



***Prince George's County  
Council Member  
Samuel H. Dean  
(D) – District 6***

**NEWS**

**For Immediate Release  
Tuesday, February 16, 2010**

**Contact: Angela Rouson  
301.952.7484  
CouncilMedia@co.pg.md.us**

**STATEMENT**

**COUNCIL MEMBER DEAN TO REQUEST BRIEFING FROM DPW&T ON  
RECENT SNOW REMOVAL EFFORTS**

Our County has persevered through this time of shared and unprecedented challenge as we experienced two back-to-back snowstorms that wreaked havoc on our District, Prince George's County, and throughout our region. I, and several of my Council colleagues witnessed firsthand during our visits to the Snow Communications Center, the tremendous efforts undertaken in response to this historic weather event, the first such snow in more than 100 years in our region.

I commend the leadership of the Director of the Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), Dr. Haitham Hijazi, and the tireless, hard work and dedication of the staff of the Snow Communications Center, DPW&T staff, employees and contractors, who persevered through the banks of snow, breakdown of equipment, and our frustration, while working long shifts in the cold, eating snacks instead of hot meal, and snatching precious moments of too little sleep, to do their best for the citizens and residents of Prince George's County. Most of us were homebound with family and food. How do you compensate that kind of dedication?

As many citizens have already expressed, the response to this historic weather event has not been without challenges. I acknowledge the frustration, and while I am thankful that no great personal loss or misfortune occurred, there are many lessons to be learned. Concerns around questions like what is meant by "passable roads," and why cul-de-sacs are prioritized differently from other streets should be addressed.

The Prince George's County Council will resume our regular session on Tuesday, February 16, at which time I will ask Council Chair Thomas Dernoga to schedule a briefing by the Department of Public Works and Transportation before the Council. This briefing, which will provide an opportunity to formally commend the work of our snow operations team, will also present an opportunity to consider the concerns of our residents, evaluate our efforts, and make recommendations for improvement.

I am privileged to represent District 6, the largest district of residents in the County. I am proud that while our residents have been vocal with their frustrations around snow removal via emails, phone calls, and even visits to my home, most have demonstrated tremendous and much-appreciated patience. While this most recent snow event was like nothing most of us have ever seen in our lifetimes, I look forward to a continued partnership with citizens, the County Executive, respective government agencies, and my Council colleagues, to make our snow removal efforts and responses to such natural disasters, even more effective.

-0-

*All legislative powers of Prince George's County are vested in the County Council. The County Council sits as the District Council on zoning and land use policy, and as the Board of Health to govern and guide health policy. The County Council meets as a legislative body on Tuesdays in the Council Hearing Room on the first floor of the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. For more information on the Prince George's County Council, please visit [www.princegeorgescountymd.gov](http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov).*