

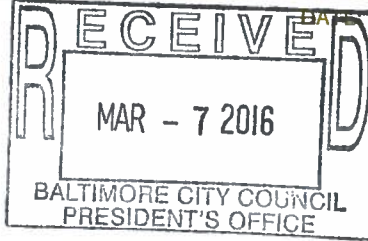
<b>FROM</b>	NAME & TITLE	Rudolph S. Chow, P.E., Director
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Public Works 600 Abel Wolman Municipal Building
	SUBJECT	<b>CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 16-0285R</b>

CITY of  
BALTIMORE  
**MEMO**



**TO**

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
c/o Natawna Austin  
Room 400 – City Hall



March 3, 2016

I am herein reporting on City Council Resolution 16-0285R introduced by Council Members Henry, Costello, Middleton, Stokes, Scott, Clarke, Mosby, Curran, Holton, Reisinger, Branch, Welch, Kraft, Spector, and Council President Young.

The purpose of this resolution is to request representatives from the many City agencies involved in the response to the historic January 2016 blizzard to appear before the City Council to review the lessons learned from this crisis and to explore what best practices should guide the City's response to future storms of this magnitude.

The January 2016 blizzard was of severe magnitude and the Department of Public Works worked around the clock with other City Agencies to provide services, remove snow, and return streets to safe conditions as quickly as possible. The City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was in operation from Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. This entailed running 10 daytime operation periods and 9 nighttime operation periods, for a total of 216 continuous hours of operation. Phases 1 through 3 of the Snow Emergency Plan were implemented with communications and updates announced through press conferences, local media, City social media, and the City's "Snow Center" website. This website has many resources for residents about snow, including a snow map.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) leads and directs the snow operations program and the Department of Public Works (DPW) is a supporting partner. DPW is assigned the southwest portion of the city to clear of snow, known as Sector 3. The city contains roughly 5,000 lane miles of plowable roadway, of which DPW is responsible for roughly one quarter, or 1,250 lane miles. Portions of the Inner Harbor that are inaccessible to large vehicles are taken care of by DPW using smaller equipment.

DPW also has responsibility for plowing and salting its properties in the city and in Baltimore County, which consists of over 50 locations. This includes solid waste yards, water and wastewater treatment plants, pumping stations, and other vital service support centers. These locations must be kept open and accessible to our employees for continuous operational responsibilities or for deployment of equipment.

In order to fulfill these important responsibilities, DPW dedicates significant levels of equipment and personnel to snow operations. The snow operation runs on two shifts, with over 120 DPW essential personnel on duty for each shift. The Department also provided nearly 70 trucks outfitted with plows for snow removal. In addition, DPW utilized vehicles leased by DOT for inspections of routes for the entire snow operation. Vehicles are prepared for snow conditions by the Department of General Services in advance of the winter season, and snow plans and multi-agency responsibilities are mapped out in July of every year.

*Comments*

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
March 3, 2016  
Page 2

Although the snow operations during the blizzard required a significant amount of attention and share of the Department's resources, it did not allow other vital activities to stall. DPW continued to treat and distribute drinking water, repaired broken water mains, operated wastewater treatment plants, staffed citizen convenience centers, and continued to provide customer service. It also resumed trash and recycling collection operations as soon as it was feasible to do so. This Department takes its responsibilities very seriously and will continue to improve upon the services it provides.

The Department of Public Works will be present at the upcoming hearing on City Council Resolution 16-0285R to discuss the response to the blizzard.

Sincerely,



Rudolph S. Chow, P.E.  
Director

RSC/MMC:ela