

Four Forty Fourth Owners Corp.

444 Gets Through the Black Out with Flying Colors

Many thanks and much praise is owed to our staff and to many shareholders for the remarkable job they did during the very difficult 29 hours of the power outage. Our Staff is just the best there is! Ozzie, Manny, Felix, Pedro, Juan, and David spent most of their time here in the building making sure that all of us were ok. Ozzie was on duty for almost 24 hours and he smiled through the whole ordeal. Manny, Felix, Pedro, Juan and David climbed the stairs many times helping people get into their apartments. For those of us who did it once or twice we know how tough it was. These men did it countless times and from the lobby to the penthouse more than a couple of times.

Once the power went out they had to climb to the roof to shut off all the essential services to be sure they wouldn't be damaged with the return of the power. And then again when the power went back on, they went to our roof services area to turn on the water, reset the elevators and check all of the electric circuits to bring us back to full service. But they weren't done. Many shareholders called them to their apartments to help them get their toilets and other water sources up and running. It is inevitable that once the water goes off, there will be a few leaks when it goes back on again and we had a number that had to be addressed immediately to prevent damage. They did it all without complaint. They are the best and they need to be thanked by all of us for all the "steps" they took in their selfless service to us.

We should also be proud of ourselves. A great many acts of kindness were carried out during the two days. Many shareholders helped their neighbors get back to their apartments leading them up with flashlights and carrying water and packages for those unable to do so for themselves. Many will go unnamed because we don't know all of you who acted with kindness and caring but there are people who deserve special thanks. Ted Perkins, from the 27th floor made a great many trips up and down the stairways leading many people up to their apartments. Then he stayed with Ozzie manning the front doors until early morning. Stan and Susan Bernstein, from the 18th floor, went to Carl Schurz Park, borrowed a wheelbarrow from the gardening staff, and brought back 5-gallon jugs of water for those who did not have bottled water. It was also used to keep the lobby toilet "working." You can imagine the amount of use it got.

A number of our shareholders were unable to reach their apartments and spent the night in the lobby. A few of our neighbors were thoughtful and brought down food and water, candles and flashlights for them and the staff. We also heard about floor "parties" that took place with neighbors getting together to share food and comfort.

We have not mentioned all who gave during this difficult time. However, we know all of you contributed and we are proud to be your neighbors.

Once again many thanks!