

To: Minneapolis City Council
Minneapolis Public Works

From: Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Date: July 11, 2018

Subject: Nicollet Mall Pedestrian Policy

Nicollet Mall Pedestrian Policy

The Pedestrian Advisory Committee is categorically opposed to the Nicollet Mall Policy, dated November 21, 2017, and strongly advises that it be repealed or heavily revised. These are our concerns:

- 1) No resident, let alone a one-time visitor, can be expected to memorize a map of usage zones before visiting a street, or bring a yard stick with which to measure out their distance from the curb or building face while there.
- 2) “Idling” is a normal part of being a pedestrian. If you’re walking through Zone 1 and encounter an acquaintance, you will stop and talk to them. If you see something interesting happening, you will stop to look. That flexibility is part of what makes walking great, and to try to prevent it on a “pedestrian-friendly, public thoroughfare”, our downtown’s “signature street,” is absurd.
- 3) Most importantly, there is no current reality in which we can imagine this being equitably enforced. Implicit bias is real, and it’s harmful. For all the reasons that the “lurking” ordinance was recently repealed, we cannot allow “idling” to be criminalized on any sidewalk in Minneapolis.

Finally, we are disappointed that it took so many months for us to learn of this policy. Any City policy that’s on the surface intended to benefit pedestrians should be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that it is.