

December 29, 2022

## **A MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM LACKAWANNA MAYOR ANNETTE IAFALLO**

*I would like offer special thanks to the many business owners, business partners, City employees, residents and volunteers whose incredible acts of dedication, bravery, generosity and kindness helped the City of Lackawanna weather and begin to recover from the recent ‘generational’ snowstorm.*

*While there are too many individual acts to list, I’d like to share one which truly highlights how our community pulled together:*

*The Lackawanna Senior Center served as one of five City warming / refuge shelters during the snowstorm, along with all three firehouses and the Willie Cotton Center on Gates Avenue.*

*At the storm’s peak, nearly 130 people were temporarily housed at the Senior Center – approximately 70 related to vehicle rescues, with many of the rescued people coming from across the country or around the world for the holidays. Of those rescued, 17 were accomplished with the help of over 15 snowmobile volunteers who answered the City’s call for assistance publicized on Facebook and through local media outlets.*

*Food and other supplies for these 130 people were made available through the generosity of various Lackawanna businesses, as well as volunteer cooks who prepared meals from the Lackawanna Middle/High School cafeteria and their homes – all transported to the Senior Center by the City’s Public Safety Division.*

*In addition, members of the City Council and other City employees worked around the clock to help keep our ‘guests’ as comfortable as possible under the conditions. Once the Lackawanna driving ban was lifted on Tuesday, December 27th, all went on their way safely to other destinations.*

*Without this team effort and other similar efforts, it would have been very difficult for Lackawanna to survive this storm. Thankfully, we came together like family and pulled through in the spirit of the season!*

*Below is an updated list of all who helped the City of Lackawanna weather this catastrophic event. THANK YOU to all!*

*Gratefully yours,*

*Annette*

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*Erie County Government*

- **Mark Poloncarz, County Executive**
- **Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services**
- **Department of Public Works**

**Business Partners**

- **National Grid**
- **E&R Construction**
- **Zoladz Construction**
- **Union Concrete & their subcontractors**

**City of Lackawanna Businesses**

- **A&E Foods**
- **Gas Plus Express**
- **Mulberry Restaurant**
- **Pat's Submarines**

**City of Lackawanna Residents**

- **Abdulrahman & Esma Almathil**
- **Aziza Alriyashi**
- **Sadie Chenfant**
- **Debbie Friend**
- **Muna Munassar**
- **Jennifer Nahrebeski**
- **Katrina Shilling**
- **Maria Shilling**
- **Pat Swartz**
- **Dakota Weaver**

**City of Lackawanna Employees & Other Volunteers**

- **Amira Muflahi, Karl Anderson & Dean Moretti, City Council members**
- **Tony DeSantis, DPW Commissioner, Chris Druzvik & Gregg Kowalik (both DPW Foreman), Pete O'Connor (DPW Electrician), Shannon Katra (DPW Clerk) and all members of the Lackawanna Department of Public Works**

- ***John Wolf, Director of Public Safety***
- ***Jim Fino, Fire Chief and all members of the Lackawanna Fire Department***
- ***Mark Packard, Police Chief, all members of the Lackawanna Police Department and snowmobile volunteers Jeff Blake, Ed Plata and other anonymous snowmobile volunteers***
- ***Steve Balon, Code Enforcement – Building Inspector***
- ***Chuck Clark, Marketing & Public Information Officer***
- ***Denise Fitzgibbons, City Law Department***
- ***Mark ‘Chipper’ Friend, City Hall Building Supervisor and cleaning staff Andrew Kroll & Malia Pacillo***
- ***Scott Hayes, Code Enforcement Officer***
- ***Brian Lakso, Director of Recreation and Senior Center staff Chris Cutting, Laura lafallo, Edward ‘Flip’ Thomas and Ed Zak***
- ***Tom Nicometo, Director of Purchasing & Technology***
- ***Gene Olivieri, Technology Specialist***

***Lackawanna City School District***

- ***Keith Lewis, Superintendent of Schools***
- ***Lackawanna Middle/ High School Cafeteria - Dayna Little & Pete Mendez***

***Lackawanna Municipal Housing Authority (LMHA)***

- ***Mark Kuwik, Executive Director, David Beres & Tom (TJ) Suto***
- And, many others who helped anonymously!***