in the - - in the district - - that we had  
23 fewer salt spreaders than we have sectors, and  
24 some of those salt spreaders are assigned to new  
25 division streets. So, how in the world are we

2 going to get salt out on - - in an efficient way  
3 in probably the largest geographic sanitation  
4 district in the City? - - past Nostrand Avenue to  
5 East 108th Street and Canarsie, Kings Highway - -  
6 to the water, if we only have salt spreaders for  
7 the regular streets, plus two for the private  
8 areas, or two of the private areas, how are they  
9 going to have--I'd like you to assist me in  
10 getting a proper answer to that question. Because  
11 frankly, the way the - - is making sure that the  
12 Sanitation Districts in Southern Brooklyn have  
13 adequate equipment, just as they clearly have in  
14 big town Manhattan. [applause]

15 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Because all  
16 sanitation in the districts and - - are not  
17 created equal and so therefore some deserve more  
18 attention than others. Mr. John Douglas,  
19 Garretson Street - - . Mr. Douglas? [applause]  
20 All - - Joseph Garber and Madison-Marie Civic  
21 Association. Mr. Douglas.

22 JOHN DOUGLAS: Good evening, I'm  
23 John Douglas, I'm President of Gerritsen Beach  
24 Cares. And if it wasn't for Council Member Fidler  
25 and Assemblyman Maisel, and Senator Kruger, we

2 would definitely be forgotten, nothing would be  
3 done. As they do say, a picture is worth a 1,000  
4 words. Here's a dead end block, - - no access.  
5 There's an 87 year old man who lives on that  
6 block. God forbid anything happen to him, had to  
7 get to him. The street's completely closed off.  
8 No way to get down there. There are docks down at  
9 the end of that block. If they go on fire, no way  
10 to get a fire truck down there to put them out.  
11 If you have problems, no way to get emergency  
12 vehicles in and out of this area, it's a very,  
13 very tight area. At a block, had a snow plow  
14 eventually came down my block on Thursday  
15 afternoon. He had trouble getting down, he got to  
16 the middle of the block, he got stuck. Put sand  
17 over his wheels, he got started, lifted his plow  
18 and kept going. The only way we got our streets  
19 done, with snow blowers and shovels, and we still  
20 ended up with a street that looked like a street  
21 out of Iran: potholes, ditches, cars sliding  
22 sideways. You can't control your car, you're  
23 sliding into things. It's not good, it's not  
24 good. This picture. This was at night, it was  
25 not until Tuesday, or actually Wednesday morning,

2 before they got rid of that, and this is with, was  
3 the answer to that, was a mound that's probably  
4 about eight-nine feet tall. That picture was  
5 taken today, that mound is still there. Yes.  
6 People cannot see coming out of that dead end,  
7 people coming to that corner. So you're talking a  
8 chance when you come out. There's just no way to  
9 see around it, it's absolutely impossible.  
10 Gerritsen Beach like other people have testified  
11 great, it's greatly underserved. No, underserved,  
12 it's, and we have, like they say, one  
13 transportation is the P31 to the subway. Two days  
14 in a row, Tuesday and Wednesday, my boss had to  
15 come pick me up, I work in the funeral business.  
16 Funerals have to go on, he had to come get me.  
17 There was no way for me to get out, my block  
18 wasn't plowed till Thursday afternoon. But I saw  
19 people go up every day, hopefully waiting for a  
20 bus that never came. So, like I say, you know,  
21 it's, this is something that can't happen. What  
22 Gerritsen Beach needs and because the area's so  
23 small, we don't have any snow plows, we need snow  
24 removal. It has to leave. Can't leave streets  
25 plowed in. They have to be cleared. Snow has to



2 go away. It's, there's just no other way around  
3 it. But I want to thank Councilman, I want to  
4 thank everybody that arranged this meeting so we  
5 could be heard. Our voices need to be heard. We  
6 count. Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you very  
8 much. [applause] - - thank you very much, those  
9 pictures were very powerful. Joseph Dorritson  
10 [phonetic] representing - - Civic Association,  
11 followed by Robert Malguchi [phonetic].

12 JOSEPH DORRITSON: I'm asked to add  
13 the Homecrest thing to the--Oh, okay.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Asked him to  
15 read - -

16 JOSEPH DORRITSON: I'm still  
17 looking for my identify. My name is Joe  
18 Dorritson. I'm a lifelong resident of Brooklyn.  
19 I've worn many hats, including President of the  
20 Civic Association, in its early years. I teach  
21 history at Long Island University, and I have been  
22 witness to what a famous author once said, "It was  
23 the best of times, it was the worst of times." In  
24 this winter of our discontent--

25 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

2 JOSEPH DORRITSON: --we have  
3 experienced the worst of times. And in Charles  
4 Dickens' novel, "The Tale of Two Cities," we have  
5 an analog in our city. We have Manhattan and we  
6 have Brooklyn. And my good friend and leader, Ed  
7 Jaworski has told earlier, sent me while I was out  
8 of town, a picture of Mayor Bloomberg's street,  
9 which was pristine, and our own neighborhood which  
10 was, had mountains of snow. And to this day, the  
11 mountains of snow exist, persist. On my block,  
12 adjacent to me, there's a woman who's had heart  
13 surgery. There's another woman next to her who  
14 has lung cancer, terminal. Opposite my house,  
15 there's a man with a heart condition. And they  
16 were shoveling despite the great risk to their  
17 lives. Where were the plows? They weren't in  
18 Bermuda. You see, we have a villain in this  
19 piece, and I share your contempt for the man at  
20 the top. He's probably doing some nudist bathing  
21 in Bermuda, because this emperor has no clothes.  
22 And if he knows anything from history--

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Visual, visual!

24 JOSEPH DORRITSON: --it is that  
25 [laughter] Mayor Lindsey, and I was a resident of

2 - - briefly, for which I plead guilty, I remember  
3 that, the '60s, where Manhattan was clean and the  
4 outer boroughs were neglected. And that ended his  
5 political career. Mr. Bloomberg who has higher  
6 aspirations, and a very civil way of committing  
7 himself to two term limits, and then running for a  
8 third, is a villain. [applause, cheers] And I  
9 think as a former member of School Board 22, I've  
10 witnessed the erosion of power that once belonged  
11 to parents, that once belonged to the teachers  
12 [applause, cheers] and once belonged to the  
13 community. Centralization is the curse [bell  
14 ring] in our City. And I hope you will do  
15 something to redress that balance. Thank you.  
16 [applause, cheers]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: - - I  
18 think this is really directed at my colleague,  
19 we've heard that two of the offices at Madison - -  
20 you know, I know you're all - - have the same  
21 breadth of absurdity, we had one closed all - -  
22 and the other one - - so [laughter] phenomenally -  
23 - represented by the - -

24 JOSEPH DORRITSON: If I had more  
25 time, I would quote someone.

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: So, so, someone  
3 said there's no, there's no republican way to  
4 shovel snow, or a democratic way to shovel snow.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: - -

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Who said that?  
7 [crosstalk]

8 MALE VOICE: La Guardia.

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: La Guardia.  
10 Okay. Robert Malguchi, followed by Kevin Peter  
11 Carroll [phonetic], the district leader of the - -  
12 followed by Michael Marquez [phonetic].

13 ROBERT MALGUCHI: My name is Robert  
14 Malguchi.

15 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I said it  
16 right?

17 ROBERT MALGUCHI: Yes, you did.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

19 ROBERT MALGUCHI: President of  
20 Frasier Civic Association for about 30 years. We  
21 saw a plow on our block on Thursday, day four. I  
22 should say, I saw a plow after calling the  
23 district. The supervisor at the district--

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: You say it like  
25 it's a foreign object, like - - "I saw the plow.

2 I saw the--"

3 ROBERT MALGUCHI: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Right.

5 ROBERT MALGUCHI: Now, I've seen  
6 many plows for 30 years. And the supervisor at  
7 the district had trouble believing that we hadn't  
8 had plow down the block in the preceding three  
9 days. And I explained to him that, "Well, trust  
10 me, you know, when a plow has come down the  
11 street." And lo and behold, the street was plowed  
12 on Thursday afternoon. But based on the response  
13 to the succeeding storms, I don't think there's a  
14 question of manpower. I don't think there's a  
15 question of equipment. I think that there was a  
16 deliberate attempt to sock it to the outer  
17 borough. And maybe even sock it to specific  
18 districts. My mother-in-law lives in District 14,  
19 and I have to take care of her house, too. So, I  
20 saw the block up the street in District 14 before  
21 I saw the block up the street in District 18. I  
22 don't think that the residents of the outer  
23 boroughs will really have any faith restored until  
24 we hear someone say, "So and so did this, so and  
25 so didn't do this, and so and so will not be

2 around the next time." And I thank you for your  
3 time tonight. [applause]

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Malguchi,  
5 when heads roll. Kevin Peter Carroll, District  
6 Leader; followed by Michael Marquez, followed by -  
7 -

8 KEVIN PETER CARROLL: Hello, my  
9 name is Kevin Peter Carroll, and I am the  
10 Democratic State Committeeman and the District  
11 Leader, for the 60th Assembly District, and my  
12 Assembly District is the neighborhood of Bay  
13 Ridge. I want to give a special shout out to my  
14 Councilman, Vincent Gentile, so did a great job at  
15 this, this debacle. So, good evening Council  
16 Members. Thank you for hosting this oversight  
17 committee hearing in South Brooklyn, on this cold  
18 February night. At least it's not snowing like  
19 the last meeting that we had to postpone, so. I  
20 want to also thank a friend of mine, from the  
21 Department of Sanitation, Nicky, who's a dedicated  
22 public servant, and I work with him closely on--  
23 when I was a member of Community Board Ten,  
24 environmental committee. So, thank you so much  
25 for being here, sorry that we didn't vote for

2 this. But I have to say that it's fitting that  
3 you're hosting this hearing in South Brooklyn,  
4 because as I walk around my district, the days  
5 after, days after the snow storm, I saw that we  
6 had now been plowed for days, when we were the  
7 hardest, I believe the hardest hit community in  
8 all five boroughs, in South Brooklyn. And I'm  
9 here to testify before this Committee tonight, as  
10 an angry, frustrated, but more importantly, as a  
11 disappointed citizen. Let me start with a story.  
12 Unlike many who had to travel our streets, and  
13 made the paths clear in order to go around for  
14 lifesaving reasons, ambulances to get to hospitals  
15 to deliver babies, I had nowhere important to be  
16 between Christmas and New Year's. I could stay  
17 home, I was actually at home in my apartment on  
18 Bay Ridge Parkway. And I didn't have any--but I  
19 did have - - to go out, on December 27th, the next  
20 night, to meet with friends and celebrate the  
21 holiday season. As the blizzard approached, many  
22 of my friends called, who I was supposed to go out  
23 with, and asked if we had to reschedule our plans.  
24 I proudly said, "No, this is New York City, this  
25 is the City that never sleeps, a blizzard isn't

2 going to stop, it's not going to shut us down."  
3 Well, I couldn't have been more wrong. You know?  
4 This wasn't the biggest storm New York City's ever  
5 seen. Why would it shut our City down? Many of  
6 my neighbors called throughout the week to inform  
7 me that their streets were not plowed. They did  
8 not call me on the first day, they called me on  
9 the second, third and fourth days. So I asked,  
10 "Who is to blame for this debacle?" I know it's  
11 not the fault of our hardworking Sanitation  
12 workers, many of whom live in Bay Ridge. How to  
13 know this? Because I saw them with my own two  
14 eyes, they, those men and women who were working  
15 diligently to clear our streets, the little men  
16 and women that were out there. I know it was not  
17 due to lack of knowledge. The 68th Precinct  
18 Council started an email relay of our streets to  
19 avoid due to lack of snow removal, and I would  
20 suggest to the Council that you should look into  
21 how the 68th Precinct Council did that, and try to  
22 implement similar policies citywide. I know the  
23 Councilman was very much aware of that. Our  
24 community board, Community Board Ten [bell ring]  
25 and the staff of Councilman Vincent Gentile were



2 on the phone with the Department of Sanitation,  
3 telling them the potholes that were on the ground.  
4 - - our mayor thinks that people who complain have  
5 too much free time on our hands? We will continue  
6 to complain and we will, until we see the problems  
7 in our community solved. From my limited  
8 perspective, the problem comes down to funding.  
9 The Sanitation Department was severely cut in the  
10 last round, the last budget round, and we saw the  
11 consequences of this, in this last snowstorm.  
12 After the December 26th snowstorm, the  
13 Administration was facing further embarrassment,  
14 and many more, with many more snowstorms, and the  
15 Mayor found the resources to avoid having [bell  
16 ring] snow on his face. But why did it come to  
17 that? Well, the Council, and just one more, two  
18 more sentences, it comes down to transparency.  
19 And I think it's very important, and I know that  
20 the Council's doing everything in their power to  
21 find out what went wrong in the fiasco of 2010,  
22 and I would urge to please inform the communities  
23 about exactly what went wrong. Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
25 Carroll. [applause]

2 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah. The  
3 point, I just wanted to get your impression of the  
4 community as it is today. You know we have one of  
5 the highest per capita senior population in the  
6 City. And, and it is difficult for them just to  
7 get around. What is your perception of it today?  
8 In this situation perceived - -

9 KEVIN PETER CARROLL: Well, I mean,  
10 in terms of the streets, one was our streets,  
11 'cause a lot of our - - because you know,  
12 Councilman, driving, you can't drive in Bay Ridge,  
13 'cause there's no parking. So, walking our  
14 streets is, is very important. Unfortunately,  
15 especially along Third Avenue, we're seeing that  
16 the corners are still very icy. I know on Ridge  
17 Boulevard, I was going to a funeral, I fell on  
18 Ridge Boulevard just this past weekend, walking,  
19 and I'm a young man, I'm 24, and I still fell. I  
20 just got right back up, but there are some seniors  
21 that won't be able to get right back up. 5th  
22 Avenue I think is pretty clear, and as I said, I  
23 think that has a lot to do with the fact that 5th  
24 Avenue is a business improvement district. And I  
25 think 3rd Avenue really should do that, as well,

2 because they pay people to go out and clear their  
3 streets. So I think we need to have further  
4 relationship, more - - in the community, is  
5 certainly a good thing for our seniors.

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
7 Carroll.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: - - 68th  
9 Precinct, they did a great job in the, in  
10 cataloging - -

11 KEVIN PETER CARROLL: Should be  
12 done citywide.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, sir.  
14 Michael Marquez.

15 [background noise]

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Order.

17 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: This is  
18 Bensonhurst.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: This is  
20 Bensonhurst, give him a round of applause.  
21 [applause] - - this past - - Thank you very much.  
22 Mr. Marquez, et al. Would you introduce your  
23 colleagues, sir.

24 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: Yes. My name is  
25 Michael Marquez with the 35th Bensonhurst

2 Volunteer Ambulance. I have two volunteers with  
3 me: Ricardo Patti and - - . To give you an idea  
4 in terms of who we are and what we do, we're an  
5 all-volunteer, community based--

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Could you speak  
7 into the mic?

8 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: --volunteer  
9 ambulance corps that was organized and set up to  
10 help our neighbors. Our purpose is to try to  
11 provide emergency medical care to the residents of  
12 the Bensonhurst community. [cell phone ring] The  
13 purpose of our testimony tonight is to inform the  
14 City Council of the number of difficulties that we  
15 experienced during the winter storm on December  
16 26th. First off, the designation of the street by  
17 - - Department of the Sanitation is a secondary  
18 clearance route, prevented sanitation crews from  
19 adequately clearing the street in front of our  
20 base. If you have any idea of the situation that  
21 we're facing, we had to try to get our ambulances  
22 through a mound of snow, right in front of our  
23 building. It made it completely impassable.  
24 Okay? That prevented us from responding to  
25 emergencies and different calls that we were

2 receiving in our base. Okay? And in addition to  
3 the difficulties that we were experiencing,  
4 there's a nursing home directly across the street  
5 from us, Holy Family Nursing Home. That street in  
6 front of their building was also - - it's also  
7 designated as a secondary clearance route. So, in  
8 terms of the Department of Sanitation designating  
9 these streets as priorities, we were pretty much  
10 left on the bottom half of that list in terms snow  
11 removal. We would ask that in the future--

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: What street is  
13 this on?

14 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: - - 17th Avenue.

15 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: 17th Avenue.

16 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: It's on the  
17 corner of 85th and Sev--84th and 17th.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: 84th and 17th.

19 And the street that you say is designated  
20 secondary is 84th or 17th?

21 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: Both.

22 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Both.

23 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: Okay? So, you  
24 have two healthcare facilities that are located in  
25 that intersection. We really had no way of

2 getting our ambulances in and out. There were a  
3 number of ambulances that were stuck in front of  
4 Holy Family Nursing Home that were not able to get  
5 our either, that were transporting patients. So,  
6 in terms of the City Council, requesting that if  
7 the Department of Sanitation can somehow revise  
8 their procedures so that certain medical  
9 facilities--nursing homes, hospitals, ambulance  
10 stations, police stations, have the ability to  
11 have a higher priority when it comes to snow  
12 removal.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: I think that's  
14 an excellent recommendation, that all medical  
15 community - - [applause] tertiary or secondary - -  
16 when in fact it should be primary streets, it  
17 should be given the highest order of plowing.

18 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: Another issue  
19 that I wanted to bring to the attention of the  
20 City Council, it's a declaration of the snow  
21 emergency. To put this in perspective, when the  
22 Office of Emergency Management and the New York  
23 City Fire Department declares a snow emergency, it  
24 declares an emergency, you prepare in advance.  
25 Many of our volunteers, including these two

2 volunteers that are with me tonight, okay, knew  
3 that the storm was coming. So we prepared on our  
4 own. Okay? And provided 24 hour coverage  
5 throughout the storm. Okay, so for our volunteers  
6 [bell ring] don't - - off from work, had to come  
7 in to, to try to provide ambulance coverage. The  
8 last thing that I wanted to point out, I handed  
9 out a copy of the private parties command order  
10 for use of the mutual aid radio system. Okay? -  
11 - authorization, contact the Fire Department, 911  
12 system, offered our services. Okay? We were told  
13 that we would not be able to use the radio issued  
14 to us, okay, it's a portable radio, for - - okay.  
15 Not be able to use this with the 911 system. We  
16 were told that we had to drive our ambulance to  
17 Sunset Park, in the - - and use that to try to  
18 respond to emergencies.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: So you could  
20 not use [bell ring] your radio frequency 911  
21 system?

22 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: This radio--

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

24 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: Right. And which  
25 is provided to us by the City.

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yes.

3 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: Okay. We were  
4 told we would not be able to use this radio. We'd  
5 have to drive to another ambulance station,  
6 outside of our response area, to pick up another  
7 portable radio, to use in our 911--

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Which begs the  
9 question, Why?

10 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: Well, the radio  
11 that was designated to us--

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: You need to use  
13 the microphone.

14 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: - - The radio  
15 that was designated to us has the - - which is the  
16 joint response system. They told us that we can't  
17 use it, so we have to go to another station to get  
18 our radio, that actually works within the system.  
19 So we could respond.

20 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: What was the  
21 reason they gave you?

22 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yeah, what was  
23 the reason why they couldn't connect to your  
24 system? Was it--?

25 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: The reason that



2 was provided to us is that they would not use the  
3 large radio, the - - radio service system, okay,  
4 that they were going to use another frequency.  
5 That was, that was the explanation. So, from our  
6 perspective, we would have to leave Bensonhurst,  
7 drive to another ambulance station operated by the  
8 City, pick up a portable radio, and then use that  
9 radio.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Was the other  
11 frequency that you were referring to, was that for  
12 emergency purposes?

13 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: It was, it would  
14 be a special that would be if they have like a  
15 radio - -

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Okay.

17 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: --to distribute  
18 to other ambulance crews. The problem that we  
19 have is we don't have access to that till the  
20 disaster or an emergency is declared.

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And you  
22 couldn't get to - - Park, could you?

23 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: The only way we  
24 would be able to do it is by foot. So [laughs]  
25 we were responding to emergency calls on foot.

2 So, we would not have been able to take the  
3 ambulance and drive over there.

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Yeah, in  
6 addition to Chairwoman's recommendation that, all  
7 medical facility be considered primary streets, I  
8 think that all our volunteer fire fighting and  
9 ambulance companies that their base stations be  
10 considered primary streets as well. I think  
11 that's important and it's, and the issue of the  
12 radio. I mean, we talked earlier that no heads  
13 rolled. One head rolled. A guy named John  
14 Peruggia our EMS chief. All right? This is the  
15 guy, when they took all the volunteer ambulances  
16 off the 911 system last year, it was Mr. Peruggia  
17 who, you know the Council, we reversed that  
18 decision and put them back in the system. So, I'm  
19 not really sure why he was the guy whose head  
20 rolled, I don't think he was responsible for  
21 putting chains on all the ambulances. But the  
22 disrespect and that shown for our volunteers, by  
23 doing something, by this - - is just sheer  
24 insanity. When you have people who are asking to  
25 be involved, offering to be involved, giving of

2 themselves, and who are trained to be involved,  
3 right, to be exclude them emergency response is  
4 nuts. And so I hope that the Fire Department  
5 still has a list of all of the locations of our  
6 volunteer, you know, first responders, and to give  
7 them to the Department of Sanitation, so that you  
8 can adjust the map, because when they can't get to  
9 their ambulance, they can't get out, you're not  
10 punishing them, you're punishing everyone that the  
11 ambulance helps. So I think that's something that  
12 - - brought out, - - testified last year, I  
13 thought it was a very, very important point, but  
14 the switching off on the radios, that's insane.  
15 Not letting our ambulance providers and other  
16 volunteers actually volunteer, and make it easier  
17 for them to volunteer, is also insane. Got to  
18 change that.

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you.

20 [applause]

21 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: So the mark  
22 radio was the only contact you would otherwise  
23 have in the City system?

24 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: Okay. To put  
25 this in perspective, okay, for a winter system,

2 complaints were transferred to the World Trade  
3 Center, major crimes and major fire. Our only  
4 means of contacting other 911 units, other than  
5 regular telephones, is the - - radio, that is it.

6 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: That's it.

7 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: And that is the  
8 only system that we have available to us. Now,  
9 there's been another system that's been talked  
10 about in terms of installation, and there have  
11 been a number of radios that have been stolen - -  
12 but that system is now - - . So if there was an  
13 emergency right now, okay, if there was another  
14 terrorist attack, - - [crosstalk] radios only that  
15 I have, would be able to contact 911.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Well,  
17 certainly, you know there was a death of a 50 year  
18 old woman in Bensonhurst during that storm.  
19 Particularly because she could not be reached by  
20 any ambulance.

21 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: There was also a  
22 small child.

23 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: And there was  
24 another one, okay, and there was, so at least two  
25 deaths in Bensonhurst because, because of the

2 snow, and the inability to reach them. So, it is  
3 our interest, and it's - - the incident - -  
4 without each - - it was very close to your, your  
5 headquarters there. So, the fact that you could  
6 not - - attributed directly, I believe, to the, to  
7 the inability to get her the aid that she needed,  
8 which she needed.

9 MICHAEL MARQUEZ: I would like to  
10 say, Council Member, if I would have had the  
11 opportunity to operate that ambulance, I would've  
12 done everything in my power to save that patient.  
13 [applause] Anything in my power.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Mr.  
15 Marquez.

16 CHAIRPERSON VALLONE: Thank you for  
17 your service. Thank you all for your service.

18 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: - - thank you  
19 for those recommendations. We're going to make  
20 sure that they're incorporated in our patch  
21 [phonetic]. Patel Ashley [phonetic]. I want to  
22 recognize David Persuth [phonetic], the President  
23 of - - Civic Association, thank you for - - thank  
24 you very much. [applause] After this last week,  
25 as we saw - -

2 PATEL ASHLEY: Okay. I'm Patel  
3 Ashley, I also live at Kings Village in - -

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Speak into the  
5 mic or adjust it, thank you.

6 PATEL ASHLEY: I live at Kings  
7 Village, which is located in Old Mille - - ,  
8 Canarsie, Flatbush, they don't even know where we  
9 are. [background comments, laughter] But we were  
10 very - - . And I believe, at least left on the  
11 sixth day, 'cause I was tired of not being able to  
12 go anywhere. Okay? I dropped, so the bus wasn't  
13 a problem for me. I had to dig myself out, and I  
14 was tired, my arm right now is still hurting me  
15 because all of these snowstorms and digging out.  
16 And being plowed back in. So I'm tired. On top  
17 of that, I removed myself to Flatbush Garden,  
18 where other family members live, so I could get to  
19 work, 'cause I am a City worker, to get to work,  
20 'cause that's the closest train. Their garbage  
21 piled up high. Besides that, the snow, I can't  
22 walk. Okay, so I also have that problem.

23 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Is the garbage  
24 still piled high?

25 PATEL ASHLEY: It's, the garbage is

2 piled up, New - - and New York. You can go and  
3 see yourself.

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: It's black,  
5 black - - correct?

6 PATEL ASHLEY: Black - - . The  
7 maintenance crew, I believe, over there is on  
8 strike, and they have another crew going up. But  
9 it's ridiculous, the garbage is just ridiculous.  
10 Where I work in Manhattan, on 10th Street, I have  
11 to maneuver between garbage to get to work.  
12 They're on top of that. The snowstorm - - twice  
13 in January, which I put myself in Flatbush  
14 Gardens, so I could get to work early, the men  
15 said, "Non-essential workers don't have to go to  
16 work."

17 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Oh, yes.

18 PATEL ASHLEY: Okay? 7:02--

19 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yep.

20 PATEL ASHLEY: --I appeared, I go  
21 to Church Station to go to work. I get several  
22 pages on my cell phone telling me "Go home, the  
23 office is closed." Then to be insulted again, to  
24 tell me I have to write a letter to justify  
25 [applause] my - - who told me, "Go home." I went

2 home, I picked up my - - and I stayed at home.

3 Then, around 2:00, you go on to say, "Come back to  
4 work"? [laughter] Are you kidding me? Are you  
5 kidding me? Could y'all please justify our anger,  
6 because you talked to this men about our - -  
7 leave. I work hard, to get there. Okay, my - -  
8 is very important, too. Making it simple.

9 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: - -

11 [applause]

12 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: - - my area,  
13 as well. I imagine they had their own set of  
14 problems with the unions striking, just taking  
15 care of the rounds to begin with. It's kind of  
16 only exacerbated by the fact the services hadn't  
17 proceeded. I actually am willing to try to make  
18 sure that people were going to be paid all - - not  
19 punished for taking time off. So, - - Council of  
20 - - power to do that. So, I'm going to appeal  
21 again to the people who are here representing the  
22 Mayor. He sent a lot of confusing signals that  
23 day. It doesn't make any sense to try to punish  
24 these people for something he did. I know it  
25 seems to be a habit, to slap people in the face



2 that live in New York City, but let's at least  
3 show some concern for people who work for the City  
4 after we send lots of lots of confusing messages,  
5 as well as trying to - - during the blizzard, to  
6 try and take people who may have used their time -  
7 - couldn't have gotten worse, it was all - - .

8 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Next speaker is  
9 Saul - - Saul? So, in response to the claim, I've  
10 been speaking with DC 37, there's going to be some  
11 grievances, and al--grievances and also a lawsuit  
12 that we are possibly considering, as we - - the  
13 conflicting messages. Also, I'm getting in touch  
14 with your President and that's something that we  
15 are pursuing. And I already asked for oversight,  
16 and in the absence of oversight, as I told the  
17 Mayor of the City of New York, I will see you in  
18 court again. Next one is Eli - - Neil. Am I  
19 saying this correct? How about Robert - -

20 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: Ed  
21 Eisenberg.

22 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Ed Eisenberg.  
23 [laughter, crosstalk] He's gone. Robert - -  
24 Frasier City, all right? Janet?

25 JANET BARONS: Hi, you!

2 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Hi! Very - -  
3 Ms. Berenson was responding to everyone, I love  
4 you.

5 JANET BARONS: Whoa!

6 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Oh!

7 JANET BARONS: Yes. [laughter]  
8 Hi, how are you?

9 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Gerretson  
10 Beach. Something tells me you're very fond of  
11 your community.

12 JANET BARONS: I am. [laughter]  
13 Okay. My name is Janet Barons. Past member of -  
14 - Property Owners. I've been on the precinct  
15 council, 61st Precinct. And I am the Secretary of  
16 Gerritsen Beach - - for the last five or six  
17 years. Okay. And I don't want to reiterate some  
18 of the things that have already been said. But I  
19 am one of the people who walked down Bartlett  
20 Place, and in the situation that we have now, I've  
21 seen the fire. And when I got home, I got to tell  
22 you how upset I was, and it wasn't even my house.  
23 Because you don't know what it feels like to think  
24 that you could go to work and come home and not  
25 have a home. This is absolutely unacceptable, and

2 I won't tolerate it. And Lew, you know I've been  
3 on the call with your office. If it wasn't for  
4 Lew, I'd still be in my damn house. [laughter]  
5 Okay? I was, it took my two days shovel to my  
6 gate. I had a snowdrift to my chest outside for  
7 the first storm. Never once, never, five days,  
8 got a plow, got a salter. I was outside, I saw  
9 the supervisor. The supervisor told the plow, the  
10 front loader, to come down Kay Court, we spent two  
11 days digging out the car that was on the corner,  
12 'cause I live on the corner. He had to go back to  
13 Florida by Friday. Dug him out, had him park on -  
14 - Court. The guy never came down Kay Court.  
15 Okay, that was the first day. Second day, coming  
16 back at 8:30 tomorrow. So the supervisor, I know  
17 the supervisor, I mean these are guys that live in  
18 the neighborhood. Okay. He was there 8:30 in the  
19 morning. The front loader was there 8:30 in the  
20 morning. You know what? Didn't come down my  
21 block. You want to, you think I'm pissed? I am  
22 pissed. This is outright ridiculous. It's an  
23 insult. I came, I live on a dead end street. I  
24 pay my taxes as well, I want a response.  
25 [applause] I didn't get my serviced. I - - I

2 didn't get my service. I have a 90 year old woman  
3 that lives at the end of my block, just lost her  
4 firefighter husband of 94. She's outside looking  
5 for her Meals-on-Wheels. Hello! We can't get  
6 anything down there. The salter comes, supervisor  
7 told him three different days, "Go down Kay  
8 Court." Did he go down Kay Court? [bell ring]  
9 Went straight down - - Court. He did go down the  
10 block where his brother-in-law works, lives.  
11 [laughter] Okay? So I would say he finally came  
12 down, and you know what? The guy on - - Court who  
13 lives there, comes down, "What's going on? Why  
14 aren't you coming down the blocks?" "I can't get  
15 down these blocks." "Get out of the truck." The  
16 guy who was off duty went and plowed his street.  
17 Thanks a--salted his street. Thanks a lot, what  
18 did I get? What do I, what do I, I got to pay  
19 somebody? I want \$12 an hour [bell ring] for the  
20 last three weeks that I've been shoveling snow.  
21 There's not a drop of snow in front of my house,  
22 you come and see. I shoveled out the tiny  
23 sidewalk that people could step out of the way of  
24 cars. I lost eight days from work that I can't  
25 get out of my street. That's not fair to me.

2 Okay? You have these piles of snow, 20 feet high,  
3 like - - said. I almost got hit by a car last  
4 night. I had to go down one block, go out into the  
5 street to get around a pile of snow that's all  
6 over the sidewalk. Come back around to get back  
7 up on the sidewalk that I think I can walk, and a  
8 car was coming out that skidded on the ice. Okay?  
9 And I can guarantee you that I'm going to make  
10 sure that my family has enough money to hire a  
11 lawyer and sue this City's ass. Okay? This is,  
12 this is absolutely horrendous, it's out of line,  
13 and it, you know, if it wasn't for Lew, thank you  
14 very much, - - , thank you. [applause] A second  
15 snowstorm, again, I called for help, I sent emails  
16 to Marty Markowitz, zero response. He's on the  
17 television. Oh, we've had no calls, I've had  
18 people in at 7:30. I call up, I'm like, P.O.'s  
19 Pick up the phone 'cause I'm sitting at home not  
20 at work. Pick up the phone, and I say, "Oh, I  
21 don't think anybody's in yet." "What do you mean,  
22 he's on the television saying he had them there at  
23 7:30." [laughter] "Oh, well, let me see if  
24 they're in." Transfer me, never got a phone call  
25 back. Never. Called Lew's office, I had, I had a

2 salter. Amazing. How come Lew can do it, and  
3 nobody else can?

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: 'Cause Lew's  
5 Superman. [applause]

6 JANET BARONS: Just - - Lew and  
7 Alan, not to - - Alan, but if you're still here,  
8 but I can't, I can't tell you. We, the - - we did  
9 have somebody die on that - - , I don't know  
10 whether it, whether it was after that Christmas  
11 storm. The - - who dug out so many times, I'm  
12 sure Lew heard the stories. I mean, it's  
13 ridiculous.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Mr. Barons, we  
15 hear you. We want to thank Council Member Lew  
16 Fidler and Assembly Member Maisel if he's still  
17 here. And ask Lew for a refund, and if I were  
18 you. Mr. Teranova and to all the other  
19 individuals, I would make sure I would take care  
20 of Kay Court at the drop of a snowstorm, and  
21 that's totally received, but I think - -

22 JANET BARONS: - - I'm not waiting  
23 five days again.

24 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: And thank you  
25 for telling us about - - senior citizens waiting

1 COMMS: OVERSIGHT, SANITATION, FIRE, PUBLIC HSNG 119

2 for her Meals-on-Wheels, thank you, god bless you.

3 [applause, background noise]

4 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: Ma'am, I

5 just want you to know--

6 JANET BARONS: Lew, If it wasn't

7 for you, I'd still be in tears. - -

8 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: - - we could

9 set up a fund to give some monetary - - to people

10 who lost money or lost - - because of - - with the

11 City, and hopefully - - [crosstalk, laughter]

12 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Our last

13 speaker, - - is this, Mr. Marcos Mazi. If there's

14 anyone else we left out, please come forward. Mr.

15 Mazi, you are our last speaker to testify before

16 us, so I know this will be short. You testified

17 in Manhattan and in Brooklyn, so I know it's going

18 to be short. [background noise] Okay, keep it

19 short.

20 MARCOS MAZI: - -

21 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Try speaking

22 into the microphone.

23 MARCOS MAZI: - - [background

24 noise] My name's Marcos Mazi. I'm attempting to

25 - -

1	COMMS: OVERSIGHT, SANITATION, FIRE, PUBLIC HSNG	120
2	MALE VOICE: Can you speak up a	
3	little?	
4	CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank can't	
5	hear you, sir.	
6	MARCOS MAZI: What?	
7	CHAIRPERSON JAMES: They cannot	
8	hear you.	
9	MALE VOICE: A little louder.	
10	CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Louder. Speak	
11	louder. [crosstalk, background noise]	
12	MARCOS MAZI: Maybe in this one.	
13	CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Yeah. You	
14	heard, you heard Ms. Barons, speak like Ms.	
15	Barons, with the passion.	
16	JANET BARONS: Project.	
17	CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Project. Do	
18	what she said, Project.	
19	MARCOS MAZI: What she said. Okay.	
20	I'm - - for the Mayor one thing, that he told for	
21	this, in his address, that he wants to, for the -	
22	- , he wants to continue to pick up some	
23	responsibilities but he cannot do it. And he	
24	comes out like that, that we are - - ready to take	
25	over something that - - and second of all, the - -	



2 the City Council - - they want to know where  
3 exactly the Mayor is, when he's away. And I'm  
4 telling, there's no privacy, - - you are all - -  
5 good job, you work for the - - and you are giving,  
6 you're ready for the job, so then tell him, no  
7 privacy, people want to know, vote for you, and  
8 you should do the job, not be away from - - .  
9 The, I have other proposals, which I'm considering  
10 for the City Council that the process how the  
11 Commissioner can appoint. If he can't do it by  
12 the - - like - - and we have vote.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Subject to the  
14 approval of the City Council.

15 MARCOS MAZI: Yeah, something like  
16 that, we should make more sense, that they'll have  
17 more ability and they will not wait till the  
18 middle of - - to do something, because all of the  
19 sudden he's appointment his own buddies, in this  
20 position, and it's - - the millions, for his  
21 building, and - - . But it's I think that we, it  
22 should be considered, because that the City  
23 Council can't vote for them, I'll vote them, if  
24 there's--I'll think, I'll - -

25 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Great. Thank

2 you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, it was an  
3 honor and a privilege to be here in South  
4 Brooklyn. [applause] Let me just say that we are  
5 - - package, and I know that some of us will come  
6 back to the community boards and report back to  
7 you. But I know that it will be on the New York  
8 City website. I just want you to know I share  
9 with your, with all of you, your outrage and I'm  
10 glad to see - - never happen again. Mr. Teranova,  
11 Mr. Glover, Mr. Pierre, there were a number of  
12 recommendations of specific streets, I urge all of  
13 you to get to those streets, clean them. We  
14 should have an army of Sanitation works here in  
15 South Brooklyn. What I saw coming here to South  
16 Brooklyn - - unacceptable, I move for you to do  
17 better. I know I probably - - close to the wire,  
18 - - Council Member Williams.

19 CHAIRPERSON WILLIAMS: I just want  
20 to thank everybody coming out, - - that anger.  
21 And I won't to ask you to try to forget, because  
22 sometimes in this - - we tend to forget. So  
23 please - - everyone around, myself included,  
24 definitely the Mayor who feel that it shouldn't be  
25 - - I can't understand why, but he said - - using

2 their computer, people died, there were mistakes  
3 made, we know there were mistakes made, and  
4 nothing happened to this day. It's a slap in the  
5 face for all of us, and I'm--much - - I want to  
6 honor that. Thank you for - - [applause]

7 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you for -  
8 - as someone said. Council Member Lew Fidler,  
9 Superman! [applause]

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FIDLER: I heard one  
11 call - - so I'm interested in the Department of  
12 Sanitation hear 'em, too, and that was snow.  
13 [crosstalk] We heard a lot of that, and see a lot  
14 of that, - - not so much of it anymore. I just  
15 want to very briefly thank you all for coming out  
16 and especially those of you who stayed to the  
17 bitter end. My colleagues, a lot of the people  
18 you heard tonight, - - representing this district,  
19 - - so we have people who care and - - here. Some  
20 - - doing it worse, I wish we had the opportunity  
21 to first see, I know by the last - - but we did,  
22 we did hear tonight a lot of - - a lot of good  
23 thoughts. And I have to tell you I'm hoping that  
24 we never have to come back here again, to have a  
25 hearing about how we remove snow and pickup

2 garbage. You know, I mean. So thank you all for  
3 coming - - .

4 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Council Member  
5 Mike Nelson. [applause]

6 COUNCIL MEMBER MIKE NELSON: Thank  
7 you. - - be able to - - and actually there was -  
8 - and the Sanitation Department should have  
9 already got - - and I'm feel sorry - - really a  
10 great guy, and you know, having him here, take all  
11 this, when it's not your fault. It's kind of a  
12 shame. Sam and Charles, well, so thank you all  
13 for coming out tonight.

14 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Councilman  
15 Vinnie Gentile.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: First I  
17 want to, I want to thank our Chair, Councilwoman  
18 Tish James, for a great, great, very, very  
19 [applause] - - . And Madam Chair, I want to add,  
20 it's so - - in my district, too, so I'll get my  
21 individual - - [crosstalk, laughter] Let me just  
22 say that the sincerity when you hear at the City  
23 Council hearing, the Deputy Mayor testified that  
24 that, that they told us snow emergency because  
25 they didn't understand what powers they had in a

2 snow emergency. Now, if you think about the  
3 administrations that have been around how long,  
4 eight-nine years now, and for them to say they  
5 didn't understand what powers they had to call an  
6 emergency, let's say a real - - power say, "Hey,  
7 but they should've called for - - " [background  
8 noise, laughter] maybe he needs another term to  
9 figure it out. - - But you know, so it proved  
10 that, - - we really had to say on - - because  
11 leave it to us, that this - - accountability of  
12 someone said that they hold power, they lack. And  
13 that's what we really - - here now, as the City  
14 Council to be on top of it and make sure this  
15 doesn't happen again. Thank you all.

16 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you - -  
17 [applause]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

Signature

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John David Tong", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Date February 28, 2011