

Walk Toronto- Sidewalk Clearing Committee
Submission to PWIC
Meeting Nov 12 2015
Item PW 9.11 Clearing of Snow from Sidewalks.
Presented by Mark Earley

Walk Toronto believes all residents of Toronto should enjoy use of a sidewalk system that is clear of ice, snow, and water, and that is safe to use, a short time following the end of snowfalls. Besides providing safe passage for fit and able residents who can hop over snow banks, sidewalks must be suitable also for the less able, so they too can get out, and work, live or play.

Being stuck indoors for fear of sidewalk conditions, restricts a principle exercise, that of walking, at a time health professionals are emphasizing walking more and more.

Relative to the agenda before us, Walk Toronto supports the following:

- Pair TSO's with clearing personnel to make teams as per the report.
- Respond to complaints and patrol hotspots.
- Infraction (after warning if any) results in a charge plus fine plus City clearing costs.
- Enforcement commences immediately time limit is reached.
- Advertise clearing technical requirements and fines.
- Advertise and promote use of complaint system via 311, twitter, phone, email, text etc.

Committee members were divided as to whether step 1 of enforcement should be a warning.

Notwithstanding the above, Walk Toronto also believes the ultimate resolution to these long standing sidewalk clearing issues is to bring all streets not cleared by City into a clearable state for the City to clear. We suggest a three point plan take immediate effect and with a goal of making 95% of the current 1100km of property owner cleared sidewalks, clearable with mechanized equipment.

- A program to search out, modify, or make, clearing equipment that is narrower and otherwise suitable to clear Toronto's obstructed sidewalks.
- An ongoing program of removing or relocating street obstructions to facilitate mechanized clearing.
- An ongoing program to widen sidewalks sufficiently to remove risk of damaging parked vehicles, so as to facilitate mechanical clearing.

And finally, for the approximately 55 km of sidewalks that remain, which are the most difficult, be cleared manually.