



The voice  
of our  
community

**His Worship John Tory**

Mayor, City of Toronto  
100 Queen St. W.  
City Hall, Second floor, West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

November 22, 2020

Re: Agenda Item [IE17.7 Clearing the Path Towards a Safe and Accessible Winter](#)

On behalf of the Deer Park Residents Group (DPRG), one of the City's oldest and most well-established residents associations, we would like to **urge you to expand sidewalk snow clearing to all of Toronto's neighbourhoods this upcoming winter.**

As snow gently falls in another early winter snowstorm, we are reminded of a persistent inequity in Toronto. For Toronto's suburbs, sidewalks are cleared as a basic service by the City. But in most of central Toronto and East York, this is not the case - after snowfalls, without City clearing, we face a slippery patchwork of uncleared and icy sidewalks, making it treacherous for people to walk safely: seniors, families with strollers, people in wheelchairs or with mobility devices, people walking to transit or our struggling businesses. This makes it dangerous not only for residents, but also visitors from other parts of the city, employees and service workers like mail carriers.

Expanding City sidewalk clearing across the entire city would prevent slip-and-fall injuries from putting added pressure on our hospitals during the COVID pandemic when more people are walking than ever before. It would also save the city from the \$7.5M it pays annually to settle slip-and-fall lawsuits.

While we appreciate the need to review the City's current system and establish how to best allocate resources, the City's budget season is upon us and now is the time to act on this pressing matter. **Our communities cannot afford another year of this safety hazard** as staff study whether something should be done.

**This is the time to bring sidewalk plowing to our high-pedestrian traffic neighbourhoods.**

We support your efforts to reevaluate the City of Toronto's sidewalk clearing policies and encourage you to act now, before more residents are put at risk.

Sincerely,

John Taranu, Vice President  
The Deer Park Residents Group, Inc. (DPRG)

cc. Councillor Josh Matlow



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