



TERRY L. WITKOWSKI
ALDERMAN, 13TH DISTRICT

First Blizzard of the Century Not a Problem for Milwaukee

Statement of Alderman Terry L. Witkowski
February 3, 2011

I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped keep our city open for business during the past 48 hours.

The Department of Public Works was well prepared for the massive storm, and our dedicated drivers at times braved blinding, white-out conditions and “thunder snow” to clear snow from streets and thoroughfares. People were able to get to work this morning, and without the extraordinary efforts of our crews, buried city neighborhoods would have been cut off from vital fire, police and ambulance/rescue services. I know that many of these drivers worked 18-hour shifts and then returned home to begin clearing out their own driveways, sidewalks and garage approaches.

My thanks also to the team backing up those drivers – dispatchers, municipal equipment workers, mechanics, and supervisors – you also did a tremendous job.

In addition, WE Energies crews quickly restored power to thousands in some of the most extreme conditions imaginable. Water Works employees also made sure our water facilities were operating as usual, despite the brutal conditions. City residents who sprung into action to help their neighbors, whether with snow-blowing, shoveling, or pushing out vehicles, also deserve thanks.

I ask residents to please be patient while the city handles the immense cleanup that’s needed, including widening of streets and clearing street corners.

The blizzard tested our resolve and we responded in a way we can all be proud of. Many other cities would have thrown up a white flag and been shut down, but Milwaukee put on its boots and responded to Mother Nature’s worst with an amazing effort truly worthy of praise.