

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,*

June 1st 1896.

My dear Sir;

I am about to appoint the "Bath Attendants" for the present season. Of course it is my duty to reappoint those men and women who performed faithful and intelligent service last year, and the few vacancies that will exist will have to be filled from the Civil Service eligible list, upon which I am informed there are a great many names.

The duties of "Bath Attendants" are quite responsible. They have to deal sometimes with large and unruly crowds clamorous for preferment, and have to exercise patience and forbearance. They are in charge of valuable public property, and frequently are called upon to protect human life.

As you are aware, all persons sent to this Department by the Civil Service Board come on six months probation, but as the duration of the term of office of a "Bath Attendant" is only three months, it is important to me that I should be thoroughly conversant with the characters and fitness of the persons on the eligible list before employment.

Under these circumstances I desire to request the Civil Service Board, through you, that they will furnish me with the entire list of eligibles, so that I may be able to satisfy myself that the persons selected are in every way qualified.

I am,

Yours truly,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,

~~No. 22 Broadway Street~~  
150 Nassau St.

New York, June 4th, 1896

Hon. William L. Strong,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Mayor:-

I have investigated the subject of asphaltting 54th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, as requested by Dr. Groszman, Superintendent of the Ethical Culture Schools, and Matthew J. Elgas, Principal of Grammar School No. 69.

I think their request is reasonable, and the pavement is in such poor condition that no injustice will be done to other parts of the city by asphaltting<sup>it</sup>. I have therefore directed that it shall be included in the next list<sup>to</sup> to be presented to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Yours very truly,

*Charles H. Collins*

Commissioner of Public Works .

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* June 11, 1896.

Jacob Steuhl, Esq.,  
68 Greenwich Avenue.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your postal card, complaining of defective pavement in front of Nos 68 and 70 Greenwich Avenue.

The Water Purveyor reports that the pavement has been repaired and is now in good condition.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to the Mayor for his information.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* June 15, *1896.*

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r, and  
Chairman, Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Dear Sir:

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to you on March 12th. I understand that no action has yet been taken upon it by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. Will you please have the matter acted upon as early as possible and oblige

Yours truly,

*Samuel Augustus Wells*

Deputy and Acting Commissioner of Public Works.

Enclosure.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,*

June 18,

1896.

Copy.

Messrs Davis and Boskey,  
98 1/2 Essex Street.

Dear Sirs:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of 10th inst., stating that several weeks ago the sidewalk in front of Nos 24 and 26 Pitt Street was damaged by the men who repaved the street.

In reply, I beg to inform you that I have this day addressed a letter to the Fruin-Bambrick Construction Company, which paved Pitt Street, to restore the sidewalk to as good condition as it was in before the paving of the street was begun.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy and Acting Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor for his information.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.

150 Nassau Street,

New York, June 23, 1896.

Copy.

Charles H. Nichols, Esq.,  
66 West 3rd Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of 8th inst., complaining of a fruit-stand on the S. W. corner of West 3rd Street and West Broadway.

The Superintendent of Incumbrances reports that, upon inspection, a booth and fruit-stand were found on the sidewalk, inside the stoop-line, at that place. It appears that the owner had obtained a permit from the Board of Aldermen to maintain the stand, which, however, exceeded the dimensions prescribed in the permit. The owner was notified to reduce the size of the stand to conform to the provisions of the permit, or to remove it altogether. He thereupon removed the booth, so that the stand now remaining conforms to the dimensions allowed by the permit.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

11  
Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.

150 Nassau Street,

Copy.

New York,

June 23,

1896.

G. A. Heidenfelder, Esq.,

250 West 32nd Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter to him of 16th inst., stating that the manhole cover opposite No 250 West 32nd Street had been broken over a week ago, and that you had repeatedly notified the police of the same.

In reply, I beg to say that the receipt of your letter through the Mayor's office was the first notification that this Department received that the manhole cover was broken. A new cover has been placed.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Transmitted to the Mayor  
for his information.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,

150 Nassau Street,

Copy.

New York,

June 24,

1896.

Horace D. Sherrill, Esq.,  
21 Maiden Lane.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter to him of June 18th, complaining of signs which are hung too low and project into the street in Maiden Lane, between Broadway and Nassau Street.

In reply, I beg to inform you that, upon inspection, several signs were found in violation of law on that part of Maiden Lane, and the owners have been notified to remove them. If the notices are not complied with in a reasonable time, the signs will be removed by the Bureau of Incumbrances.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor for his information.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.

150 Nassau Street,

New York, June 29, 1896.

John Kelly, Esq.,  
6 East 107th Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your complaint of 15th inst., in reference to defective sidewalks on the south side of 107th Street, between Madison and 5th Avenues.

In reply, I beg to say that as the owners of the property fronting on the defective sidewalk cannot be found, certificate and draft of a resolution and ordinance will be transmitted to the Common Council, with the object of obtaining authority to have the work of improving the sidewalk done by this Department and the cost assessed on the abutting property.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor for his information.

102  
Department of Public Works,

Commissioner's Office,

~~150 Nassau Street~~

150 Nassau Street,

New York, June 30, 1896.

N  
Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor, and  
Chairman, Board of Street Openings and Improvement.

Dear Sir:

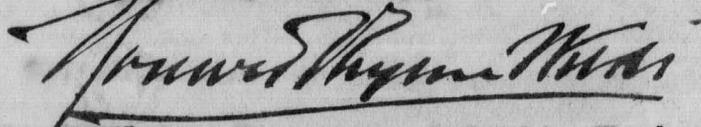
In accordance with the resolution adopted by your Board on the 5th inst., I have the honor to transmit herewith a map showing the proposed public park, consisting of the blocks bounded by Jefferson Street, East Broadway, Canal and Division Streets; by Division, Essex, Hester and Norfolk Streets; and by Norfolk, Hester, Suffolk and Division Streets, and showing also Norfolk Street, from Hester to Division Street, as closed, and Jefferson Street as extended to Hester Street to connect with Norfolk Street.

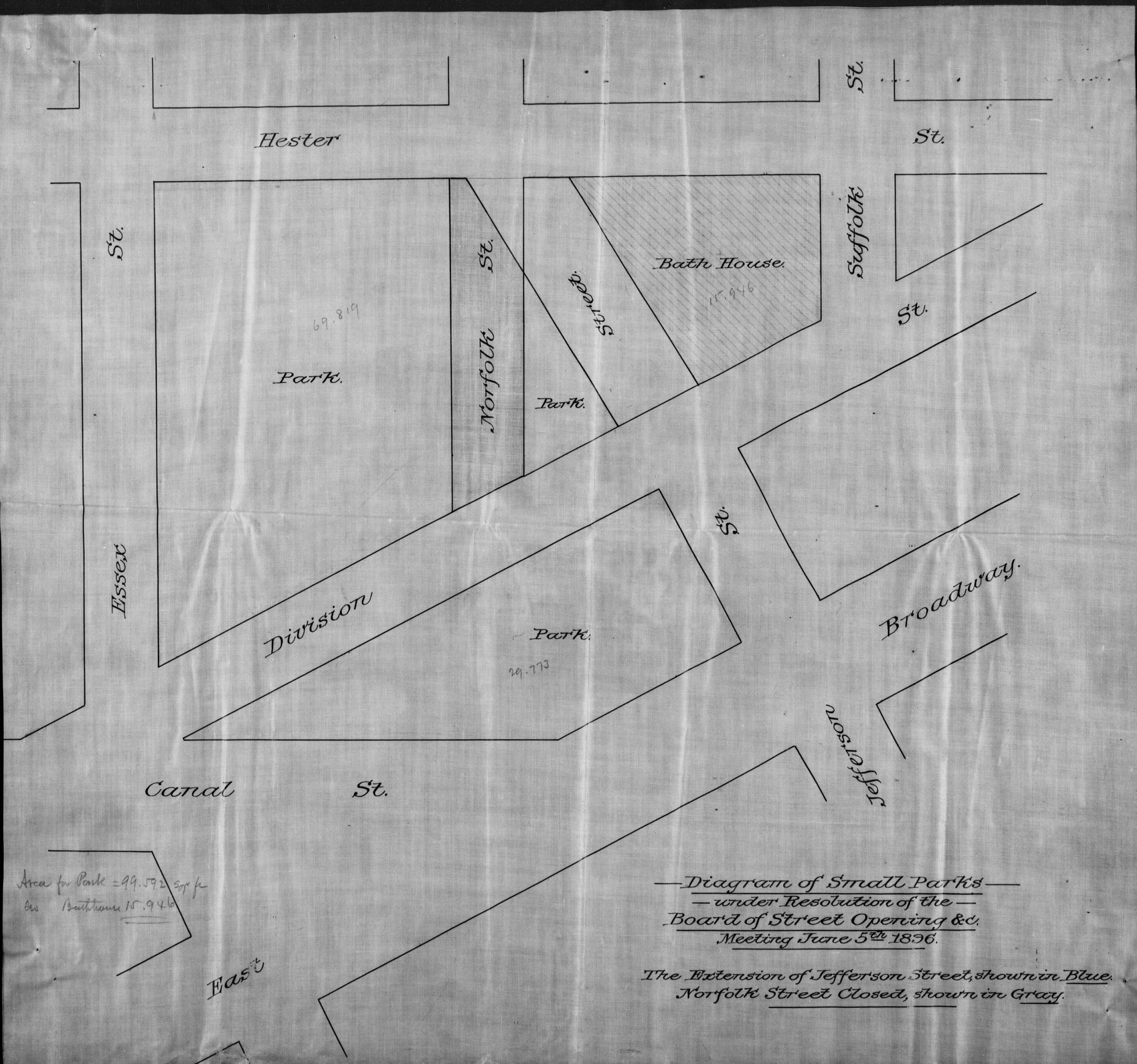
I also respectfully submit for the consideration of the Board the fact that Norfolk Street, for its entire length, along with other streets which were included in the "Delancy Farm," was deeded to the City in September, 1825, "in trust, that the same be left open as a public street for the use and benefit of the inhabitants of said City forever." Under this trust-deed the title to the land would revert to the original owners or their successors, if any portion of the street were closed and diverted to another purpose, and the City would have to re-acquire title for the purposes of a park, and would have to pay for the land by appraisement at its present value.

The closing of Norfolk Street and extension of Jefferson Street under your resolution would not add to the aggregate area of the proposed park, as the area to be closed as a street and added to the park, and that to be taken from the park and added to Jefferson Street are about equal.

I, therefore, submit a second map, by which it is proposed to omit the extension of Jefferson Street, and, instead thereof, to extend Norfolk Street from Division Street south to Canal Street or East Broadway. This would form a triangular plot bounded by Division, Canal and Norfolk Streets, with an area of 8,384 square feet, or about 3-1/2 City lots, which would be sufficient and appropriate as the site for a bath house.

Very respectfully,

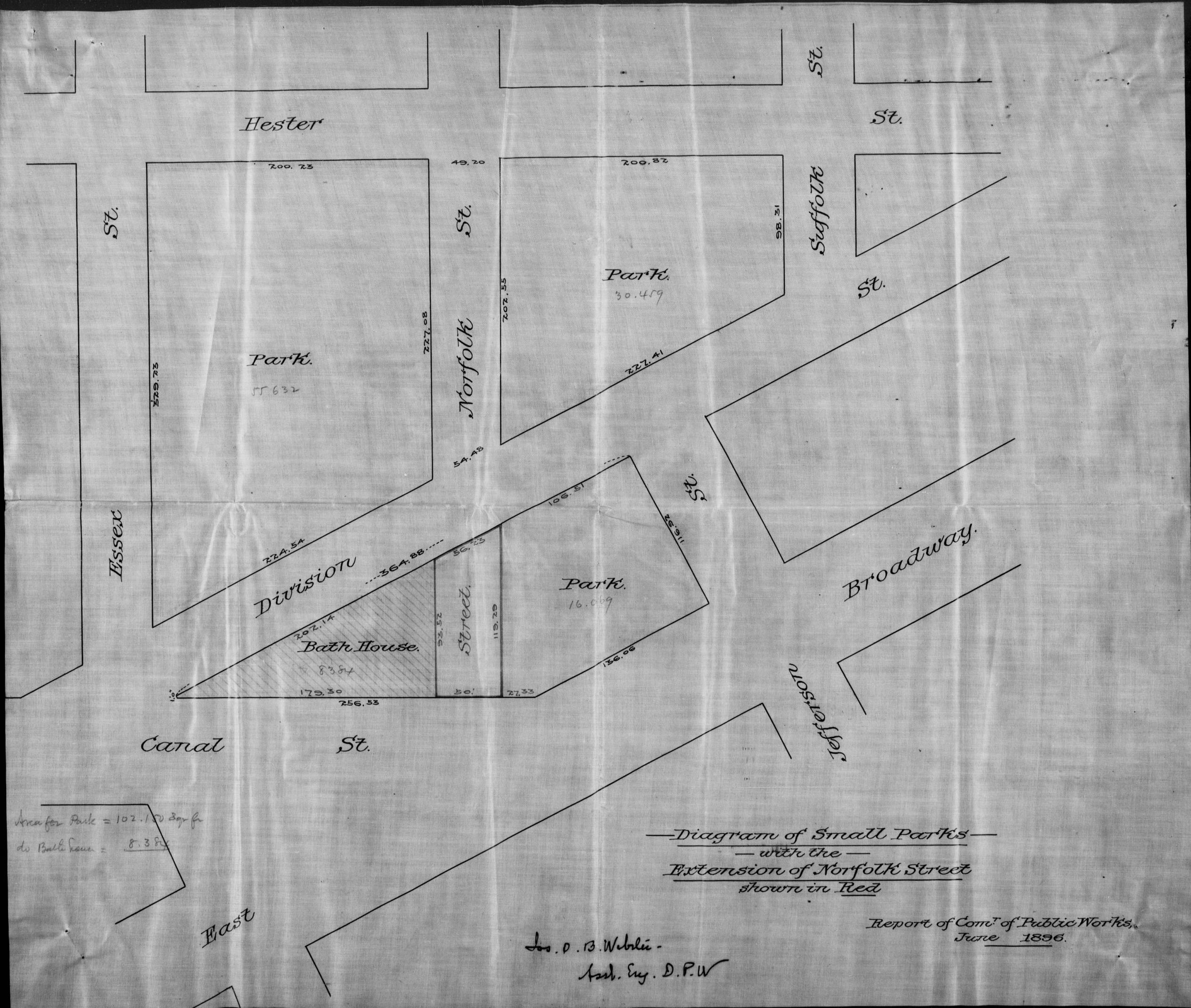
  
DEPUTY. Commissioner of Public Works.



Area for Park = 99.592 sq ft  
 or Bathhouse 15.946

— Diagram of Small Parks —  
 — under Resolution of the —  
Board of Street Opening &c.  
Meeting June 5<sup>th</sup> 1856.

The Extension of Jefferson Street, shown in Blue.  
 Norfolk Street Closed, shown in Gray.



Area for Park = 102.170 sq. ft.  
 do Bath House = 8.384

—Diagram of Small Parks—  
 —with the—  
 Extension of Norfolk Street  
 shown in Red

Report of Com<sup>r</sup> of Public Works,  
 June 1896.

Jos. D. B. Wible -  
 Arch. Eng. D.P.W

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* July 6, 1896.

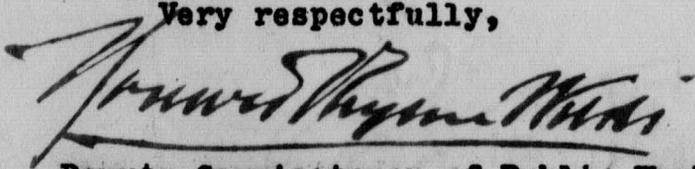
**F. W. Adams, Esq.,  
Hotel Marie Antoinette,  
Grand Boulevard and 66th Street.**

**Dear Sir:**

In answer to your letter of 1st inst., calling attention to the bad condition of the crossing on 66th Street, on the Boulevard side of the Hotel Marie Antoinette.

In reply, I beg to say that an order will be given to have the asphalt pavement repaired at that crossing, and at the same time an effort will be made to have the railroad company raise their tracks to the correct grade.

Very respectfully,



**Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.**

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* July 15, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of July 1st, transmitting to this Department for attention a communication addressed to you by Mr John Fleming, 452 West 24th Street, calling attention to the bad condition of that street, between 9th and 10th Avenues, I beg to inform you that I have answered Mr Fleming to the effect that the gas companies responsible for the bad condition of the street have been notified to repair the pavement over their excavations, and that the street is about to be paved with asphalt.

Very respectfully,

*Howard Thomas Wilson*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Copy.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,  
150 Nassau Street,  
New York, July 15th, 1896.

Henry Finck, Esq., )  
President; ) Taxpayers' Association of the  
John Becker, Esq., ) 10th, 11th and 17th Wards,  
Secretary; ) 101 Avenue A,  
New York City.

Gentlemen:

The Mayor has referred to me for reply your letter of the 8th inst., protesting against the laying of asphalt strips (or ribbons) alongside the curbs on granite pavements, and you charge that this expense should not be saddled upon the City for the sole benefit of cyclists who, you say, are a select few of our citizens.

You add that, in your opinion, the owners of bicycles should be taxed a small sum yearly, as all owners of other vehicles are at present, so that they can be more readily located in case of accidents.

Over the latter proposition I have no control. That is a matter for the Board of Aldermen. But this Department is confronted with the fact that over one hundred thousand people are lawfully using our public highways on bicycles, both for pleasure and to carry themselves between their homes and places of business.

This large body of travelers is now confined to the use of those highways which are paved with asphalt, involving a dangerous crowding of such thoroughfares, and, in several recent cases, leading to serious accident and loss of life.

As new conditions arise in a great metropolis the duty devolves upon the municipal government to meet them, and, in my anxiety to so distribute this bicycle travel over the whole area of the City so as to avoid choking any particular highway, I am now constructing a continuous route of asphalt pavement on 1st Avenue, from 19th Street to 20th Street, where it will connect with the same kind of pavement already laid on Second Avenue south.

This will greatly relieve the Boulevard and Eighth Avenue, and, when both routes are continued to the Battery, will constitute a great convenience to those of our citizens who ride the wheel, and at the same time will afford ample facilities for horse-vehicles.

These continuous routes, however, will not be availed of if they are broken here and there by granite pavements, as they always will be where the grade of the streets is too steep for the use of asphalt, or where the limit of appropriation prevents the asphaltting of the entire street.

Under these circumstances I have devised the scheme of laying an asphalt pathway over such granite pavements alongside the curb, and where this has already been done it has given great satisfaction both to wheelmen and to those who drive horses, the proper location for each being well defined, thus avoiding accident.

We now have over 100 miles of asphalt in this City and are spending over a million dollars per annum to increase this mileage. Owing to the competition I have encouraged, the price per yard is so reduced that I can pave twelve

more miles each year than has been heretofore paved with the same amount of money, and the pavements prove, upon examination by experienced engineers, to be superior to those heretofore laid.

This City will, in my opinion, in a few years be entirely paved with smooth noiseless pavements, which will render it unnecessary to resort to the expedient of asphalt ribbons for bicycles.

I am not laying any stone pavements excepting where the grade will not permit of asphalt.

As to your objection to my order protecting three feet on each side of asphalted streets against the water sprinklers, I can only say that these limited areas accumulate very little dust, and whatever there is is well taken care of by Col. Waring.

I do not ride a bicycle, nor do I ever expect to, but those who do, say that the sprinkler is their deadly foe, and I am sure every householder will cheerfully submit to a slight inconvenience for the comfort and safety of a hundred thousand of their fellow citizens.

With great respect,

I am  
Yours,

(Signed) CHARLES H. T. COLLIS,

Commissioner.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* July 16, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of my reply to the letter addressed to you by the President and Secretary of the Taxpayers' Association of the 10th, 11th and 17th Wards, protesting against the laying of strips of asphalt alongside the curbs on granite pavements for the benefit of cyclists.

Very respectfully,

*Howard Vernon Wells*

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Enclosure.

Department of Public Works,

Commissioner's Office,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

No. 3156 Nassau Street,

COPY.

New York, July 16, 1896.

Robert M. Donaldson, Esq.,  
Five Points, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of 14th inst. to the Mayor, referring to our correspondence regarding the flagging disturbed in front of your building in repaving Park Street, has been transmitted to this Department for attention.

You "protest against the City compelling the owner of the property to go to the expense of relaying the sidewalk caused entirely by a change either to please the City authorities or the contractor."

The change in the curb, to which you refer, was not made "to please the City authorities or the contractor," but was made in the performance of a plain duty to the public. The old curb was found to be defective, and it would have been culpable negligence to have put down a fine new pavement at the expense of the public at large, and to have allowed defective curb to stand at the edge of the pavement. Under the law, the owner might have been compelled to replace the defective curb at his own expense, but that would have obstructed and delayed the laying of the pavement. As it is, he has been benefited by the City assuming and performing an obligation which rested on him. If he neglects to properly relay the flagging, the City will have to step in and do it at his expense, making the cost, including surveyor's

2

fees and services of an inspector, an assessment and lien  
on the property.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to the  
Mayor for his information.

Department of Public Works,

Commissioner's Office,

~~150 Nassau Street,~~

150 Nassau Street,

New York, July 20, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor, and  
Chairman, Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to call the attention of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund to the necessity of clearly defining, without delay, the status of the Criminal Court Building in respect to such repairs as, in the case of other municipal buildings, come under the sole charge of this Department, and are provided for in the annual appropriation for "Public Buildings-- Construction and Repairs." The appropriation for the current year contains no allowance for these repairs, because the building is still under the control of your Board, and work has been, and is still, progressing under several contracts awarded and made by the Board for furnishings, fittings, plumbing, mason work, carpenters work, etc.

In the meantime certain parts of the building, especially on the roof, gutter pipes and leaders, have fallen into a <sup>condition</sup> ~~state~~ which calls for immediate repairs to prevent further damage and progressively increased cost if longer deferred. The Superintendent of Repairs and Supplies states that since February of last year he has received a large number of requisitions and requests from municipal officers and from the janitor for various repairs, and he estimates the cost of putting

and keeping the building in proper condition for the current year at \$5,000.

Under these circumstances, I request most earnestly that one of two courses be adopted at once, viz: that the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund pass a resolution authorizing the Commissioner of Public Works to make all repairs now needed, or that may be needed for the remainder of this year, at an expense not to exceed \$5,000, to be paid from the fund for the erection and furnishing of the building; or that your Board will direct the architect to make the needed repairs, otherwise a much larger amount of money will have to be expended hereafter for this purpose than would be required if the work is done at once.

Very respectfully,

*Charles H. D. Collins*

Commissioner of Public Works.

*Department of Public Works*  
*Commissioner's Office*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* July 23, 1896.

Hon. William L. Strong,

M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

Replying to the letter of 18th inst.  
from your Secretary, with a communication addressed  
to you by Mr John W. Rapp, 309 East 94th Street,  
asking when that street will be legally opened to  
the East River, I beg to say that I have answered  
Mr Rapp to the effect that proceedings for the  
opening of that part of 94th Street are being taken  
by the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment, to  
whom final damage and benefit maps, etc., have  
been transmitted.

Very respectfully,

*James H. Wood*  
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

CITY OF NEW YORK.  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

July 24th, 1896.

*M. B. [unclear]*  
*Sub [unclear]*

Hon. C.H.T. Collis,  
Commissioner of Public Works,  
New York.

Dear Sir:-

The Mayor directs me to enclose to you for attention and report direct to complainant, copy of which report kindly forward to this office, the within communication from Melvin G. Lathrop, Esq., Secretary & Treasurer of the City Island Railroad Co., No. 28 Union Square, concerning the abuttment on which the north end of the draw of the City Island Bridge rests.

Very respectfully yours,

*Job Edwards*  
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,

Commissioner's Office,

150 Nassau Street,

New York, July 25<sup>th</sup> 1896

My dear Sir.

The enclosed paper should be sent to Commissioner Haffen, who has charge of streets, roads and bridges north of Harlem River, or to the Park Department, if the bridge abutment is within a public park.

Yours very truly

H. Dimse  
Chief Clerk.

Col. Job C. Hedges,

Mayor's Secretary.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* July 30, 1896.

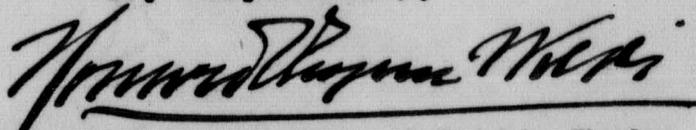
Hon. William L. Strong,

M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

Referring to the letter addressed to you by Messrs Davis and Boskey regarding damage caused to their sidewalk at No 24 and 26 Pitt Street, I beg to say that I have written to these parties, informing them that the engineer of the Fruin-Bambrick Construction has stated to the Water Purveyor that said Company will repair the sidewalk.

Very respectfully,



Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

*Department of Public Works.*  
*Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* July 31, 1896.

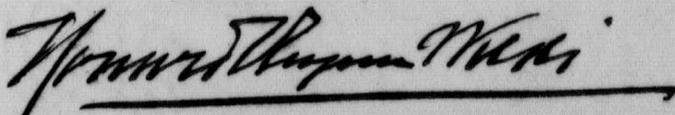
Hon. William L. Strong,  
M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of the letter of 17th inst. from your office, with a communication addressed to you by Mr Stephen Vail, 145 Broadway, concerning the failure of the Broadway Railroad Company to replace crosswalks removed by them in constructing their cable railway.

In reply, I beg to say that, upon investigation, I find that, under a former administration, the Company were ordered not to put down flagstones on the crossings and it is doubtful if we can compel them to do so now.

Very respectfully,



Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* July 31st 1896. *189*

My dear Sir;

I am in receipt of your letter of this date, enclosing copy of a resolution of the Board of Aldermen, suspending the operation of ordinances in regard to the hanging of banners across public streets "as far as they relate to banners which are in the interest of candidates for public office, to be voted for at the coming election".

I will see that your wishes in regard to the matter are carried out.

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Commissioner.

Hon. John Jeroloman,  
Acting Mayor.

*Department of Public Works,*  
*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 31 Chambers Street,*

*New York,* August 11th 1896

My dear Mr Mayor:

At the suggestion of my son, I flushed the streets of the East side last night from the Bowery, to the East River, and from Houston St. to East Broadway. Most of the pavements are asphalt and work commenced about 1/2 past 7 and was continued until eleven o'clock and was handled by Foreman Grady and fifteen men. Commissioner Ford of the Fire Department furnished me with all the necessary hose, nozzles etc. and I only used as much water as would be consumed at an ordinary fire.

It was a great boon to the poor people in the tenement district. Parents literally brought their children in the street to have the water poured on them and there was at least 50,000 little ones to whom it was a perfect holiday. Many of the adult citizens thanked me and everybody seemed to think it was a good thing. I shall repeat it to-night with the force increased to thirty(30).

Yours respectfully,

*Charles H. G. Collis*

*Hon. Wm. L. Strong.*

Hon. W. L. Strong Mayor City of New York  
Dear Sir:

I have been an Inspector of Paving for several years having first been appointed from the eligible list by Gen'l Newton who was then Com. of Pub. W'ks. Last year I was re-examined by the Civil Service Comrs. whom you appointed; I received a high rating being second on the list. I was certified as eligible for appointment to the Dept. Pub. W'ks. and was appointed last year on work which was completed <sup>LATE</sup> in the year. As no work is done by contractors in the winter months, I was not under pay, being only paid while work is in progress, but was eligible for re-appointment the following Spring and am still on the eligible list. Having performed my duties satisfactorily with no charges against me the previous year, I made application for re-appointment last Spring to the Water Purveyor, Mr. North who is at the head of bureau of pavements. I was told that I was all right, but to have some one see the General, meaning Gen'l Collis. This I did and had the District Chairman to recommend me for appointment to Com. Wilds. Com. Wilds told him that he was not going to appoint any more Inspectors, but I find that is not the case as several have been appointed. As an Inspector is appointed on contract work he is only paid for the time it requires to complete the job, after which he is placed on the waiting list upon which my name is, but as soon as those Inspectors who have finished jobs on which they

were employed, they are immediately re-appointed. Why this unfair discrimination? Can it be possible that I am not appointed because of factional differences or probably because I am also a member of a labor organization? Is this the spirit of the civil service law? I thought that under your administration Mr. Mayor competency and fitness to serve the Cities interests were to be rewarded.

Is this being done?

*H. D. Suling*

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,*

August 13th

*189*  
6

Hon. William L. Strong.

My dear Sir:

In reference to the enclosed complaint of H. D. Suling, I desire to say, that upon investigation I feel justified in placing him at work as inspector of paving and have done so.

Yours very truly,

*Charles W. T. Collins*

CITY OF NEW YORK,  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,  
THE ARSENAL - CENTRAL PARK.

COMMISSIONERS:

S. Van Rensselaer Cruger, President,  
Samuel McMillan, Vice-President,  
William A. Stiles, Treasurer,  
Smith Ely.

July 14th, 1896.

Richard W. Humphrey, Esq.,  
310 E. 37th Street.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the New York City Civil Service Boards, stating that at a meeting of the Civil Service Commissioners, held on the 8th inst., your appointment in this Department was held to be illegal. It is therefore our duty, under Regulation 40, to discharge you. I have to notify you that your services, as Inspector in this Department, will not be required after Wednesday, the 15th inst.

It is due you to say that this Board has no complaint and has been entirely satisfied with the manner with which you have performed your duties since we took office.

Yours truly,  
S.V-R.CRUGER,  
President.

W. S. & P. PARAGON LINE

Hon. W. L. Strong Mayor City of New York  
Dear Sir:-

Some time in June of this year an anonymous letter was sent to Comptroller Fitch, the purport of which is unknown to me, and upon which he acted, withheld six weeks salary which is still due me for services faithfully and competently rendered as Inspector of Paving and for which position I was regularly appointed from the eligible civil service list by the Park Commissioners, from whom I received a good recommendation. I previously in Aug., 1895, held a similar position in Dept., of Pub., W'ks., and was appointed on Old Slip by the then Com., Mr. Brookfield. I was recommended for removal by persons unknown to me. On making request for re-appointment to Gen'l Collis who was then Deputy Comr., I was informed in the presence of two witnesses that he would not consider me dismissed, but would not re-appoint me in his department: He also assured me that he would not prevent me from seeking a position in any other department. I did seek other employment and was appointed in the Dept., of Pub. Parks Sept., 24th, 1895; thus having been legally appointed in said Park Board and performed my duties satisfactorily in same, which is vouched for by the Park Board. Upon inquiring at the civil service bureau why my salary was withheld, I was informed that they had received a letter from

Deputy Com. Wilds which stated that I was removed from the Dept., of Pub., W'ks. Aug., 12th, 1895, thereby preventing me from continuing as Inspector in the Park Dept., and also stopping me from being examined for any other position in the Classified Civil Service for three years. I have never had a hearing and cannot tell by whom the charges were preferred.

Why is it that Mr. Wilds, the Dept. Coms., in the absence of Gen'l Collis, should notify the civil service bureau after ten months have elapsed when he knew nothing of the case and was not a Commissioner at the time? This seems rather queer after having the assurance of Gen'l Collis that I would not be hampered in any other department. It savors of persecution and is unjust and unfair. Is it because I am a member of a labor organization?

*R. W. Humphreys*

Department of Public Works,  
Water Purveyors Office,  
150 Nassau Street,

New York,

Aug. 12, 1896.

Genl. C. H. T. Collis,

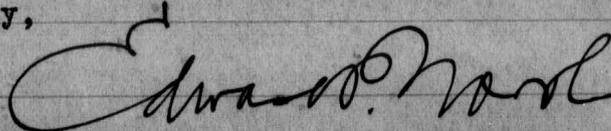
Commissioner of Public Works.

Sir:-

Referring to the matter of Richard W. Humphrey, who was at one time an Inspector of Paving in your Department, I beg leave to say that Mr. Humphrey was appointed on Old Slip; that while he was there, Mr. Merritt H. Smith, an Engineer in the Finance Department, came to me and told me that the Inspector at Old Slip was intoxicated. We went immediately to Old Slip and I found Mr. Humphrey so much under the influence of liquor that he was not capable of taking care of his work. This was about three o'clock P. M. and from the looks of the work, he had probably been intoxicated since nine or ten. I recommended his immediate discharge.

There was a very heavy political pressure brought to bear to have Mr. Humphrey reinstated, but as this was clearly subversive to all discipline in your Department, it was resisted. Mr. Humphrey is undoubtedly capable of taking care of work, if he keeps sober, but if he should be reinstated in this Department, I do not see how we could discharge any Inspector for lack of attention to duty.

Respectfully,



Water Purveyor.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,*

August 13th

1896

Hon. William L. Strong.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to enclose you the following report of the Water Purveyor, in regard to Richard W. Humphreys, who wrote you a letter which I return, complaining that he was wrongfully discharged from this department. From Mr Humphreys' appearance I have reason to believe that he has determined to avoid a recurrence of his indiscretion should he be restored to duty, and I will therefor endeavor to have the record so amended as to permit his resignation to be substituted for his discharge.

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. D. Collins*

3 enclosures.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* August 14, 1896.

Copy.

Otto E. Dryfoos, Esq.,  
300 Church Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of 3rd inst., in reference to an unpaved space in front of your premises, No 300 Church Street.

Upon investigation, I find that when the owners of the property set back the curb about three inches to make the sidewalk conform to the line and grade established by the City, they failed to pave the space you complain of, and it is their duty to do so.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) CHARLES H. T. COLLIS,

Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted  
to the Mayor, as requested.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.

150 Nassau Street,

New York, August 17, 1896.

Copy.

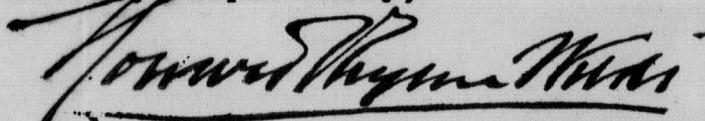
Dr Carl Graib,  
218 East 114th Street.

Dear Sir:

I have received through the Mayor's office your letter to him of 8th inst., stating that there are no street signs on Second Avenue in the Harlem district.

In reply, I beg to inform you that signs for Second Avenue are now being painted, and it is expected they will be completed and placed this week.

Very respectfully,



DEPUTY. Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,*

August 19, 1896.

Copy.

J. S. Merriam, Esq.,  
61 Liberty Street.

Dear Sir:

I have received through the Mayor's office your letter of 12th inst., complaining of the imperfect light furnished by the electric lamp at the south-west corner of Broadway and 56th Street.

In reply, I beg to say that an examination of the lamp has been made and it is found to be out of order. The Brush Electric Illuminating Company have been directed to place a new lamp on the post surmounted by the defective one.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* August 20, 1896.

Copy.

George W. Lewis, Esq.,  
124 West 96th Street.

Dear Sir:

I have received through the Mayor's office your letter to him, complaining of delay in restoring the asphalt pavement over a sewer cut in front of No 440 West 58th Street.

In reply, I beg to say that the pavement would have been restored before this time but for the fact that the Fruin-Bambrick Construction Company's asphalt paving plant was burned shortly before they got an order from this Department to restore the pavement. The Company has just been ordered to repair the pavement with stone which will serve until their plant is in working order--probably about ten days hence.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to the  
Mayor as requested.

Aug 26<sup>th</sup>

Placed the 50 newly ornamented lanterns  
between Madison and Sixth Aves on the  
following streets.

10 on 56<sup>th</sup> St.

13 " 55 " "

10 " 54 " "

11 " 53<sup>rd</sup> "

5 " 52<sup>nd</sup> " bet. 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> Aves.

1 for Sample

50

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* Aug. 27th 1896. *189*

Dear Mr. Mayor;

I wish when you are out this evening you would look at the new lamps I have put on 56th Street between Madison and 6th Avenues. They only cost a trifle more than the old ones, and I think are a great improvement .

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. D. Collio*

P.S. I enclose you a memorandum of where you can find also some others.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor.

*Department of Public Works.*

*Commissioner's Office.*

~~150 Nassau Street~~

150 Nassau Street,

*New York,* August 27, 1896.

Copy.

M. S. Levin, Esq.,  
5 Norfolk Street.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention the letter signed by you and others, complaining of furniture obstructing the sidewalks in front of Nos 1 and 2 Norfolk Street and 177-1/2, 180 and 182 Division Street.

The Superintendent of Incumbrances reports that obstructions have been removed from those locations eight times, and that about 15 inspections have been made in response to complaints from Mr Pincus. In the opinion of the Superintendent of Incumbrances, the complaint is unjust and unreasonable, being made through spite and malice.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to the  
Mayor as requested.

*Department of Public Works.*

*Commissioner's Office,*

~~150 Nassau Street,~~

150 Nassau Street,

*New York,*

August 27, 1896.

Copy.

Thomas F. Mullen, Esq.,  
589 Third Avenue.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention your letter of August 21st, regarding the necessity for the removal of show-cases from in front of the premises No 583 3rd Avenue, also complained of in your letter of July 27th to me.

The Superintendent of Incumbrances reports that action upon this complaint has been deferred because he found that the complaint was made through spite and malice. The show cases maintained by the storekeeper at 583 3rd Avenue do not in any manner interfere with the business conducted by you at No 589 3rd Avenue, three doors distant, yet they were once removed to the Corporation Yard to satisfy you before the Superintendent of Incumbrances was acquainted with the actual facts of the case. Other obstructions were and are maintained by the storekeepers at Nos 585 and 587 3rd Avenue, between your place of business and that complained of, yet no complaint has been made. This Department declines to be used as a medium through which one storekeeper may persecute another.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS ,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

Copy.

*New York,* September 3, *1896*

Messrs Chumar and Son,  
261 8th Avenue.

Dear Sirs:

The Mayor has referred to this Department for attention the letter signed by you and others, complaining of dust on 8th Avenue and vicinity in consequence of the sprinkling of the avenue being discontinued at 10 o'clock a. m. daily.

In reply, I beg to say that pursuant to the powers reserved to him in the contract with the Street Sprinkling Association for sprinkling the paved streets in this City, the Commissioner of Public Works on the 3rd ultimo established a rule requiring said Association to discontinue sprinkling asphalt pavements at 10 o'clock a. m. daily and not to use more water than necessary to allay the dust. This rule is understood to have been approved by the Health Department and by the Street Cleaning Department, and was not promulgated until the Commissioner of Public Works was convinced that it would be for the best interests of the public. In the opinion of the Health Department and of the Water Purveyor of this Department, no sprinkling of the streets would be necessary at all if they were thoroughly swept.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy and Acting Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

Copy.

*New York,* September 3, 1896

Dr T. A. Keller,  
219 West 24th Street.

Dear Sir:

I have received through the Mayor's office your letter of 31st ultimo, complaining of dust arising from West 24th Street in consequence of the sprinkling of the street being discontinued at 10 o'clock a. m. daily.

In reply, I beg to say that pursuant to the powers reserved to him in the contract with the Street Sprinkling Association for sprinkling the paved streets in this City, the Commissioner of Public Works on the 3rd ultimo established a rule requiring said Association to discontinue sprinkling asphalt pavements at 10 o'clock a. m. daily and not to use more water than necessary to allay the dust. This rule is understood to have been approved by the Health Department and by the Street Cleaning Department, and was not promulgated until the Commissioner of Public Works was convinced that it would be for the best interests of the public. In the opinion of the Health Department and of the Water Purveyor of this Department, no sprinkling of the streets would be necessary if they were thoroughly swept.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy and Acting Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* September 3, *1896*

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,  
M a y o r, and  
Chairman, Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Dear Sir:

By letter of June 10th, 1896, addressed to you as Chairman of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, I called attention to the necessity for a renewal, for two years, of the lease from Moses G. and Gilbert A. Wright, of lands for the approaches to the temporary bridge over the Harlem River at Third Avenue, and I requested your Board to authorize the renewal of the lease.

At the meeting of your Board on July 2nd, the proceedings of which appear in the CITY RECORD of July 18th, the subject was referred to the Comptroller.

By letter of July 22nd the Comptroller transmitted to this office for consideration an opinion of the Counsel to the Corporation, questioning the title of the Messrs Wright to at least a portion of the land covered by the lease. In the last paragraph of this opinion, the Counsel to the Corporation advised that the Messrs Wright be requested to give a renewal of lease, covering parcel No 2 of the property in question, and including all their right, title and interest, if any, in parcel No 1; and he further advised that, if the Messrs Wright refused such limitation of the lease, and insisted upon the full terms of the original lease, it would be best to make a renewal of lease on the old terms.

On receipt of this opinion, the Messrs Wright, were requested, by letter of August 6th from Chief Engineer Birdsall,

to state on what terms, under the circumstances, they would consent to a renewal of the lease. They replied by letter of August 11th from their attorney and counsel, Mr George A. Black, that they would consent to a renewal only on the exact terms of the old lease.

Thereupon, acting on the advice of the Counsel to the Corporation, and on mature consideration of the whole subject, Commissioner Charles H. T. Collis wrote to the Comptroller under date of August 12th, urgently renewing the request for a renewal of the lease on the old terms.

This request was taken up in meeting of your Board on August 18th, and laid over. (See minutes in CITY RECORD of August 28th).

I have now before me a letter, dated the 1st inst., from Mr George A. Black, reciting the facts regarding the expiration of the old lease, and the delay and uncertainty regarding a renewal, and concluding as follows:

"You will appreciate that the present situation is very unsatisfactory to my clients, and that they are desirous of having the status of the City determined as soon as possible, so that they may receive their rent promptly, and I would be obliged if you would inform me what the present situation of the matter is and when action may be expected to be taken."

I have the honor to again call attention to the fact, as stated in the letter of August 12th from Commissioner Collis to the Comptroller, that the occupancy by the City of the land in question is an absolute public necessity; that the right of occupancy expired, at least in part, with the expiration of the old lease, and that it should not be left in jeopardy.

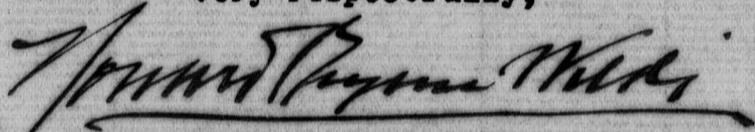
I will add that, if the City were dispossessed of the part of the land required and now occupied as an approach to the temporary bridge, or of that part only as to which the title of the Messrs Wright, lessors, is not in dispute,

the use of the temporary bridge would have to be discontinued, and all the immense public traffic over it would have to be cut off.

I would also state that the Department considers a renewal of the lease for one year sufficient at this time and that the original lease covenants for two renewals of one year each.

I most urgently renew the request for the immediate action of your Board in the premises.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel Augustus Wells". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Deputy and Acting Commissioner of Public Works.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* Sept. 5, 1896

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor.

Dear Sir:-

In the lists of "approved papers", published in the "City Record" of August 31st, I find the following resolution: "Resolved, That permission be and the same is hereby given to James J. Spearing to place and keep an iron awning in front of premises No. 1213<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Broadway provided said awning complies with ordinance passed April 13, 1886, the work to be done at his own expense, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works; such permission to continue only during the pleasure of the Common Council.

Adopted by the Board of Aldermen, August 18, 1896. Approved by the Mayor, August 24, 1896".

The letter of Aug. 20th from your office, by which were transmitted to this Department, for examination and report, seven resolutions which were passed at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen on Aug. 18th, did not include the above resolution. This was probably an inadvertent omission. If the resolution had been referred to this Department, report would have been made that it conflicts with the Ordinance passed April 13th 1886. That ordinance specifically prohibits the erection of awnings on Broadway, and it has never been repealed. Mr James J. Spearing has been notified by the Superintendent of Incumbrances, not to take any action under the resolution, and has desisted from doing so.

Under the circumstances presented I may be permitted to respectfully suggest that your Honor will request the Board of Aldermen to repeal the resolution in question. I would also add that, in the opinion of this Department, the resolution, whether repealed or not, is

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

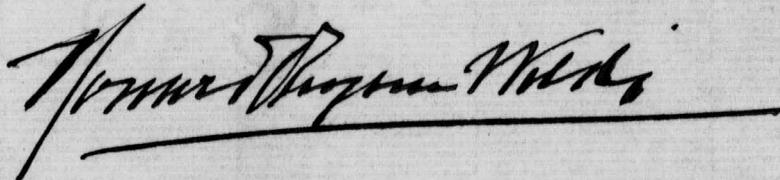
*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,*

*189*

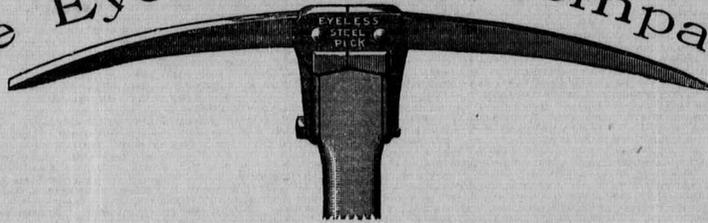
not valid, because it conflicts with the very ordinance with which the erection of the awning was to conform. It is always desirable, however, to expunge invalid legislation by repeal.

Very respectfully,



Deputy and Acting Commissioner of Public Works.

The Eyeless Tool Company,



FACTORY: 323 EAST 22D STREET,

Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1896

*New York,*

Hon. William L. Strong

City Hall City.

My dear Mayer:-

This introduces to you my friend Mr. B. H. Simonson of the firm of Brazier & Simonson - Architects - who are to my knowledge very capable men. They have been asked to compete for the new armory building of the First Battery soon to be erected and trust that if their plans meet with your approval, you will sanction the awarding to them of this commission.

Yours Very Truly

*Marion F. Wood*

Property Owners' Union of the City of New York,

No. 78 EAST 96th STREET,

New York, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 1896

Sir

Wm. L. Strong

Mayer

Your answer  
to our letter of Sept 2: received  
and in reply would say that  
this district has been much neg-  
lected and instead of Commissioner  
of Public Works making grants he  
has been making assessments, in fact  
we have called Alderman Parker  
to account and he has written us  
that resolution introduced by him  
and passed in Board of Aldermen  
are not acted upon by Commissioner  
Collis, out of spite - What are we  
to do? I suppose to let matters  
go on, it makes one feel that  
he has made a mistake in  
Reform - We wish the removal  
of the High Board advertising  
fences on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave facing the Park

upon which disgraceful advertisements  
are posted week after week -  
The signs ought to be removed  
We call upon Commissioners of Public  
Works to at once proceed with  
street-pavements &c in this section  
and not give us the excuse in a  
month or two, to later periods is  
upon us

Now Mr. Mayor we ask, can  
nothing be done to help us much  
Every department instead of trying  
to help the people are trying to  
make Generals out of themselves  
Constable's Warring, we see these  
Complaints in regard to Constable  
Several of our members have had  
such experience and with Warring  
we have not much to say as he  
is the only one that has come  
near to perfection

Yours Truly  
M. M. M.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York, Sept. 9th 1896. 189*

My dear Sir;

In reply to enclosed letter from Mr. A. Minerly, I desire to say that I have no control whatever over the fences which are erected upon private property, nor have I any power to prevent the posting of bills and advertisements thereon.

As to the repairs of streets referred to in the letter, I am doing at least twenty-five per cent more with my appropriation than has ever been done heretofore.

I know nothing about the Property Owners' Union, but the letter you enclosed does not indicate that they are reasonable or well informed taxpayers.

I am,

Very truly yours,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Hon. W.L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office,  
City.

Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.

~~150 Nassau Street,~~  
150 Nassau Street,

New York, September 12, 1896.

Copy - .

T. B. Welles, Esq.,  
206 Broadway.

Dear Sir:

I have received through the Mayor's office your letter of 1st inst., calling attention to an illegal opening in the sidewalk to the basement of premises S. W. corner of 6th Avenue and 14th Street.

While the ordinance relating to areas and cellar doors does not specify basement entrances, it is my opinion that these entrances come within the law governing areas and limiting their extent to five feet from the inner wall of the area to the building. As the area or entrance complained of extends about 8 feet 5 inches out on the sidewalk, it appears to be in direct violation of law.

The owner of the property has been notified to change the area or basement entrance so as to conform to the ordinance, but to this time he has not complied with the notice. I have therefore requested the Corporation Attorney to take action against him for violation of the City Ordinance.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

September 7<sup>th</sup> 1916.

Mayor Strong  
Dear Sir.

May I call  
your attention to a  
nuisance in our street  
which is causing much  
sickness. When John  
D. Simmons put down  
the car tracks, he prom-  
ised to leave the street  
in good order as he

found it, which he failed  
to do, each side of the  
track has sunk to  
such an extent, leaving  
a poor gutter, so offen-  
sive that we cannot  
sit with our windows  
open, many on the  
block are all with  
malaria. The Board  
of Health was notified,  
they said, go to the

dept public works  
they said they would  
attend to it. Now is  
there no way that  
Comms can be made  
to replace properly  
what he took up.  
Now Mr String I am  
sorry to annoy you  
with these petty troubles.  
I am a true American -  
so are you, and you

are the only official who  
has been able to stir  
up things in this great  
city I only wish we  
had a dozen <sup>in office</sup> Stungs.  
The Board of Health don't  
attend to it - the Dept.  
of public works don't  
look after it, now what  
are we supposed to do?

I have owned my house &  
lived here, twenty five years,  
we signed the contract for  
the rail road for our accom-  
modation but no cars yet  
altho' the road was finished  
last fall. Please Mr

Strong look after  
this affair. These  
fellows need to be  
stirred up, and I am  
thankful to say you  
are the only one  
who can do it.

one hundred & fifteenth  
Street, between first  
& Pleasant are

Can we not have  
the asphalt pavement  
cut each side of the  
tracks?

Very respectfully  
Josie A. White

426 E. 116 St

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* Sept. 15th 1896. *189*

My dear Sir;

This morning I personally visited the locality complained of by Mrs. Josie White, in the accompanying note, who resides at 426 East 116th St.

I confess that I found the street in very fair condition, with the exception that there were a few breaks in the macadam, which I will have promptly repaired.

It would be a subject of congratulation if all the streets were in as good condition as 116th Street between the East River and Fifth Avenue.

Mr. North, at my request, also inspected the street, and entirely concurs with me. The trifling repairs necessary I will have done at once.

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. J. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office,  
City.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office.*

~~150 Nassau Street,~~

150 Nassau Street,

*New York,* September 15, 1896.

HON. WILLIAM L. STRONG,  
M a y o r.

Dear Sir:

In handing you the enclosed estimate for 1897, I desire to call your personal attention to the circumstances and reasons which call for the increase of \$293,437.34 over the final estimate and appropriation for the present year.

The following items of the increase are rendered necessary by circumstances and conditions which are beyond the control or discretion of the Commissioner of Public Works:

Extending the public lamp-service into new streets,	\$79,136.00
Restoring the Macadam roadway of 7th Avenue to the condition of a pleasure drive, it now being completely worn out,	64,000.00
Restoring the Macadam roadway of the Boulevard north of 110th Street,	25,000.00
Restoring the park plots on the Boulevard to the condition of their original design and completion,	10,500.00
Care and supplies for two new public buildings (New Court House on West 54th Street, and new building in Crotona Park), and the new 13th Judicial District Court,	11,523.00
Additional labor, fuel and other materials required for the pumping of additional water supply from the new high service works,	5,272.00
Care and repairs of the Byram River conduit and reservoir, which will be added to the Bronx River water supply,	9,655.00

Additional water supply required from the City  
of Yonkers, \$ 2,900.00

Additional water-mains to meet the demand  
for extending the water service into new  
streets, 10,200.00

Total, \$218,186.00

In asking an increase of \$60,000 in the appropriation for "Repairs and Renewal of Pavements," and \$25,000 for "Repaving Streets and Avenues," I am actuated by the desire to meet the reasonable demands of the people for the proper care of the present pavements, and the replacement of old and worn-out pavements.

If the foregoing items, which, in the aggregate, amount to \$303,186, are taken out of my estimate for 1897, it will show a reduction of \$9,748.00 from the final estimate and appropriations for 1896.

Very respectfully,

*Charles W. Collins*

Commissioner of Public Works.

Enclosure.

REFORM CLUB  
233 FIFTH AVENUE.

New York

Aug 16/96

Col. C. A. J. Collis  
Commissioner

Dear Sir  
I think it due to the  
Department you represent to  
acknowledge its efficiency by reason  
of the prompt and thorough way  
in which the Complaint I with  
others on my block made to you  
in the matter of the East River  
Gas Company's occupation of  
the Street at 45<sup>th</sup> St & Eighth

was abated without the least  
delay and in a most satisfactory  
manner

Wm Perry

A. S. Allen

of  
259 West 45 St.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* Sept. 17th 1896 *189*

My dear Mr. Mayor;

I have just been over Eighth Avenue, and find the stories grossly exaggerated.

The work is being done in a systematic manner, with the least possible inconvenience to traffic, and the old pavement temporarily replaced so that trucks and wagons can pass over it in advance of the work of the asphalt company, which will be commenced at once.

It is not true that the street is opened on both sides at once. There are intervals of one-half and three-quarters of a mile between openings of this character.

Among my correspondence this morning, I find the enclosed letter.

Yours very truly,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* September 23, *1896.*

Copy.

Edward John Milhan, Esq.,  
103 West 80th Street.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your postal card of 11th inst. to the Mayor, regarding a defective hydrant at the foot of West 79th Street, I beg to say that the hydrant has been repaired and is now in good condition.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor for his information,  
as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

Copy.

*New York,* September 23, *1896.*

Zophar D. Mills, Esq.,  
C/o H. A. Mills,  
Importers' and Traders' Bank.

Dear Sir:

The Mayor has referred to this Department your letter of 12th inst., offering yourself as a candidate for the position from which Foreman Schulz was removed.

In reply, I beg to say that the position referred to has been filled by promotion, as required by the Civil Service rules.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York, September 23, 1896.*

Copy.

J. T. Davis, Esq.,  
Randolph,  
Texas.

Dear Sir:

I have received through the Mayor's office your letter of 9th inst., offering to furnish wood for paving purposes, and beg to inform you that we do not use wood as paving material.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office.*

*150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* September 25, 1896.

**Job E. Hedges, Esq.,  
M a y o r ' s   O f f i c e .**

**Dear Sir:**

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 19th inst. and to say that the Superintendent of Repairs and Supplies has ordered powder to exterminate the cockroaches in the Mayor's Office, and has instructed the janitor to sprinkle the powder where necessary.

**Very respectfully,**

*Frederic Thayer Wells*  
**Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.**

*Department of Public Works,  
Commissioner's Office,*

*150 Nassau Street,*

Copy.

*New York,* September 23, *1896.*

J. A. Simpson, Esq.,  
155 Broadway.

Dear Sir:

I have received from the Mayor for attention your complaint of 12th inst., concerning obstructions on the north side of Warren Street, between West and Washington Streets.

In reply, I beg to say that, upon inspection, no unusual obstruction was found, the location being in the wholesale produce district where merchandise is constantly being received and delivered, and more or less obstruction of the sidewalks is inevitable.

Very respectfully,

WILLIAM HORTON CHAMBERLAIN ((Signed) HOWARD PAYSON WILDS,

Deputy Commissioner of Public Works.

Respectfully transmitted to  
the Mayor, as requested.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York,* Sept. 28th 1896 *189*

Dear Mr. Mayor;

In answer to your inquiry, I have to report as follows:-

	<u>Square Yards</u>	<u>Lineal Miles</u>
Area of paved streets.....	9,161,929.13.....	388.63
" " unpaved "		<u>45.00</u>
		433.63.
" " macadam pavement....	1,002,954.40.....	20.32

Yours very truly,

*Charles H. D. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor's Office.

*Department of Public Works,*

*Commissioner's Office,*

*No. 150 Nassau Street,*

*New York, Sept. 28th 1896. 189*

Dear Mr. Mayor;

I regret exceedingly to report that a serious accident occurred early this morning on Fifth Avenue, where we are digging a trench for the water mains.

The contractor had blasted out some rock, and his men were in the act of removing the debris, when the sides of the trench caved in, killing one man instantly, probably fatally injuring another, and breaking the leg of a third.

I was on the ground shortly after the event, but in the excitement was unable to ascertain who was to blame. A thorough investigation will be made, however, at once.

Yours truly,

*Charles A. T. Collins*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,  
Mayor.