

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**  
*Mayor, City of Baltimore*

**Marnell A. Cooper**  
*Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners*

**Gregory E. Thornton, Ed.D.**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

February 11, 2016

The Honorable Bernard C. "Jack" Young  
President, Baltimore City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Position Statement  
City Council Resolution 16-0285R

Dear Council President Young:

On February 1, 2016 the Baltimore City Council introduced the above-captioned bill (Resolution) to review the lessons learned from the 2016 blizzard and to explore what best practices should guide the City's response to future storms of this magnitude.

Baltimore City Public Schools (City Schools) worked tirelessly with other city agencies to remove tons of snow that fell on city streets, sidewalks and parking lots. Moving and removing more than three feet of snow required team work and communication. From the perspective of our schools, we are confident that the proper blue print for cooperation has been established to efficiently respond to future storms.

City Schools is responsible for clearing the sidewalks and parking lots of 175 school and administrative buildings. We also assist the city crews by allowing citizens to park on our largest school lots during Phase 2 so that snow emergency routes can be cleared. In return, city crews clear the lots for school use after the citizens are allowed to return their vehicles to their neighborhoods.

There was one major problem resulting from the snow storm that required strong communication between the City and City Schools. Four days after the snow storm blanketed Baltimore City, some of our schools were experiencing shortages of oil and required refueling. This could have been a serious problem because unplowed side streets hindered access to our buildings by oil tankers. However, city crews prioritized those street locations to allow our school buildings to receive heating oil and keep the boilers operating.

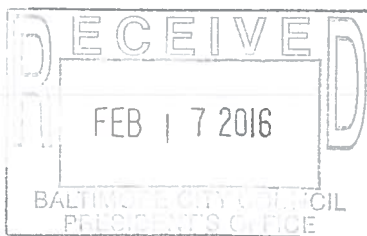
City Schools looks forward to any ideas for best practices that may help in responding to future storms. We will be pleased to join our sister agencies in explaining how city government was able to respond effectively through teamwork to this unprecedented storm.

Thank you for inviting City Schools to participate in this very important process.

Sincerely,



Gregory E. Thornton, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer



Comments