

December 16th, 1737, "for the better extinguishment of fires in New York City." The preamble to the resolution states: "That the inhabitants have very justly acquired the reputation of being singularly and remarkably famous for their diligence in that service and that they had at great expense provided two fire engines (purchased in London in 1731) and various sorts of poles, hooks, ladders, etc., and therefore the Common Council was authorized to appoint forty-two strong, able, discreet, honest and sober men to accept the office of firemen, as *volunteers*, who were to be exempt from service in the militia and jury duty."

On June 28th, 1738, Mayor Richard informed the Lieutenant-Governor "Of the fears and apprehensions of the citizens of the city, that the small-pox and malignant yellow fever which were prevailing in South Carolina, Barbadoes, and other places, might be introduced by vessels coming from those places." A quarantine anchorage station was established near Bedloe's Island, where all vessels were directed to anchor, awaiting the inspection of Dr. Reel, of Kierstedt, who was the first Health Officer of the Port of New York. The apprehensions of the people were more than realized the ensuing year, as small-pox became epidemic in the city.

On May 15th, 1739, the Common Council directed that a hospital be erected near the Poor House "for the reception of such unhappy poor as shall be smited with any malignant or obnoxious disease." As far as I can ascertain, this was the first hospital erected in New York. During the summer of 1739, William Cornell, Lessee of the Brooklyn Ferry, complained to the Common Council "of his great loss of revenue in consequence of the small-pox, which prevented travellers from coming to town and country people from coming to market."

He also stated "that he had lost by this disease, two fine negro men that cost him one hundred and ten pounds, and a young negro woman, born in his house and of great value." On account of these various losses, he prayed the Common Council that he be not required to pay the usual rental.

In 1736, the city regulations in regard to street cleaning were as follows: "Every inhabitant living within the six wards shall on every Friday, either by themselves or their servants, rake and sweep together all the dirt lying in the streets before their houses, and on Saturday shall cause the same to be removed and thrown into the river."