
Government of the District of Columbia



DC Department of Public Works

Testimony of
William O. Howland, Jr.
Director

**Public Oversight Hearing
Department of Public Works
FY 2008 Proposed Budget**

March 30, 2007

Committee on Public Works and the Environment
Jim Graham, Chair
Council of the District of Columbia

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004



**TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM O. HOWLAND, JR.
DIRECTOR, DC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT, COUNCILMEMBER JIM GRAHAM, CHAIR
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2007**

INTRODUCTION

- Good afternoon, Chairman Graham, members of the Committee and Council staff. I am William O. Howland, Jr., Director of the DC Department of Public Works (DPW). Thank you very much for this opportunity to discuss the Mayor's proposed FY 2008 budget for DPW.
- The members of my staff who are with me today are Michael Carter, Deputy Director; Teri Adams, Parking Enforcement Management Administrator; Michael Belak, Chief Information Officer; Tom Henderson, Solid Waste Management Administrator; Ingrid Jackson, Human Capital Administrator; James Roberts, Office of Administrative Services Administrator; Patricia Robinson, Fleet Management Administrator; and from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Andree Chan-Mann, our Agency Fiscal Officer.
- I share Mayor Fenty's vision of the District as a world class capital. Fundamental to realizing that vision is world class service provided by

the Department of Public Works. The FY 2008 budget Mayor Fenty proposed for DPW takes us to the next level as we approach world class status.

BACKGROUND

- The Department of Public Works provides the most fundamental services across the District.
 - Each week, we collect trash and recycling from 110,000 households.
 - We sweep 21,000 miles of commercial streets annually and 34,000 miles of residential streets.
 - We collect 4,610 tons of bulk trash.
 - We collect 6,632 tons of trash from our 4,500 street litter cans.
 - We promote efficient traffic flow along the District's commercial corridors to support our retail and other business establishments. We assure residents' access to neighborhood on-street spaces by enforcing parking regulations.
 - We maintain the city's fleet of 3,500 mission-critical vehicles. We fuel the more than 6,000 DC government vehicles, including those for MPD, Fire/Emergency Medical Services, DC Public Schools and the Water and Sewer Authority.

- I want to take a moment to thank the hardworking DPW employees who gave their all during this snow season. I also want to acknowledge their families for giving the Snow Team the support needed to endure the cold, wet and stress of working long hours under dangerous conditions.
- DPW services are delivered by people. We value each employee's contribution to making DPW the Preferred Choice. In FY 2008, we will continue to invest in our employees, offering various training opportunities through our Public Works Academy as well as other training venues.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FY 2008 BUDGET

- The proposed DPW FY 2008 budget is \$154,748,999, a 13.8 percent increase over the FY 2007 budget of \$136,011,603. This budget supports 1,476 FTEs.
- The \$10.1 million increase in local funds is driven by higher costs for salaries, fixed costs and trash hauling. These funds will be applied as follows:
 - \$5.1 million in personnel services costs.
 - \$1.9 million for fixed costs, including fire hydrant maintenance fees.

- \$3.1 million for non-personal costs, including \$1 million for solid waste supplies, \$600,000 for DPW facilities maintenance, \$350,000 for computer replacements, and about \$1 million for the trash hauling contract.
- DPW also will achieve a \$6.7 million net increase in O-type Funds from the new designated Disposal Fee Fund and \$1.9 million net increase in intra-District funds primarily for fleet services, including automotive fuel and maintenance.

KEY FY 2008 PROGRAM INITIATIVES

- I would like to highlight our two key FY 2008 program initiatives – the expanded commercial corridor curb cleaning program and the anti-litter public awareness campaign.
- Thanks to the DPW Street and Alley Cleaning Division, our streets in the National Highway System are cleaner today than ever before. Therefore, we are expanding our commercial corridor curb cleaning program to achieve similar results along Columbia Road, 14th Street and U Street in northwest; Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in southeast; and 12th Street, H Street and Minnesota Avenue in northeast.
- This \$1.1 million program consists of 22 FTEs and the costs of equipment and supplies.

- Councilmember Graham, in FY 2008 we take the District to a higher level of cleanliness with the start of our anti-litter campaign to be funded at \$1.2 million. This campaign will build on the knowledge gained through the Clean City effort, Keep Washington Beautiful and DPW's own sanitation and recycling programs. As well, we have researched other cities' and states' initiatives and their experiences also will inform our campaign.
- We learned no jurisdiction has "the answer" to this problem. We also learned that combining humor with examples of acceptable behavior can change behavior. The most valuable lesson learned is setting realistic goals. To that end, Councilmember Graham, I will call upon you for your input as this program gets underway.

FY 2008 BUDGET-RELATED PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- As I noted in my FY 2006/2007 oversight testimony earlier this month, we challenge ourselves to improve performance over the previous year.
- I want to note two areas where we are looking for performance improvements.

- Last year we diverted 20 percent of our residential solid waste to recycling. We want to increase that percentage in FY 2008.
- The second performance improvement is cleaning 95 percent of our signed sweeping routes on schedule. In FY 2006, we cleaned 84 percent of these routes on schedule.

CONCLUSION

- Councilmember Graham, thank you very much for this opportunity to testify about our proposed FY 2008 budget and how it will support our work. I am very proud of the work we do everyday. Mayor Fenty has proposed a budget that fully funds our operations, so what we do well, will be done even better.
- Thank you very much. I am happy to answer your questions.