

Citizens for Community Action, Inc.

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Dec. 21, 2001

Al Sanchez, Commissioner
Department of Streets and Sanitation

121 North LaSalle Street
Room 700
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear Commissioner Sanchez,

Yesterday we faxed your office a copy of a flyer with the headline "Seasonal Laborer's Hand Crushed!"

It is indeed a sad day when human suffering takes its toll in the form of bodily injury because of the continued negligence of abiding by city rules and union contract, that are suppose to be adhered to but apparently more often than not, are only used when your ward superintendents care to enforce one-sided justice.

We feel sorry that Mr. Sylvester Campbell had his hand crushed but perhaps out of this we can all learn a lesson. Speaking of lessons, in the City of Chicago Personnel Rules, Rule XV, you'll find information about training. To quote,

Each department head shall have the responsibility to identify training needs, and, based on available resources and staff, to prepare and conduct training programs that will effectively meet those needs which are unique to the operations of the department concerned.

This information came from the Revised November 4, 1996 edition. We'll assume that it has not changed substantially.

Since this is from the 1996 edition, we'll further assume that over the last 6 years you've had time to prepare information relating to some sort of training program for the entire Streets and Sanitation Bureau and all departments contained within. We want a complete copy of this training program and at all levels, in detailed form with objectives, methodology, pedagogy, etc. Furthermore, we want information relating to these training programs and job advancement. That is, what training program criteria can any city employee who works for Streets and Sanitation follow to advance within any department of the Bureau of Streets and Sanitation. We'll assume this letter shall suffice but just in case it doesn't, please find attached a Freedom of Information Request for this information.

This serious accident could have been avoided. What it does open up though are two immediate questions:

1. How many dumpster sites are there that laborers must go to and remove trash? We want them all for all 50 Wards.
2. Are there other untrained laborers, both seasonal and career service, forced to pickup dumpster trash without adequate training? Please don't even think of replying that nobody is forced to do anything.

We are requesting this information because it has been brought to our attention that many people have been hired as seasonal workers and have been serving the City of Chicago in that capacity for many years. They were not aware of any training program or made comments similar to "That's a real joke. Advancement within the department is not based on skills but whether or not you're part of Carothers organization." This appears to be a violation of the union(s) contract in that after a specified period of time, the person should be removed from the role of seasonal and then made career service. We have procured names of individuals who have been treated with favoritism and made Career Service, despite the fact that others, who came before and worked for Streets and Sanitation much longer, still await being made Career Service. Isn't that a violation of the City of Chicago Personnel Rules and Union(s) contract?

Regarding the dumpster box at 415 S. Kilpatrick, home of Habilitative Systems, Inc.

Would you please explain how a Chicago Public Schools dumpster ended up at this site? If Streets and San had nothing to do with it then this is stolen property, in which case you should immediately report it to the Chicago Police Department. If Streets and San did move that dumpster to that location then please explain how and why public property is ending up on a private corporation's property. Perhaps the Chicago Board of Education might be interested in this. Don't worry, since we know you are a very busy person and probably don't have the time to ask them about this issue, we'll fax them a copy of this for you. By the way, we'll assume William Carothers had nothing to do with this, however, if he did, then we expect information as to his role.



District Superintendent Tommie Johnson Abuses Taxpayers

Years ago there was found abuse of public funds in that people from Streets and San were filling up their personal vehicles with gasoline paid for by the taxpayers. On December 17, 2001 Mr. Tommie Johnson filled up a private vehicle at approximately 10:05 AM. Looks like it's time for another investigation of such abuse of taxpayers money. Again, Sanchez, don't worry about spending time contacting the Inspector General because we're faxing a complaint over to the Inspector General and demanding a full investigation. He may very well be contacting you, assuming he is not a part of all this!

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In the evening of Dec. 20, 2001, the same day the picture of the Habilitative Systems, Inc was taken, a Streets & San vehicle was photographed outside of Wayne A. Strnad's house at 6:30 PM?

We want to know the Department of the Bureau of Streets and San this vehicle is registered to as well as who was driving this vehicle. According to 311 there were no complaints or any other reason that vehicle should have been in my neighborhood. Again, this is another example of abuse of taxpayers money using public vehicles for private excursions.

Now I don't know what it takes to make you realize that what is going on in your own department is not only wrong and unfair to people and then act on the matters to correct the situation, but one thing for sure and you can bet your last can of Bud on, we're not going to stop until we get the garbage out of Streets and San.

Please find the appropriate Freedom of Information Requests attached.

Sincerely,

W. A. Strnad
Director

CC: Mayor Daley
Inspector General Vroustouris
Other interested parties