The Department of Public Works

“A City’s Most Visible Public Relations Tool”

presented by:
Jeffrey T. Wright, former Commissioner of Public Works
City of Syracuse, New York
City of Syracuse
Department of Public Works
Statistics

Total Operating and Capital Budget $30,000,000
325 personnel    8 bureaus/divisions
550 vehicles
840 lane miles of road
427 Miles of Sanitary and Storm Sewer & 4 Streams
120” Annual Snowfall, $6 Million Snow & Ice
Budget
City of Syracuse
Department of Public Works
Statistics

• Annually Collect and Dispose of 43,000 Ton of MSW & 8,000 Ton of Recycling Annually
• Collect and Mulch/Compost 80,000 Cu/Yds of Yard/Leaf Waste
• 45,450 tons of Hot Mix & 750 tons of Cold Mix Asphalt Produced
• 2 Specialty Litter Crews
• 25 Special Events Supported Annually
448-CITY

• Approximately **60,000** calls annually
• 4 staff assigned to handle the calls, including supervisor
• The Call Center acts as a “triage center” for calls and works cooperatively inter-departmentally on resolution
• Follow-up and documentation
A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words

Public Works Is Everywhere You Look
Media Interaction

**Reactive** –
Have a media protocol and be honest

**Proactive** –
Feature Stories: CUSE Crews stories
Secondary Media

*Put Some Real Effort into Displaying/Portraying DPW when producing these:*

• City’s web site
• Yearly mailers: Guide to Key City Services, Quadrant postcards
• Typical media hits: snow/potholes/litter
Department of Public Works (DPW)
Intersection of Rt. 890 and Midler Ave., on the Canal Street Extension.
Phone: (315) 448-CITY
Fax: (315) 440-8531
Pete O’Connor, Commissioner

The Department of Public Works (DPW) serves as the backbone of the city. We plow the streets, pick up the trash, maintain the sewers, keep traffic flowing, maintain our parks, maintain our streets, and issue handicapped parking permits. Our easily accessible location at 1200 Canal Street Extension, between Pearl Street and S. Midler Ave., is open to the public from 8:00am until 5:00pm Monday through Friday. Essential services and our Dispatch Office are open 24 hours a day, everyday.

Free mulch is available to citizens year round. The mulch pile is located on the access road to the DPW complex, just off S. Midler Avenue. Pull up to the pile and help yourself. You must provide your own containers and labor.

“The city of Syracuse may be under a foot or more of snow, but the citizens expect their roads to be clear.”
- Governing Magazine
Guide to Key City Services

Syracusans take pride in our quality of life. It is important that everyone understands their responsibilities as residents and property owners. This guide outlines City ordinances governing key services.

2010
Keep this guide handy as a year-round reference

Help keep Syracuse clean. Illegal dumping and littering in streets, sidewalks or parks is PROHIBITED.

Call 448-CITY with questions or concerns.

Visit us online at www.syracuse.ny.us
Dear Resident:

The City of Syracuse is sending you this card as a reminder.

Yard waste and construction debris must be limited to 2 cubic yards each. Call and advise City Line – 448-CITY (2489) one week in advance for construction debris set outs only.

As a resident of the NORTH quadrant, you are allowed to put yard waste and construction debris between the sidewalk & curb, not in the street, on the weekends listed below ONLY. Pick up will be during the weeks that follow.

April 3-4 May 1-2 June 5-6 July 3-4
Aug. 7-8 Sept. 4-5 Oct. 2-3

- Yard waste includes BRUSH, BRANCHES & LEAVES. Leaves should be in a separate pile. (NO PLASTIC BAGS).
- Yard waste cannot be set out prior to Saturday morning and no later than Sunday evening (APRIL – OCTOBER ONLY).
- Yard waste must be set out neatly between the sidewalk & curb, not in the street, and not near sewer vents, fire hydrants or poles.
- Yard waste or construction debris must be disposed of in plastic bags, boxes or cans.
- Household trash must be kept separate.
- Household trash should be put in a separate pile. (NO PLASTIC BAGS).
- Household trash should be no later than Sunday evening (APRIL – OCTOBER ONLY).
- Do not put yard waste or construction debris or household trash in the street, on the weekends listed below.
- Household trash should be kept separate.
- Household trash should be disposed of by the contractor. The City will not pick it up.
- Construction debris must be disposed of by the contractor. The City will not pick it up.
- During the season (April through October), you are allowed no more than two (2) cubic yards each. (About the size of a washer & dryer side by side)

Failure to comply with the above rules may result in a citation being issued by the Division of Code Enforcement.

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On March 30, 1992, after Syracuse, NY, had seen record snowfall in excess of 122.5 inches for the 1991-1992 winter season, the Syracuse Common Council unanimously approved the following resolution:

"Due to the problems faced by the city's snow removal crews, the Common Council of the City of Syracuse, with a population of 150,000, has approved the following:

1. A resolution was passed on December 31, 1991, prohibiting the use of any snowblower or snowplow in the city of Syracuse until January 1, 1992.

2. Though this resolution is proven to be effective against the weather, the city's snowplow crews are still struggling to clear the streets.

The next winter was the snowiest ever, with 152.2 inches of snowfall, and the city's snowplow crews continue to work hard to keep the streets clear."

Snow plow driver Eduardo "Parcel" Pierri, left, stands with his associate, Dainy Cardynski, who operates the side-mounted plow.

Story and photographs by David Kidd
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