



Request for City Council Committee Action From the Department of Public Works

Date: January 10, 2012
To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee
Subject: **Sidewalk Snow and Ice**

Recommendation:

- A. Receive and File Presentation
- B. Postpone consideration of administrative fine for unshoveled sidewalks until spring 2012.

Previous Directives:

November 4, 2011 – Civil Fine for Unshoveled Sidewalks referred back to Transportation and Public Works Committee

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Approved by:

Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Brette Hjelle, Director, Administration

Reviews Not Applicable

Financial Impact

Within Current Department Budget

Community Impact

Neighborhood Notification: NA
City Goals: A City That Works; Livable Communities, Healthy Lives
Comprehensive Plan: NA
Zoning Code: NA

Background/Supporting Information

Update on Administrative Citations

At the October 25, 2011 Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting, the committee approved a \$75 civil fine for unshoveled sidewalks and directed Public Works to return to committee with a plan for utilizing civil fines for snow and ice removal on public sidewalks that focuses on chronic offenders.

The administrative fine was not approved by the full City Council on November 4, 2011 and the item was referred back to committee.

Public Works is recommending postponing the consideration of the administrative fine until this spring. Sidewalk Inspections will continue to use Hennepin County Citations for chronic offenders.

Identification, Enforcement, and Abatement Improvements

Public Works will be implementing process changes this winter to improve the safety and accessibility of sidewalks. The following changes are being implemented:

1. Identification
 - a. Communications and outreach efforts to encourage the public to report problem sidewalks to 311.
 - b. Greater coordination with other city inspectors to identify out of compliance sidewalks.
2. Enforcement
 - a. Flexible workforce that can provide additional resources as needed for inspections.
 - b. Reduction in the time between the first inspection and second inspection from a target of seven days to a target of four days.
3. Abatement
 - a. Use of a contractor to perform removals in a pilot area. Pilot project goals are to test a work order system utilizing a private contractor rather than city street crews.
 - b. Per committee direction, Public Works has identified two properties on the Vacant Building Registration list in the pilot program area. Sidewalk Inspectors will be doing automatic inspections of these properties and order removals if the properties are not in compliance with city ordinance. The cost for removal will be assessed to the property.

Attachment: Title 17 – Streets and Sidewalks, Chapter 445. Snow and Ice Removal

Title 17 – Streets and Sidewalks, Chapter 445. Snow and Ice Removal

445.20 (a) The person having the care, custody or control of any building or lot (except one- and two-family dwellings) adjoining, abutting or bordering on any street located within the city shall, within the first four (4) hours of daytime after the ceasing to fall of any snow, cause the snow and/or ice to be removed from the sidewalk adjoining said building or lot.

(b) The owners, occupants or persons having the care, custody and control of any building that is a one- or two-family dwelling shall cause the snow and/or ice to be removed from the public sidewalk abutting or adjoining the lot upon which such building is situated, within the first twenty-four (24) hours after the ceasing to fall of any snow, and shall cause sand to be sprinkled on the sidewalk where there is snow or ice upon the sidewalk that cannot be removed. (Code 1960, As Amend., § 580.020; Ord. of 9-12-74, § 3; Ord. of 12-12-75, § 2; 80-Or-184, § 1, 8-8-80; 80-Or-283, § 1, 11-26-80)