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Moscow Adores Sergei Sobyanin — At Least That's What City Hall Says

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Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin / Moskva News Agency

Not every Moscow resident gets to experience a personal meet-and-greet with the city's Mayor Sergei Sobyanin.

Luckily, City Hall publishes transcripts of Sobyanin's conversations while out and about. During official visits to construction sites, park openings and Moscow neighborhoods this year, Sobyanin was given a more than warm welcome, according to the portal.

In fact, residents appear to heap North Korea-like adulation on him.

Here are some of the eyebrow-raising exchanges picked up by Russian media:

— Sobyanin attends the opening of a park on Oct. 11

Sobyanin: Hello. How are you?

Residents: We're great, with a park like this.

Residents: It's amazing. Unrecognizable.

Residents: And we're in good spirits.

Residents: We've lived here for many years, it's great.

Residents: We would like to express our gratitude to you. A stunning park. It has lighting. It is suitable for children.

Sobyanin: What is your name?

Residents: My name is Lena.

Sobyanin: Thank you.

Residents: Thank you very much.

Sobyanin: Are there any remarks?

Residents: It is remarkable.

— Sobyanin visits a Moscow amusement park in construction on July 26

Sobyanin: Do you see what they're doing?

Residents: Yes, digging.

Sobyanin: Yes. They're building and digging here, are they in your way?

Residents: No, quite the opposite.

— Sobyanin visits an oil refinery treatment facility on Oct. 9

Sobyanin: Has it improved?

Residents: Yes, much better. Thank you very much. Truly big progress over 52 years. Thank you.

—Sobyanin on a tour of Moscow neighborhoods on June 30

Sobyanin: Congratulations. Tomorrow marks five years since you've become Muscovites. Do you feel like Muscovites?

Residents: Yes-yes, thank you very much. Thank you for visiting, we weren't even expecting.

We thought you'd be afraid of this [rain] cloud.

Sobyanin: Settlements of this kind weren't in very good condition.

Residents: Yes, but now everything's been done well.

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