

A Child's Claim to Fame

Priorities matter and sometimes government choices demonstrate penny-wise and dollar-foolish policies. For years, the City of New York cut its contributions to mass transit. During most of that time it also acquiesced in wasteful management (perhaps in return for quiet on its shortchanging on funding transit) and schemes at the agency.

Nothing better exemplifies this than the the lack of a holiday wreath this year on the Municipal Building. As reported in the New York Post, the responsible city agency bragged of saving \$3,500. Wow? But the Post found those wreaths can be had for a bit more than a grand.

So they wasted money for all those years making the wreath themselves and using City workers (no accounting for the value of their time in all of this)!

So they can't spend \$1,100 on a wreath, but remain ready, able and willing to waste millions on concrete bike lanes and plazas. And they propose more of the same on 34th Street as part of a scheme to make the two-way street one-way east from Fifth Avenue and one-way west from Sixth Avenue.

It recalls the last verse of the third song performed (4:12 in) by a re-united Buffalo Springfield earlier this fall:

Truth is the shame / Yeah, too much pain

Bah Humbug!!!

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/local/manhattan/the_city_massive_wreath_cut_8l8N09x1LiQECWcZIETmfM

NY POST

The city's massive wreath cut

By DAVID SEIFMAN

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Bah! Humbug!

For as long as anyone can recall, a gigantic wreath adorned the Municipal Building across from City Hall each Christmas season.

Not this year.

Chalk up another victim of the city's severe financial crunch.

"Given the budget cuts announced in the fall, we could not justify the \$3,500 expense," said Mark Daly, a spokesman for the Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

Officials said that the city used to order live greenery every year and that city workers would spend days assembling into a festive wreath that was 10 feet in diameter and weighed 2,000 pounds.

The cost of the raw materials consumed most of the expense, they said.

City officials might want to check the Web site of Christmas Tree for Me, which was offering 10-foot-diameter wreaths for \$1,097, shipping included.