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To: [Infrastructure and Environment](#)
Cc: [Macy Parakh](#); [Councillor Moise](#); [Councillor Saxe](#)
Subject: [External Sender] IE26.7 Response to Council Directions on Sidewalk Clearing Requirements and the Status of Modernizing PlowTO
Date: November 27, 2025 10:35:43 AM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the December 4, 2025 Infrastructure Committee meeting on item 2025.IE 26.7 Response to Council Directions on Sidewalk Clearing Requirements and the Status of Modernizing PlowTO

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Though I can understand the wish to ‘make corporate owners pay’ for removing snow from adjacent sidewalks, I am pleased to read the response from Staff who draw attention to the huge problems inherent in doing this. I am the President of a Condominium Corporation (MTCC 573) which has a series of stores on the ground floor owned by one Corporate Owner, these are leased to four smaller and different companies. Would the “corporate owner’ be the condo corporation who own the building, the commercial owner who owns all four of the small stores or the individual corporate owners of each store?

Even if the ‘corporate responsibility’ could be determined, it would be very regressive to return to the pre-2021 situation where the City did zero sidewalk plowing in many areas of the City – the result was a very dangerous patchwork of some properties having swept sidewalks, some had partially plowed ones, some had solid ice and others had snow banks. The City may not have been perfect (!!) in clearing snow but they have been improving and a visit to Montreal (where I lived for over 30 years) would show that a municipality can clear snow and keep sidewalks safe for everyone.

From a property manager’s (and ultimately a taxpayer’s) perspective, it is extremely expensive to maintain small, scattered snow-plowing contracts,

as much of the cost charged is for time spent traveling between sites. Until the City assumed responsibility for sidewalk plowing a few years ago, our 52-unit condo corporation had to maintain a snow-clearing contract to plow the sidewalks on two sides of our small building and the garage access. Snow-clearing companies require five-month contracts, and our last contract was \$1,200 (plus HST) per month when we cancelled it in fall 2021. (To secure this “low” rate, we had to commit to a three-year contract, which fortunately ended in fall 2021.) I understand that most private snow plowing contracts for individual buildings have since increased by at least 15–20%, and essential services such as salting are now billed separately.

I strongly support the City remaining responsible for all sidewalk plowing, as it is by far the most efficient and cost-effective model and, when done properly, results in sidewalks being cleared consistently and to an acceptable standard. It would be very regressive to return to the patchwork system that existed prior to 2021. If anything, I would suggest that the City extend their plowing responsibilities to more speedy plowing of LANEWAYS – which are used for garbage collection and, as in our case, access to our garage.

Sincerely

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