



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Joseph Coppola, Jr., Chair John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888

Place: Washington Boulevard

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Coppola, Vice Chair Zelinsky, and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Giraldo, Mahoney, McMullen and Reeder. Also present were Reps. Di Costanzo and Ryan; Ernie Orgera, Director of Operations; Tyler Theder, Regulatory Compliance Officer; Thomas Turk, Operations, David Michel, Dave Winston and Daniel Honan.

Chair Coppola called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

| Item No. | Description | Committee Action Report Made |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| ¹ 1. O29.035 | REVIEW; City's policy regarding Snow Removal at Intersections, Cross Walks and Bus Stops. 03/16/15 – Submitted by Reps. Fountain and Di Costanzo | |

Rep. Di Costanzo explained that this item was introduced in response to concerns expressed by constituents regarding the failure of the clearing of cutouts from sidewalks to the road and crosswalks in order to clarify who is responsible for such clearing and how to communicate this. Mr. Orgera explained that he had asked the school facilities manager to clear the sidewalk adjacent to schools, school crosswalks, sidewalks, etc. The City first clears streets and then goes back to intersections. They have never had to clear sidewalks before this year; which they did at major intersections. He has spoken to the Transit District, which is responsible for clearing a path from bus shelters to the curb line at bus stops. The City has never been responsible for clearing bus stops. The public is responsible for clearing the sidewalk adjacent to their property. He does not know if the property owner is responsible for cuts and crosswalks in front of their property. The city clears cuts and crosswalks in front of City property. This is the first year he has seen this problem with crosswalks and cut outs. Normally, the snow doesn't freeze in the way it did this year. Mr. Turk stated that people may not understand that the City may have to clean streets more than one time, which may require them to clean the sidewalk more than one time.

¹ Video Time Stamp 00:00:15

- ²2. O29.036 REVIEW; snow removal centralized storage policy **Report Made**
and snow removal environmental remediation at West
Beach Park and possible impact on MS4 permit on
future snow removal and storage plans.
04/08/15 – Submitted by Rep. Ryan

Rep. Ryan explained that the City had to dump snow into the West Beach parking lot, as a result of which the debris in the snow was in the parking lot, and drained into the storm drain as the snow melted. Mr. Michel read a statement into the record and showed a video of the snow and debris in the parking lot. He expressed concerns about how the City will finish cleaning the site and plans for next winter.

Mr. Orgera stated that he directed his crews to deposit the snow at West Beach, as they have done in the past. The snow must be dumped in a spot so the City can get back out to clean the streets. They did not anticipate such a long freeze; they ordered filter material for the basins and screening; and they are looking for a different area for next year. The DEEP will not the City use a site close to the Mill River. They will prepare whatever site they use next year with filtering and fencing.

The City did not violate any DEEP rule and the DEEP was notified that West Beach was the City's dump site before the season. Contractors with permits are allowed to dump snow, but they may have dumped additional items. Mr. Orgera stated that the Fire Department objected when he closed the area. He will put in a gate next year, so the Fire Department can still get in. Mr. Theder stated that the water from the catch basin flows into the pump station into a vault. He took "visual samples" from the vault. He has not seen the results of the Coast Guard test. They are not violating the MS4 permit.

Mr. Orgera noted that contractors with permits dumped only when City personnel were present. The problem is that others may have dumped at other times. He does not have the staff to constantly monitor the area, since there are only 9 people who work on parks. Mr. Theder explained that each tub for the basins in West Beach are custom made, take 6-8 weeks, and cost \$2200 each. There are 11,000 catch basins throughout the City which must be monitored and cleaned.

Mr. Winston noted that since this snow most likely has salt in it, it has to melt into someplace that is not fresh water, so the Long Island Sound may be a more appropriate location, with appropriated preparation. The Committee may revisit this issue in the Fall.

Chair Coppola adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Coppola, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

² Video Time Stamp 00:22:40