

Vang, Mai (CI-StPaul)

From: Haley Atkinson <haleyatkinson15@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 19, 2022 12:35 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_LegislativeHearings
Subject: Snow removal assessment appeal (File# J2223A)

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To: City Clerk,

I am writing in regards to file #J2223A, assessment #228525 for property address 8 Maryland Ave E.

I did clear the sidewalk to the best of my abilities within the required time from the notice. As a general rule I make it a practice to clear my sidewalk after it snows. This last winter was very challenging with heavy amounts of snow and ice. Additionally Maryland Avenue is a 4 lane road with a very narrow median, approximately 18in, which makes it extremely difficult to clear. The plows are effectively pushing all of the snow from the street directly onto the sidewalk. This makes it extremely difficult to clear the sidewalk without heavy equipment. As a homeowner I cannot afford the heavy equipment it takes to clear the full width of the sidewalk right away after heavy snowfall. It takes some time and salt to get it completely cleared.

Furthermore, the enforcement of this sidewalk clearing seems a bit haphazard as many of my neighbors struggle with the same things listed above and receive the same notice. However, several of the households didn't receive these notices and their sidewalks were never cleared. If the intent of the snow removal requirement is to provide a passable sidewalk it seems that it should be equally applied to all households. I may not have done a perfect job clearing my sidewalk, but it was certainly better than many of the houses on the same street.

This whole thing feels a bit unfair as you aren't just requiring me to clear the snow falling from the sky within a specific period of time to a specific standard, rather you are asking me to clear the snow that your plows have pushed onto the sidewalk in front of my house. My point being that it can pose a bit of a challenge to a household that doesn't have heavy snow removal equipment. I get it clear, but sometimes it takes a little longer and sadly it might not be perfect. Allowing for a modicum of patience and understanding doesn't seem unreasonable.

While I appreciate the fact that the city reduced the original, unreasonable \$320 fee to \$160 I do feel that even that is still unreasonable given that I did clear the snow and the sidewalk was passable. I do think it is unfair that the administrative fee was greater than the labor that it took to clear the snow. It seems odd that sending a notice would cost more than removing the snow. Please understand that the \$160 fee has a destabilizing impact on my household finances. \$160 may not be a lot to some, it is a lot to me.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to a positive resolution.

Haley Atkinson
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8 Maryland Ave E