

Mayor Scott Myers,

As residents of Dover – or any municipality - it's incredibly easy to pick out negatives and complain about them, whether that negative be property taxes, government projects or what have you. Often times these dark clouds block out the positive lights.

Early Sunday morning, Feb. 11, at approximately 4:30, my wife and I received a call from Dover Dispatch informing us that we should respond immediately to 189 Central Ave., a multi-unit building that we own. There was an alarm activation and when Dover Fire Rescue responded, they found 5 to 6 feet of water in the basement. As a young couple trying to establish ourselves in Dover, this was a potentially devastating situation to which your men stepped up.

On top of Dover Fire Rescue's response, the men of the Community Services division worked above and beyond what I could have expected. From the water department, George responded before sunrise to what turned out to be a water main break in the middle of Central Avenue between Silver and Summer streets. Though the determination that the water main break came much later in the morning, it was clear George was going to help us – even if it turned out to be a burst pipe within our building.

George called Mike in, who responded in the chilling temperatures despite his wife expecting his second child any hour. Both found that the shut-off to the building was busted and the situation needed more manpower. They called in a foreman, Brian, and from there Michael ("Hulk"), Fulton, and others were called in to assist on their day off.

An event that began around 4:30 a.m. continued amidst backhoes, dump trucks, pumps and fire apparatus well past 8 p.m. when I left the scene. Mike, the expecting father, even declined an offer during the afternoon from Director Doug Steele to go be with his wife, stating that his in-laws knew where he was and would pick him up if his wife went into labor.

Director Steele visited the site several times throughout the day and reassured us that the city would help with the damage. During the fiasco, Brian kept my wife and I informed and calm to which we are indebted. While having 10 tenants displaced for several days while everything from furnaces to fire alarms were repaired and replaced is not a desirable situation to be in, the work of Mr. Steele's department and Chief Perry Plummer's department did not go unnoticed.

Your men called PSNH, Northern Utilities, On Target and Red Cross to help, as well as assisting in the successful evacuation of my tenants. There were more Dover employees responding, such as electrical inspector Jim Maxfield, but in the hectic situation that required shutting down the avenue's water main from Silver Street to South Pine Street (as well as detouring traffic), I simply couldn't get everybody's name.

You and the Council, as well as everybody from Mr. Steele to Chief Plummer, should know how much this young couple (also expecting a child, like Mike) appreciate what a fine city we live in.

Thank you,

Peter LeBlanc
6 E. Watson Street
(Owner of 189 Central Ave.)

CC City Council
CC City Manager