

 <p style="text-align: center;">Council Communication Office of the City Manager</p>	Date	September 28, 2009
	Agenda Item No. 46 Roll Call No. <u>09-</u> Communication No. <u>09-695</u> Submitted by: William G. Stowe, Assistant City Manager--Public Works Director	

AGENDA HEADING:

Snow Priority Street Designation “No Parking during Snow Removal Operations” on Waterbury Neighborhood Association (WNA) Residential Streets

SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval prohibiting parking on residential streets in the WNA during snow plowing operations.

To explore the feasibility of expediting snow removal on residential streets, the Department of Public Works, in 2008, invited four neighborhoods to voluntarily participate in a Pilot Program of “no parking” on the streets during snow plowing operations. The WNA participated in the program, and results showed that voluntary “no parking” is not viable in terms of reducing plowing times.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The City of Des Moines’ Snow & Ice Control Policy, approved November 5, 1984, provides that residential streets should be plowed following completion of the designated snow routes when snow accumulations approach four inches. While parking is prohibited on snow routes, it is still permitted on residential streets.

Since 1984, the Department of Public Works has continued to improve operations and to procure larger, more efficient snow removal equipment to reduce plowing times and improve quality. Many of the Department’s snow removal vehicles now are mounted with 11’ front plows, 9’ wing plows, and 10’ underbody plows. The plow blades used in combination permit curb-to-curb clearance in less time on snow routes. Staff believes the larger plows could also be used efficiently on residential streets, if parking were prohibited.

To evaluate the use of larger snow removal vehicles on residential streets, the Department of Public Works, in 2008, invited the Douglas Acres, Easter Lake, Meredith, and Waterbury Neighborhood Associations to participate in a Pilot Snow Removal Program that would involve the use of wing plows and no parking on a voluntary basis.

The WNA volunteered to participate in the Pilot Program during the winter of 2008-2009. With the goal of reducing plowing times by 33 percent, the Department of Public Works worked with the WNA to promote voluntary no parking during snow removal operations. Signs were placed, calls were made, and neighborhood newsletters were disseminated. Nevertheless, voluntary no parking was shown to be unworkable, resulting in only a 7.5 percent reduction in plowing time with the larger snow removal vehicles.

On June 22, 2009, the WNA President wrote to request that no parking be made mandatory during snow removal operations. At their September 20, 2009 meeting of the WNA, members affirmed their interest in mandatory no parking during snow removal operations. Department of Public Works staff has worked with the WNA, the City's Traffic & Transportation, and Legal Department staff to formulate an ordinance that, if approved, would prohibit parking on WNA streets after 6 PM on days when snow removal operations are in progress. Actual implementation would involve the use of signs, letters to residents, and pre-snow season flyers on vehicles warning of the no parking provisions during snow removal operations. Nevertheless, vehicles parked on WNA residential streets after 6 PM on days when streets are being plowed would be ticketed in the amount of \$35, similar to vehicles improperly parked on snow routes.

If approved, the level of snow removal service afforded residential customers in the WNA and any other neighborhood willing to bear no on-street parking during snow removal operations would be more efficient and effective. Larger, more efficient vehicles can clear streets in two rather than three or four passes. The increased efficiency in operations will permit plowing after each snowstorm following completion of the designated snow routes. The efficiency associated with clearing residential streets in two passes after each storm will result in no overall increased cost.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 05, 1984

Roll Call Number: 5091

Action: Approval of Department of Public Works Snow and Ice Policy

Date: November 22, 1971

Roll Call Number: 5444

Action: Approval of ordinance #8267

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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