

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 1
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID
WASTE MANAGEMENT

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January 22, 2025
Start: 10:05 a.m.
Recess: 10:58 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - COMMITTEE ROOM, 14TH
FLOOR

B E F O R E: Shaun Abreu, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chris Banks
David M. Carr
Julie Menin
Sandy Nurse
Vickie Paladino
Sandra Ung
Inna Vernikov
Susan Zhuang

A P P E A R A N C E S

Javier Lojan, Acting Commissioner for New York City Department of Sanitation

Joseph Antonelli, Deputy Commissioner of Management and Budget for New York City Department of Sanitation

Joshua Goodman, Deputy Commissioner of Public Affairs and Customer Experience for New York City Department of Sanitation

Reginald Timothee, Assistant Commissioner of Support Services for New York City Department of Sanitation

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 3

2 SEARGENT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste
4 Management. Today's date is January 22, 2025, located
5 in the 14th Floor Committee Room. Recording is done
6 by Rocco Mesiti.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
8 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
9 the Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste
10 Management.

11 At this time, we ask that you silence all
12 electronic devices and at no time are you to approach
13 the dais.

14 If you would like to sign up for in-
15 person testimony or have any other questions
16 throughout the hearing, please see one of the
17 Sergeant-at-Arms.

18 Chair Abreu, we're ready to begin.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: [GAVEL] Good morning,
20 everyone. I am Council Member Shaun Abreu, and I am
21 the Chair of the Committee on Sanitation and Solid
22 Waste Management. First, I would like to acknowledge
23 Ahmad Ladson, a 32-year-old City Sanitation worker
24 who was critically injured when struck by a large SUV
25 while performing his collection route last month. We

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 4

2 are extremely grateful for Mr. Ladson's service to
3 the City and continue to keep him and his family in
4 our thoughts. We know that New York's strongest
5 manage one of the most dangerous and critical jobs in
6 the city and we need to do everything we can to
7 prioritize their safety.

8 Next, I would like to acknowledge my
9 Colleagues who have joined us today, Council Member
10 Vicky Paladino. Thank you for being here.

11 I'd also like to thank representatives
12 from the Department of Sanitation, Acting
13 Commissioner Javier Lojan, Deputy Commissioner of
14 Management and Budget Joseph Antonelli, Deputy
15 Commissioner of Public Affairs and Customer
16 Experience Joshua Goodman, and Assistant Commissioner
17 of Support Services Reginald Timothee. I know we're
18 just coming out of a recent snowstorm and that the
19 men and women of the Department have been working day
20 and night to keep our streets clear and safe and for
21 that we're very grateful. Thank you for making the
22 time for being here today.

23 Finally, I'd like to thank each member of
24 the public who is here to testify. We welcome your
25 thoughtful input. Before we begin, please place

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 5
2 electronic devices on vibrate or silent to minimize
3 disruption.

4 Welcome to this oversight hearing about
5 the Department of Sanitation Snow Preparedness for
6 the 2025 Winter Season. Local Law 28 of 2011 requires
7 DSNY to submit to the Council and to make public an
8 annual snow plowing and removal plan for each of our
9 five boroughs. This hearing will examine those
10 borough-based snow plans while we seek to understand
11 how the current season's weather has impacted DSNY's
12 snow operations. I am also interested to learn more
13 about the Department's removal of snow and ice in
14 pedestrian areas like parks, bike lanes, and
15 sidewalks, as well as how the department plans for
16 efficiency despite year-over-year differences in
17 winter weather.

18 In addition to this oversight, we are
19 hearing two bills today. Intro. number 355, sponsored
20 by Council Member Sandy Nurse, in relation to
21 emergency and resiliency plans of the Department of
22 Sanitation, and Intro. number 534, sponsored by
23 Council Member Justin Brannan, in relation to
24 increasing penalties on chain businesses for failure
25 to remove ice, snow, and dirt from sidewalks. I look

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 6
2 forward to hearing from DSNY and other interested
3 individuals.

4 I would like to thank everyone on my team
5 and in the Legislative Division for their work
6 drafting this legislation and preparing for today's
7 oversight hearing.

8 Today, we will begin with testimony from
9 the Department of Sanitation followed by Council
10 Member questions. We will then move to testimony by
11 members of the public, starting with in-person
12 attendees followed by those testifying on Zoom. I
13 will now turn it over to our Committee Counsel to
14 administer the oath.

15 COMMITTEE COUNSEL BARRETT: Good morning,
16 my name is Morgan Barrett, Committee Counsel for the
17 Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste Management.
18 Please raise your right hands. Thank you.

19 Do you affirm to tell the truth, the
20 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and to
21 respond to Council Member questions truthfully?

22 ADMINISTRATION: (INAUDIBLE)

23 COMMITTEE COUNSEL BARRETT: Thank you. You
24 may begin your testimony when ready.

25

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 7

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Good morning,
3 Chair Abreu. First, I'd like to thank you for the
4 recognition of Sanitation Worker Ladson. Our thoughts
5 and prayers are with him as well so I really, really
6 appreciate it. I'm sure his family does as well.

7 So, good morning, Chair Abreu and Members
8 of Committee on Sanitation and Solid Waste
9 Management. I am Javier Lohan, Acting Commissioner of
10 New York City Department of Sanitation. I am joined
11 today by Joseph Antonelli, Deputy Commissioner of
12 Management and Budget, Joshua Goodman, Deputy
13 Commissioner of Public Affairs and Customer
14 Experience, and by Reginald Timothee, Assistant
15 Commissioner for Support Services.

16 We have already fought five snow events
17 this winter using tens of millions of pounds of salt
18 and hundreds of thousands of gallons of brine to make
19 sure the streets and bike lanes are safe and
20 passable. Just this past weekend, thousands of
21 Sanitation workers labored on 12-hour shifts driving
22 2,500 plows and 700 salt spreaders on 19,000 lane
23 miles of New York City roadways to make sure that New
24 Yorkers saw as little interruption to their lives as
25 possible despite several inches of snow falling in

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 8

2 some neighborhoods over a period of just a few hours.

3 We plan all year long for this, revising routes,

4 evaluating performance, and overhauling equipment. We

5 know the playbook, but that doesn't mean we rest on

6 our laurels or our snow fighting isn't subject to the

7 same kind of innovative changes, the trash

8 revolutionary spirit that has characterized our

9 cleaning, collection, and sustainability efforts over

10 the first several years of the Adams Administration.

11 Far from it. This is my 26th winter with New York's

12 strongest, and I am proud to report that thanks to

13 historic investments in both tried and true best

14 practices and a commitment to embracing new

15 operational paradigms and technology, we are more

16 prepared for winter than ever before. The same

17 Sanitation workers who collect trash are the people

18 who drive plows and salt spreaders, and historically,

19 this has meant frequent collection delays during

20 winter weather operations. Today, we have a uniformed

21 headcount and fleet allotment that allows DSNY to

22 staff a full salt spread operation while still

23 keeping the core collection functions on schedule.

24 Obviously, in a major snowstorm, snow will still need

25 to come first. But to be perfectly frank, the level

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 9

2 of service parity is something that I, as a young
3 Sanitation worker over a quarter century ago, would
4 have considered impossible. Mayor Adams got it done.

5 And we are holding ourselves accountable. The
6 Department is now using a state-of-the-art tracking
7 and management system for snow operation known as
8 Blade Runner 2.0. This gives us the real-time insight
9 in both salting and plowing operations in every
10 corner of the city, allowing us to dispatch resources
11 as needed.

12 Taken together, higher headcount and
13 better internal monitoring are the primary focus
14 factors behind one of the most exciting winter
15 developments to hit the city since the Rockettes,
16 what we call snow equity. If you grew up here, you
17 likely remember the old days of primary, secondary,
18 and tertiary streets. That kind of division in
19 service level is over. Snow equity means that every
20 street is on a route and every route can be
21 dispatched at the same time for snow operations as
22 soon as conditions warrant it. And it means servicing
23 car lanes and bike lanes at the same time so that New
24 Yorkers who use bicycles can get to work to do their
25 work and continue to do so safely, even as we open

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 10

2 car lanes for emergency vehicles and others. This is

3 all outlined in the Department's borough-based snow

4 plan submitted to the City Council at the end of

5 September pursuant to Local Law 28 of 2011. As I

6 mentioned earlier, we have over 700 salt spreaders,

7 2,500 plows, 47 bike lane vehicles, a fleet of brine

8 trucks, and enough salt to turn the city into the

9 world's largest plate of French fries. That said, we

10 are closely watching and managing the work required

11 to maintain our snow fighting fleet. While vehicle

12 maintenance staffing is broadly in line with

13 historical averages, the number of pieces of

14 specialized snow fighting equipment requiring

15 maintenance has grown substantially. The team we have

16 at our central repair shop in Queens, at our borough

17 repair shops across the city, and at every single

18 DSNY garage is working around the clock and has done

19 a fantastic job during recent snow events. Of 175

20 vehicles requiring service during the recent

21 snowfall, 166 were repaired and returned to service

22 before the end of the weather event. This achievement

23 underscores the resilience and commitment of our

24 staff, even as new challenges emerge. To ensure that

25 our fleet is always ready for whatever weather comes

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 11

2 our way, we have recently onboarded seven new auto
3 mechanics, two new automotive service workers, and
4 six auto service temps. We are also approved to move
5 forward with filling 12 additional related vacancies
6 and intend to do so immediately. Additional snow may
7 or may not come this year, but we are ready. Every
8 sanitation worker is trained, and with multiple
9 events under our belts, they are tested. Working with
10 the NYPD, DOT, MTA, Parks, DEP, and NYCEM, the
11 strongest are prepared to give New Yorkers the safe
12 and easy snow days they deserve.

13 Now I will turn to the bills on today's
14 agenda. Intro. 355, sponsored by Council Member
15 Nurse, would require DSNY to post emergency and
16 resiliency plans on a dedicated webpage. Our snow
17 plans are already available at nyc.gov/snow, and we
18 believe that a separate DSNY emergency and resiliency
19 page will dilute critical messaging coming from the
20 New York City Emergency Management Office. As such,
21 we oppose this bill.

22 Intro. 534, sponsored by Council Member
23 Brannan, increases penalties on certain but not all
24 businesses for failure to remove snow, ice, and dirt
25 from sidewalks. This raises an important point. While

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 12

2 DSNY clears snow and ice from roadways and bike
3 lanes, pedestrian infrastructure is the
4 responsibility of the property owner. And DSNY is
5 prepared to enforce these rules to ensure that
6 residents can get where they need to go. We wrote
7 over 4,000 summonses for this in a single storm last
8 year. We have concerns about the narrow focus on
9 chain businesses in this bill, as opposed to all
10 properties, and with the ambiguity of the fine
11 structure as proposed. That said, we would be happy
12 to work with Council Member Brannan on next steps.

13 Thank you, and we look forward to taking
14 your questions.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you,
16 Commissioner. You know, I grew up here, and I don't
17 remember the old days of primary, secondary,
18 tertiary. Maybe you're dating yourself. But I just
19 want to congratulate you on this new position.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Really excited for
21 your leadership.

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And your years of
24 dedication to New York's strongest, I mean, is right
25 there in front of us for all to see, and so to have

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 13

2 you have that level of experience leading the
3 Department, I have a lot of faith.

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: All right, I'm going
6 to now pivot to questions, and I want to acknowledge
7 Council Members who have joined us now. We have
8 Sandra Ung and Sandy Nurse.

9 Commissioner, what were the insights that
10 were gained from the 2023-2024 season that were used
11 to inform adjustments to DSNY's 2025 snow plowing
12 routes?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So after every
14 storm, we do an after action debrief, some more in
15 depth than others. As I mentioned, Blade Runner 2.0
16 plays an integral part in our operations. The great
17 thing about that is that we're able to assess every
18 storm with historical GPS data. Our operations and
19 our operations management division team do a great
20 job of highlighting some of the positives and
21 negatives. So, we generally always do a full post-
22 season debrief, what were the good things, what were
23 the bad things, and we always make adjustments going
24 to the next season. Our snow season is year-round.
25 So, as soon as our night plow season ends in March,

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 14

2 when we start April, we start looking at routing
3 adjustments. Some of them are due to being more
4 efficient. Some of them are just street changes
5 because DOT changes street direction or a new bike
6 lane came on board so we're always working. As soon
7 as snow season stops, we start right away. We don't
8 stop, and it goes all the way through so that's what
9 we do.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you for that. Is
11 there anything specific from last year that any
12 insights from last year, from 2023-2024 that's being
13 used to inform your plan for this year? Any examples?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: A lot of the
15 things are just more, we're looking at things at
16 timing of the storm, which we actually tried this
17 time around, is trying to make some scheduling
18 adjustments with our shifts, right, so we go into a
19 split shift operation. This storm that we just had
20 over the weekend, we changed the way we staffed, and
21 it seemed to be really successful and it was really
22 more efficient so that's one of the things that we
23 tried this year that was different and so far proved
24 to be well.

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 15

2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you. What
3 exactly are the metrics that DSNY uses to estimate
4 the amount of supplies and stockpiles needed for the
5 upcoming winter season?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we have
7 our inventory. We have about 350,000 tons of salt
8 capacity, 386 gallons of calcium chloride capacity,
9 and then brine, we have over 75,000 gallons so we
10 don't really forecast for snow events. What we try to
11 do is maximize capacity, and then after every event,
12 our operations office replenishes that, and we make
13 sure that we stay fully stocked.

14 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. How does DSNY
15 determine where to pre-position salt spreaders before
16 a snow event?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, this is
18 part of our post-snow season analysis. We try to have
19 it as close to the start of each route as possible.
20 Obviously, we take into consideration where those
21 pre-position points are. We make sure we're not
22 disturbing residents or any sensitive areas near
23 schools where we're disturbing school kids if it's
24 during the day. We want to be as close to the start

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 16
2 of the route as possible and, if it's near a highway
3 or something, we want to be as close to that.

4 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: How long does it take
5 to get, I guess, the preparation before the salt
6 spreaders are pre-positioned?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So it depends
8 what kind of storm we're going into. As soon as snow
9 season starts, so December is the start of our night
10 plow season. At that point, all of our salt
11 spreaders, all of our spreading equipment has been
12 upgraded by then. Like I mentioned before, our Bureau
13 of Motor Equipment does a phenomenal job of upgrading
14 our fleet. Once we're done with that, we plow all the
15 salt spreaders up. They're plowed up from the minute
16 the snow season starts. And then once we have a sense
17 that we're going into a storm, we load all our salt
18 spreaders maybe 8 to 12 hours before the start of the
19 projected storm, and then, depending on the timing,
20 we will usually pre-position them so anywhere like 12
21 hours or so, we have a good sense of when to dispatch
22 the spreaders.

23 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thanks for answering
24 that. Have any locations been determined to be a
25

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 17
2 designated or predetermined pre-positioning location,
3 or does that change year to year?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: It changes
5 year to year but, once it changes, it's a static set
6 of pre-position locations so we really don't change
7 them, and the reason why we do that is because once
8 we dispatch our fleet, Blade Runner is one of the
9 things that helps us look at, we look at the map, we
10 look at the equipment and say, okay, we're supposed
11 to have a piece of equipment here at this pre-
12 position point and, if we see that they're not there,
13 that's when we look and say, okay, where is this
14 piece, where is it because you're talking about 2,500
15 plows, 700 spreaders so you can imagine it's a lot of
16 pieces to look at on a map so that helps us kind of
17 give a good sense of there may be an issue here, it
18 might be down equipment, something so we predetermine
19 that on Blade Runner.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: All right. What was
21 DSNY's approximate budget for each of the following
22 for the season snow operations, salt, calcium, and
23 brine?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Okay, so for
25 this Fiscal Year, our approximate budget is 25.5

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 18
2 million dollars for this Fiscal Year. And I'm sorry,
3 that's combined, right?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: Yeah,
5 that's the combined.

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: That's the
7 combined number for all three, yeah.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: For all three, okay.
9 Do you have that disaggregated or?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So, we
11 don't budget them individually. We have it all in one
12 pot and then we draw it down as necessary for the
13 three.

14 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. Approximately
15 how much salt and brine is spread citywide during an
16 average snow event?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, it's
18 unique, but generally we spread about 20 million
19 pounds of salt in one pass. And why I say it's unique
20 is like the snow event that we just had this weekend,
21 we were really concerned with the icing conditions
22 because the temperatures were going to drop really
23 rapidly and, to us, ice is a lot more dangerous than
24 a foot of snow. A foot of snow, you can manage, you
25 can get through. Ice, you can get an eighth of an

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 19
2 inch of ice and we're in big trouble so we wanted to
3 make sure we got ahead of it and, even though we
4 treated the roadways with one pass, we wanted to make
5 sure we retreated it again on subsequent shifts so an
6 example of how it could be unique, but generally 20
7 million pounds of salt is what we use for one pass.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: How much is that in
9 tons again?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: It's about
11 10,000 tons.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: 10,000 tons. And the
13 entire storage is about 300?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: 350,000 tons.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: 350,000 tons. So
16 that's less than 5 percent of the entire storage. You
17 mentioned earlier that anytime that salt is taking
18 away from its capacity, how quickly is it
19 replenished, including also brine.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Right. I would
21 say anywhere, I mean, they're pretty good at
22 replenishing it. I would say anywhere up to like 72
23 hours usually. Yeah, they're pretty good. We have
24 really good contracts with the vendors, our
25 operations office does. So, our operations office

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 20
2 does a really good job of kind of, not forecasting,
3 but if they know we're going to go into an event
4 where the probability of us actually spreading salt
5 is high, they will kind of say, all right, we're
6 expecting a snow event, we're going to use salt, so
7 they start setting up the deliveries ahead of time so
8 it's not like we wait until the storm's over to start
9 getting the delivery set up.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: How much was spent on
11 road salt in FY24, '23, and '22?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: All right. In
13 FY24, we spent 10 million dollars; in FY23, it was
14 8.2 million dollars; and in FY22, it was 19.8 million
15 dollars.

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. How much was
17 spent on calcium chloride brine in '24, '23, '22?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: In FY24, we
19 spent 534,000 dollars'; FY23, 381,000 dollars' and in
20 FY22, it was 607,000 dollars.

21 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. And what is the
22 City's existing inventory of salt and brine? Is it at
23 capacity?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So yes, it's
25 close to capacity. We have about, we just had a

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 21
2 storm, but we're about 300,000 tons of salt. And in
3 calcium chloride, we're about 350,000 gallons. And in
4 brine, we're fully stocked at 75,000 gallons.

5 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. I love answers.
6 I love answers. What is the process and timeline by
7 which DSNY procures contracts for supplying the
8 City's road salt and calcium brine each year?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, like I
10 mentioned, we have established contracts with
11 multiple vendors to replenish the salt stockpiles,
12 calcium chloride, and brine, and we pretty much get,
13 like I mentioned before, we get them delivered before
14 the snow season to make sure we're fully replenished
15 and then after each snow event so we have established
16 contracts that we don't have to go every time and go
17 through the process.

18 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Does DSNY procure
19 alternatives to chloride-based road de-icing
20 chemicals?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we don't
22 really use any alternatives. We've looked at this in
23 the past a couple of times, and a lot of it's just
24 cost prohibitive. For example, DOT uses sodium
25 acetate. And just for like an order of magnitude, so

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 22

2 you kind of get a sense of... so my understanding is
3 for the sodium acetate, which is an alternative that
4 I believe they use, they pay about 3,300 dollars a
5 ton. For our rock salt, we pay from 76 to 86 dollars
6 a ton so you can see the difference there. For us to
7 use that alternative, it would be just really
8 expensive, and the effectiveness too is another thing
9 that we'd be concerned about.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I'd like to recognize
11 Council Member Banks for joining us.

12 How much is spent... so, I was gonna ask
13 you how much you spend on these alternatives, but
14 you're saying you don't really tap into that
15 alternative.

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Right.

17 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: All right, next
18 question. What happens to surplus salt or brine that
19 is not used at the end of the snow season? Does it go
20 back into the storage pile or?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, so
22 thankfully, most of our salt sheds are covered. The
23 ones that are outdoor that don't have covers, we put
24 tarps over them. But yeah, we just keep them on hand

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 23
2 for the next snow season, and that's what we do with
3 it.

4 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: How does this factor
5 into the budget cost in the subsequent year when you
6 have surplus salt?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Do you wanna
8 take this one?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: So, the
10 short answer is it doesn't factor in. The budget each
11 year is set based on the five-year average of actual
12 spending so, if we have surplus salt, our budget's
13 not cut or anything. It's just based on what we spent
14 in the prior five years.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And when you
16 replenish, is that also part of the five-year?

17 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER ANTONELLI: Correct,
18 yeah. So, when we do the replenishing, that counts as
19 an expenditure in that year, and that would factor
20 into the five-year average moving forward.

21 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. Has DSNY or
22 another agency considered studying the impact of road
23 salt on the environment or city infrastructure?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No, the only
25 thing we've... like I said, we've kind of looked at is

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 24
2 using that alternative that DOT uses but, again, it's
3 just from a budget perspective and effectiveness, it
4 just seems something that really wouldn't be in line
5 with our operation.

6 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Are any considerations
7 made regarding road salt applied near potentially
8 sensitive areas, such as landscaped areas and parks,
9 or near smaller waterways that may be negatively
10 impacted by increased salinity?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we don't
12 go inside parks, Parks Department services, the areas
13 inside the parks. Any areas near waterways, when we
14 have salt spreading operations, there's different
15 spreading widths that we adjust for so, if you see a
16 salt spreader on a highway, you'll see that that salt
17 spreader is a little bit wider than a one-lane road.
18 So, generally the way the widths are set up is that
19 we try to keep the road salt on the road itself and
20 not go past it so it really wouldn't be impacting
21 some of those areas.

22 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. Are bike lanes
23 snow plowing routes incorporated into street routes,
24 or are these their own routes?

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 25

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So we've made...
3 again, just to talk about some of the investments,
4 you can see a really good picture here so this is
5 what we call our all-terrain vehicles, ATV. We have
6 47 of these vehicles in our fleet, and we have
7 dedicated routes for them, and that allows us to
8 focus on bike lanes simultaneously as roadways, so
9 they have their own dedicated routes.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Are those the skid-
11 steer loaders?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No, skid-
13 steers are the other ones, correct, yes.

14 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. What's the
15 difference between them?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the skid-
17 steers are more for clearing manual... when we get into
18 a heavier snow, when we clear bus stops, crosswalks,
19 if we want to make piles, if we get a lot of snow,
20 that's when we would use skid-steers.

21 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: And I just
22 want to add one thing, Council Member, about these
23 pieces. This is just one of the ultimate examples of
24 a government pilot becoming a permanent program. This
25 is like when we talk about pilots that continue

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 26

2 forever and never go anywhere. Back in 2015, we
3 tested one kind of bike lane vehicle. It didn't work
4 that well. Then we got a different one, and we got
5 one of them, and one of them worked really well. Then
6 we got a fleet of 47, but they were leased, and they
7 worked really well so we bought a fleet of 47 of
8 them. It's just exactly how it should be, going from
9 pilot to permanent execution.

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: What do you call
11 these?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: This is an
13 ATV, bike lane ATV.

14 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. And how many of
15 those were purchased?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: 47.

17 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: 47.

18 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: Which is the
19 amount to be able to service every protected bike
20 lane at a simultaneous level of service as the car
21 lanes.

22 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. If bike lanes
23 have their own distinct routes, when are those routes
24 deployed in relation to when City brining and salting
25 operations begin?

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 27

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN:

3 Simultaneously. So, as soon as we go into any kind of
4 spreading operations, they're deployed at the same
5 time.

6 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. It's also fair
7 to say that having those ATVs also create more jobs,
8 right, during the snow season?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah. I mean,
10 that's part of what I mentioned before. This
11 Administration, Mayor Adams has committed to giving
12 us one of the highest headcounts we've had, and we're
13 able to staff these kinds of equipments at the same
14 time as the other operations so yeah.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Council Member Zhuang
16 has joined us.

17 When was the last heavy snow event that
18 caused DSNY to activate emergency hire equipment
19 contracts?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: All right. So
21 I just want to clarify. We have the two different
22 contracts. We have the requirements contract, where
23 we have a set amount of private hired equipment on
24 standby for the snow season. And then we have the
25 emergency hired equipment contracts, which we

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 28

2 typically don't hire unless we get into a situation

3 where there's a lot of snowfall or other situation.

4 We have not used the emergency hired equipment

5 contracts since March of 2017.

6 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay.

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: But we have

8 used the requirements contract as soon as... this past

9 snow event we used, we have tow trucks that

10 (INAUDIBLE)

11 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: The requirement

12 contract is usually triggered for an average snow

13 event?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Correct, yeah.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And the last time that

16 there was an emergency contract, that was in 2017?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: 2017, correct.

18 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. What was the

19 nature of that event that required the City to tap

20 into that emergency contract, and can you describe

21 the emergency services that were needed to respond to

22 the heavy snow event?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So, that

24 was a storm that was seven and a half inches, but it

25 didn't sound like a lot. I think the one thing we had

2 going on was we had the St. Patrick's Day parade
3 operation so that draws a lot of our personnel and
4 equipment so that's what required us to hire the
5 emergency contracts, and we employed dump trucks,
6 roll-on/roll-off trucks, front end loaders, and skid
7 steers.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I'd also like to
9 recognize Council Member Julie Menin for joining us.

10 Next question. DSNY's borough-based snow
11 plans reference that the Brooklyn promenade on the
12 BQE from Tillery Street to Atlantic Avenue will not
13 be salted, and that DOT will treat it with de-icing
14 machines. Can you explain why the different snow
15 removal mechanism is used in that location?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Sure. So just
17 to be clear, we still plow that area, so we still
18 maintain the plows. I'd have to defer to DOT for the
19 specifics, but that's the area, the triple cantilever
20 area, and I know they've made a lot of adjustments
21 with some weight restrictions over there so I don't
22 want to speak on their behalf, but that's the area
23 that they've been looking to make some adjustments on
24 over there.

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 30

2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Based on your
3 knowledge, are there any other locations in the city
4 where alternative snow removal techniques are used?

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, so DOT
6 maintains the East River crossing such as the
7 Brooklyn Bridge, 59th Street Bridge, and I believe
8 that they use those methods as well there.

9 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. DSNY's borough-
10 based snow plans reference that when snow reaches a
11 certain depth, it is piled, then taken to DEP-
12 approved snow melters or DSNY's pre-stage melters.
13 What happens to the melted snow that results from the
14 melter machines?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So we take
16 them to these areas, pile them up, and then the snow
17 melters do their job. They melt the snow to water,
18 and then they get discharged into a DEP-approved
19 sewer.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Is the water ever
21 harvested for City use?

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Not to my
23 knowledge, but maybe DEP might have a better sense of
24 that.

25

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 31

2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: How many inches of
3 snow would trigger the snow melters to reach
4 capacity? Do you know?

5 For the snow melters to reach capacity?

6 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yeah, like citywide.
7 Is it a one inch or two inches?

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Oh, for us to
9 initiate a snow melting operation?

10 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Yeah. Or at what point
11 would it reach capacity as well?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, I don't
13 know that we've reached capacity on our snow melters.
14 For us to initiate snow melting operations, it
15 depends on how... I would say six to 12 inches, but it
16 depends on the temps afterward, right? If we get
17 temps like this that it's freezing, snow's not going
18 anywhere, we might initiate that maybe in a six-inch
19 storm but, again, if it's mild, snow generally melts
20 a lot quicker and we wouldn't have to deploy that
21 operation.

22 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: Just on the
23 capacity, the smaller ones melt 60 tons an hour and
24 the larger ones melt 120 tons an hour so the idea of
25 reaching capacity, I don't think we could ever... if

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 32

2 there's a storm that maxes out the ability to use
3 these things, we have much bigger problems.

4 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. I mean, has
5 there ever been a point where it's reached capacity?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I don't think
7 so, no.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay. Well, I'm
9 hopeful that we won't reach that problem then. And I
10 have a few more questions then I'm going to let my
11 Colleagues ask some questions. I only have a few
12 more. How many staffers does DSNY allocate to
13 sidewalk snow removal enforcement?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we don't
15 allocate specific enforcement personnel when it comes
16 to snow removal. What we usually do is that we have
17 our field supervisors and in the course of their
18 duties, they are looking at those kinds of areas that
19 have violations where they're not, properties are not
20 clear in their sidewalks. But on average, we would
21 have about 425 field supervisors, 68 Sanitation
22 police officers, and then 38 enforcement agents on a
23 general 24-hour period when we're in these kinds of
24 operations. They would be the ones issuing these
25 summonses.

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 33

2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Is there a ramped-up
3 enforcement during snowfall?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: No.

5 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Or on a day that it's
6 snowing?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I mean, so we
8 wouldn't be able to issue summonses until after the
9 storm stopped, and then at that point they're
10 multitasking, so they're looking at... like today,
11 we're into regular collection operations. We had some
12 post snowstorm operations so they're monitoring all
13 that stuff and, in the course of their duties,
14 they're doing that so we do maximize the people that
15 are working, but we don't just ramp up just for that
16 purpose.

17 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: During the 2023-2024
18 snow season, how many violations were issued for
19 failure to approximately remove snow from pedestrian
20 walkways?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the 2023-
22 2024 snow season, we issued 9,495 summonses related
23 to failure to remove snow and ice on the sidewalk.

24 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: And how is that figure
25 compared to the years before? Obviously, I know there

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 34

2 wasn't that much snow before that, but just curious
3 to know how that would also compare to 2021 when
4 there was snow.

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I'd have to
6 get back to you on the 2021 figures. But just to
7 compare it to this year, so we've issued 7,315
8 summonses for this snow season.

9 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Are you saying for
10 '25?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yes, for '24-
12 '25, yeah.

13 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay, so it's
14 definitely going up.

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah.

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: That's what it sounds
17 like. Of these violations, how many were issued to
18 residential addresses versus businesses?

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, for the
20 2023-2024 season of those violations, 9,399 were
21 residential, 75 were commercial, and then 21 were
22 issued to vacant lot properties.

23 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: So, it seems like
24 commercial is very low.

25 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Correct.

2 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: So, it would be great
3 to see if the agency could apply more, to the extent
4 it has resources and the personnel, because I've seen
5 a lot of businesses where the sidewalks still remain
6 with snow.

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, I
8 definitely agree with you, Chair, and that's
9 definitely one of the things that I would definitely
10 look to working with you and the Administration. If
11 there's any areas, please reach out to me or staff,
12 and I would love to look at that. A lot of times we
13 go off 3-1-1 complaints, but if there's areas, I have
14 no problem.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Okay, we'll keep those
16 conversations. I'd also like to acknowledge Council
17 Member Carr for joining us.

18 I have just two to three questions, and
19 I'll pass it on to my colleagues. DSNY currently has
20 102 skid-steer loaders. One of the big concerns we
21 hear from residents during the snow is their ability
22 to navigate the streets. Is 102 loaders enough to
23 clear the number of pedestrian walkways and other
24 passages?
25

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 36

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, so the
3 skid-steers are not the only equipment that we use
4 for clearing pedestrian walkways. A lot of it's
5 manually done by the Sanitation workers. If you could
6 see one of the photos here, they're clearing an
7 overpass. So, there's areas that we wouldn't be able
8 to get equipment on, but we're manually clearing
9 snow, and that's one of the things that we focus on.
10 We heavily focused on Monday after Sunday storm. We
11 had all our personnel out there clearing that. So,
12 the 102, it definitely helps, makes it more
13 efficient, but the manual clearing is one of the
14 things that we also do.

15 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: All right. You already
16 answered my last question on stockpiles of rock salt
17 being replenished, you said, within 72 hours?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, yeah,
19 around that period, yeah.

20 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: So, all right. I'm
21 going to turn it over to Council Member Nurse. You
22 don't have any questions? Okay. Council Member Banks.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chair, and congratulations to the Acting Commissioner
25 and also want to congratulate you on the great snow

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 37

2 removal that was done in this past storm. Definitely
3 did a good job in my District so we're extremely
4 happy about that in the 42nd Council District.

5 As the Chair for the Public Housing
6 Committee, are there any collaborations between the
7 Department of Sanitation and other City agencies or
8 authorities to ensure that they are fulfilling their
9 snow removal responsibilities? For example, NYCHA, we
10 know that NYCHA is responsible as well for taking
11 care of their grounds, but when it's not done, and
12 then when there are complaints, is there any
13 enforcement by Sanitation or input or any type of
14 oversight that's done?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah. So,
16 anytime we have a snow event, we have the multi-
17 agency meetings with NYCEM and all the other agencies
18 around there, including NYCHA.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Okay.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: If there's any
21 concerns on there, we say it on the calls. And we
22 have relationships with NYCHA as well, where we can
23 communicate with them.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Right.
25

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 38

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: And that's
3 really the goal here, is to make sure that the
4 sidewalks are clear and we communicate that with them
5 regularly.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Well, specifically,
7 when it comes to like the RAD-PACT converted
8 developments, what's the communications with them?
9 Because I know they tend to operate in their own silo
10 when it comes to NYCHA.

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, anytime we
12 see a NYCHA property or a RAD-PACT, we mention that
13 to them as well. We can issue summons to them. Again,
14 it's obviously, the goal is to get the sidewalks
15 clear. You know, look, if we write a summons to them,
16 the sidewalk still going to be not clear for the
17 pedestrian so the goal is to get it cleared, but that
18 is something that we do mention to NYCHA on these
19 calls and we communicate to them once we get these
20 complaints.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Are residents able
22 like to send video to Sanitation or is there a
23 mechanism for them to also report NYCHA to 3-1-1?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, 3-1-1,
25 they can report these kinds of things, and I believe

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 39

2 there is an ability to upload photos. I'm not sure
3 about videos, but I think there is an ability to
4 upload photos, yeah.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: What is the plan
6 for us to support local businesses within the 42nd
7 during winter storms, particularly regarding snow
8 removal for businesses and the common areas? So, you
9 want to talk about some of that?

10 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: Nice to see
11 you, Council Member.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Good to see you.

13 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: One of the
14 things that we have really focused on here is
15 outreach to make sure that property owners understand
16 that it's their responsibility. A lot of commercial
17 tenants don't realize that their landlord that
18 they're renting from is supposed to be clearing that
19 sidewalk, and we've tried to empower them as much as
20 possible to go to the landlord and say, you know
21 what, I pay you commercial rent every month, you're
22 supposed to be clearing the sidewalk. As far as the
23 resources to do it, it is on the property owner. It's
24 one of their responsibilities, and we also always
25 remind them that this is not something that's

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 40
2 intended to be onerous on businesses. It's intended
3 to facilitate pedestrian traffic into their
4 businesses.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Were there any
6 summonses issued to any landlords, especially along
7 the business corridors throughout the city, or
8 particularly within the 42nd Council District?

9 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: We can check
10 on the map, but for sure there were, yeah.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: We'd love to know
12 that. Does the Department of Sanitation conduct dry-
13 runs or training exercises to prepare staff and
14 equipment for major snowfalls?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yes.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: And how often is
17 that done? What does that look like?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, every year
19 we do in-service training.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Okay.

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: We begin in
22 September, and all of our entire workforce is trained
23 on, like you said, doing dry-runs. We have them drive
24 the routes. We have navigation devices in all of the
25 trucks and we get them familiar and reacclimated with

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 41

2 that because sometimes it's not straightforward and,
3 if we get new employees, we want them to be familiar
4 with that as well and they drive the routes with
5 plows on.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Okay. And with the
7 recent snowfall city-wide, can you provide specific
8 numbers regarding personnel, resources deployed for
9 the 42nd Council District, which covers a large
10 landmass? We're pretty spread out. What specific
11 plans are in place to address the needs of my
12 District and to ensure that the constituents are
13 serviced?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, the way we
15 staff our snow operations are by our Districts, which
16 are community board boundaries.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Okay.

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I can
19 definitely get you a more specific, detailed
20 information on the breakout that would encompass your
21 District.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Okay.

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: But yeah, I
24 could just make you sure that we had one of the
25 highest headcounts this year and the equipment was

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 42

2 one of the highest equipment we've had fleet we've
3 had it over so many years so I'm confident that
4 you'll be happy with the numbers.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you. Mr.
6 Chair, if you can indulge me for one more minute, so
7 I can just ask this question.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: No problem.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Thank you. How much
10 salt is allocated or reserved specifically for each
11 Council District, and how is this distribution
12 determined?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we have 42
14 salt storage locations across all the entire city. I
15 mentioned before, there's 350,000 tons.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Okay.

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So that's
18 available to the entire city. We haven't thankfully
19 reached a situation where we fell short of salt and,
20 if we did, you know, we would have all the salt sheds
21 available to every District so we wouldn't have
22 issues.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: And just my last
24 question, I'm going to wrap this up. There used to be
25 a salt warehouse, I would call it, in my District. I

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 43

2 don't know, is it still active? I believe it was on
3 Loring or...

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I don't
5 believe that one is still there, but sometimes we
6 have to move them for various reasons.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Okay.

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: If they're not
9 City-owned properties, depending, things like that,
10 but we try to maintain the same amount of salt sites
11 across the City so, if we moved it, it would be to
12 another location.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Because I see salt
14 in there, but I don't know if it's... I don't see any
15 activity.

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: You said it
17 was on...

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: It's on Loring and
19 I think it's Drew. I can get you the specific
20 location, but I just want to know, is Sanitation
21 still using that because I don't see any activity.

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah. It might
23 be another City agency because MTA and Parks
24 sometimes has their own piles as well.

25

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 44

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: All right. Thank
3 you for your indulgence, Mr. Chair. That concludes my
4 questions.

5 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Thank you, Council
6 Member Banks. We're very passionate about salt here,
7 okay?

8 I'm going to now turn it over to Council
9 Member Zhuang for her questions.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Thank you, and I
11 appreciate all the work Sanitation did in my
12 District. I do have some questions. So, some
13 community has holidays. During the holidays, if they,
14 by religious reason, they cannot remove the snow,
15 what kind of... will they get tickets? How does that
16 work?

17 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: I mean,
18 ultimately, what we try to do is speak to the
19 property owner before, if it's possible, before we
20 issue a summons but, yes, we would issue a summons
21 across any day if there's snowfall because then it
22 would create a pedestrian hazard if it doesn't get
23 cleared right away.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Because any
25 program, like holiday coming up or when it's during

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 45

2 Shabbat, they're not able to take out garbage,
3 anything. I do have constituents get a lot of tickets
4 during the Shabbat time because they have to take out
5 the garbage early, before the sunset, and then they
6 got the tickets because they take out the garbage
7 before 8 o'clock. Is there any way, anything
8 Sanitation can do. But it's not fair for them because
9 it's their religious reason they cannot do that.

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: You want to
11 take this one?

12 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: Thank you,
13 Council Member. We hear this from certain
14 neighborhoods. I mean our position is that this is
15 the property owner's responsibility to comply with
16 the rules, right? It doesn't have to be any
17 individual person who may have a religious reason why
18 they can't take the trash out, but somebody in the
19 property has to be putting it out after, or not. They
20 could skip that collection day if they don't want to
21 put the trash out. We have to apply these rules
22 evenly and fairly. You know, there are so many people
23 in every neighborhood that you represent who have
24 seen the results of the later trash set out times,
25 who've seen the results of our enforcement of

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 46

2 sidewalk passability and cleanliness, and that
3 requires us enforcing it evenly. I will say in
4 certain neighborhoods that have a high population of
5 people who are Shomer Shabbos, who are Shabbat
6 observant, we've offered to move the collection day
7 to a different day of the week so this wouldn't come
8 up at all and, so far, community leaders have said,
9 oh no, we like that you do it when there's no traffic
10 so that's a trade-off. We're happy to make that
11 change if they don't want Saturday to be a collection
12 day at all. Truly, like, we're totally open. We're
13 waiting to hear from community leaders. But in the
14 meantime, the property owner has to find a way to
15 make sure that the trash goes out at the legally
16 required time and that the sidewalk is clear for
17 everyone to be able to get where they need to go.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER ZHUANG: Okay, thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Council Member Nurse.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you, Chair. I
21 had one question about what is the status of the
22 program that was meant to address the kind of no-
23 man's-land areas of roadways that have like these
24 green spaces. I remember the former Commissioner was
25 like very big on this and then I wasn't sure if I

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 47

2 can't, it's been a while, so I can't remember, but
3 just wondering what the status of that is right now.

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, so I
5 think you're referring to the Targeted Neighborhood
6 Task Force.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: TNT, right, yeah,
8 TNT.

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, no,
10 that's actually one of, we still have it going.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: It's really
12 successful. our cleaning operations team and our
13 chief there, Chief Pitts, gives me a call out daily
14 and weekly on it. we take photos. It's great. I think
15 we've highlighted some of it in our year-end, posted
16 MMR now so no, it's still going strong. It's really
17 successful.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: And that is just
19 based on calls, or is there like a set of like
20 targeted areas that you go to all the time?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, there's
22 a set of areas, but sometimes we get new areas that
23 pop up so if there's any areas in your District.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Can I add an area?

25 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, sure.

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 48

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Okay, I would love,
3 well, I was just curious because I remember there
4 wasn't, I wasn't sure if the program had funding
5 cuts. I couldn't recall, like time is always hard to
6 pull up in the brain.

7 At the area where Atlantic Avenue and
8 North Conduit diverge is, I know you all know, this
9 is like a rough area because of the overgrowth, but
10 when it's winter and the leaves are gone, you can see
11 all the trash there and it's just a chronic area.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, I'd be
13 happy to look into that and definitely address that.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: It would be great
15 to have that on the permanent list, because it's
16 just, we've paid for cleaning around it, but that
17 area is really hard and also dangerous for kind of
18 like the other supplemental cleaning groups to get
19 at.

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Just so you
21 know, I would definitely look into that. It sounds
22 familiar. Sometimes, unfortunately, we clean it and
23 then it gets dirty right away.

24

25

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 49

2 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: No, I understand
3 it's a hard area to get at, but that's why I'm saying
4 if there's a set list, it'd be great to add it.

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Yeah, no,
6 we'll definitely look at that and definitely see if
7 we can add it to the list.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER NURSE: Thank you.
9 Appreciate it.

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: You're
11 welcome.

12 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I'd like to recognize
13 Council Member Vernikov who has joined us. Council
14 Member Carr.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Thank you, Chair.
16 Couldn't be a more timely hearing. I don't have any
17 questions, Commissioner. I just want to say
18 congratulations again on your new role and also just
19 to let you know that my office spanning Staten Island
20 and parts of Southwest Brooklyn has a great working
21 relationship with the agency's intergovernmental team
22 as well as the borough chiefs and district
23 superintendents and everyone on down. Phenomenal
24 workers in New York's strongest and look forward to

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 50
2 that relationship continuing and just great job in
3 the District with the latest snow removal operation.

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: Thank you very
5 much. I really appreciate that.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Of course. Thank
7 you.

8 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: I would like to
9 associate myself with Carr's comments. Very good job
10 cleaning the snow this past week.

11 Council Member Vernikov, any questions?

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VERNIKOV: Thank you so
13 much. And thank you all again for the incredible work
14 you do in my District and congratulations,
15 Commissioner. We look forward to working with you.

16 Just have one question regarding seniors.
17 As we all probably know, it's difficult for seniors
18 to remove snow. Some of them could be disabled or
19 can't afford to hire someone to do that, and I don't
20 believe there are any exemptions for seniors. If
21 there are, please tell us. But if not, what can we do
22 to make it easier on them?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER LOJAN: So, we don't
24 have any exemptions. What we try to message is if
25 there's anybody that, your neighbors or anything like

1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 51

2 that can help out, that's what we encourage. I don't
3 think we have any other programs, right?

4 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN: No, and I'll
5 say, Council Member, it's such an important question
6 that comes up at this hearing regularly, and
7 obviously, the flip side of it is a senior who's
8 trying to use the sidewalk needs it clear, right? It
9 could go either way. Senior who's the property owner
10 and can't clear or senior who's trying to get where
11 they need to go. For what it's worth, this has come
12 up so many times over so many years, and there's
13 never been a serious effort to produce a meaningful
14 solution so it is something that we should all work
15 on together.

16 CHAIRPERSON ABREU: Anyone else wants to
17 ask any questions?

18 All right. Seeing no more questions, this
19 panel is hereby excused. Thank you so much for
20 testifying.

21 We're moving to public testimony shortly.

22 I now open the hearing for public
23 testimony. I remind members of the public that this
24 is a government proceeding and that decorum shall be

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 52

2 observed at all times. As such, members of the public
3 shall remain silent at all times.

4 The witness table is reserved for people
5 who wish to testify. No video recording or
6 photography is allowed from the witness table.

7 Further, members of the public may not present audio
8 or video recordings as testimony but may submit
9 transcripts of such recordings to the Sergeant-at-
10 Arms for inclusion in the hearing record.

11 If you wish to speak at today's hearing,
12 please fill out an appearance card with the Sergeant-
13 at-Arms and wait to be recognized. When recognized,
14 you will have two minutes to speak on today's hearing
15 topic, DSNY's Snow Preparedness Plans for the 2025
16 Winter Season or any of the legislation on our agenda
17 today.

18 If you have a written statement or
19 additional written testimony you wish to submit for
20 the record, please provide a copy of that testimony
21 to the Sergeant-at-Arms. You may also email written
22 testimony to testimony@council.nyc.gov within 72
23 hours of this hearing. Audio and video recordings
24 will not be accepted.

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1 COMMITTEE ON SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT 53

2 Are any members of the public here to
3 testify today?

4 Seeing no one in person or registered
5 online, this hearing is hereby adjourned. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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



Date January 26, 2025