



**City of Hamilton**  
**GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**  
**ADDENDUM**

**Meeting #:** 20-019  
**Date:** November 18, 2020  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City's Website:  
<https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/meetings-and-agendas>

City's YouTube Channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton> or Cable 14

Stephanie Paparella, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 3993

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**4. COMMUNICATIONS**

**\*4.1. Correspondence respecting Sidewalk Snow Removal**

Recommendation: Be received and referred to the consideration of Item 9.2 - Sidewalk Snow Removal (PW19022(b))

\*4.1.a. Craig Burley

\*4.1.b. Marin Hudson

\*4.1.c. Marnie Bell

\*4.1.d. Lilly Noble

\*4.1.e. Randy Kay

\*4.1.f. Ja'miil Millar

\*4.1.g. Michelle Tom

\*4.1.h. Emily Kulpaka

\*4.1.i. Ani Chenier

\*4.2. Correspondence from Hermann Daxl - Only Airtight Masks Can Work

Recommendation: Be received.

## **5. DELEGATION REQUESTS**

\*5.1. Dermot Nolan, Hamilton Museum Citizens' Committee respecting Item 9.4 - Virtual Commemoration of 175 Years of Hamilton's History (PED20199) (City Wide)

**From:** Craig Burley <  
**Sent:** November 16, 2020 8:51 AM  
**To:** Wilson, Maureen <[Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Maureen.Wilson@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:**

Dear Clerk: please put this correspondence to an appropriate agenda for the Public Works Committee

Dear Clr. Wilson,

I see that City Staff are proposing that all action regarding municipal sidewalk snow clearing be delayed until after 2021 budget.

The impositions of this upon our disabled and elderly communities are unconscionable. Public feedback has consistently demonstrated that this is something most Hamiltonians want and many Hamiltonians desperately need. No delay please.

Council should make this badly needed change to snow clearing service NOW, and not later. We have been pawned off with excuses about "next year" for several years now. The need for action is clear, and this winter will be worse than most because there will be fewer "helping hands" on the streets because of the pandemic.

It was much remarked upon when dozens of local residents presented a petition regarding traffic calming measures. The City's survey generated 1,500 responses in favour of making more thorough sidewalk snow clearing a priority for this council. Heed those voices. The rest of the City deserves what the wealthy burghers of Ancaster already have.

Thank you,

Craig Burley

**From:** Marin Hudson

**Sent:** November 16, 2020 10:23 PM

**To:** Office of Ward 3 City Councillor Nrinder Nann <[ward3@hamilton.ca](mailto:ward3@hamilton.ca)>; [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Nann, Nrinder <[Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca](mailto:Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca)>

**Subject:** Please Support Snow Clearing

Hello Nrinder, Ward 3, and the City Clerk,

I am a resident of Ward 3 and I am emailing today to insist that city council discusses snow clearing in 2020, not 2021, and that we implement snow clearing as soon as humanly possible.

I do not rely on the sidewalks to get to work, nor do I have trouble with mobility or any disability requiring cleared sidewalks, but it should be a RIGHT for our city's people to be able to safely travel on our sidewalks. It should not be up to those who face the greatest challenges to have to fight the hardest to be heard or treated with respect.

Particularly with the pandemic, a walk in our own neighbourhoods is a key form of exercise, and forcing our city's residents to be literally stuck inside their homes due to unsafe conditions is completely unacceptable.

I have no doubt that Nrinder is happy to support this decision, and to make it happen in 2020, but it is important that I voice my support.

Thank you,

Marin Hudson

-----Original Message-----

From: Marnie Bell <

Sent: November 16, 2020 4:27 PM

To: [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

Subject: Sidewalk snow removal

Hello

If the bike lanes are cleared of snow, why not the sidewalks—more people walk than bike.

Marnie Bell

Dear Mayor and Council,

This year we face a challenging winter.

Laura Rosella, an associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health stresses the need to create incentives and opportunities for people to go outside since COVID19 will restrict our indoor activities. (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/winter-covid-19-indoors-transmission-1.5681175>)

However, encouraging outdoor activity is not sufficient: cities must also ensure that maintenance standards applied to pedestrian infrastructure are at a consistently high level throughout the city to allow everyone including seniors, those with disabilities or who use scooters/strollers the ability to travel outside safely. As well, psychological wellbeing can be ameliorated by going outdoors and obtaining not just physical exercise but by also getting exposure to nature, sunlight, fresh air, and other people (at a two-metre distance) so it's vital that sidewalks are safe and accessible THIS winter.

Staff has reported that clearing sidewalks on all arterial and collector roads in the city would increase the tax levy by \$8 per bill on average or \$16 on average to clear all sidewalks. Since 75% of almost 2000 survey respondents indicated that improving city walkability in the winter should be a "council priority", this is the time to act on address sidewalk snow-clearing budget shortfalls. Addressing it next year would be a missed opportunity to improve the quality of life for many Hamiltonians this winter when they need it the most.

Hamiltonians want to get out walking this winter. Please ensure they can do it safely and increase the budget to allow better cleaning of sidewalks across Hamilton.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lilly Noble

**From:** Randy Kay <  
**Sent:** November 17, 2020 11:32 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk Snow Clearing

To Chair and Members of General Issues Committee,

I am writing to encourage you to show leadership in the name of human rights related to mobility. It's fitting that as I write this, snow is falling. Delaying a decision on sidewalk snow clearing will disproportionately hurt the most vulnerable in our city.

I can share an experience, which for me, highlighted the difference in mobility between Hamilton and our neighbouring Burlington.

I few winters ago, I had business downtown Burlington. I trudged through unploughed snow on Dundurn and York Blvd sidewalks, to wait in front of Dundurn Castle for a bus to Burlington. The bus stop was not shovelled, and to enter the bus I had to climb up over an icy snowbank and step/slide *down* into the bus.

I got off the bus at Fairview and Brant Street in Burlington and walked south on Brant from Fairview to city hall on uninterrupted clear sidewalks ploughed by the city.

The Hamilton side of the journey was dismal and dangerous. Someone with mobility aids would likely have not been able to access the bus stop to begin their trip. Burlington provides the example we must emulate.

As the city of Burlington's website states:

"Burlington Sidewalk clearing begins after snow accumulates in excess of 5 cm (2 inches) and only after roads are cleared. Sidewalks on primary and secondary roads are plowed first, followed by residential roads and designated pathways. Generally, sidewalk clearing is completed within 48 hours after the snow has stopped falling; however, it may take 72 hours or more to clear all sidewalks during heavy or back-to-back snowfalls."

<https://www.burlington.ca/en/services-for-you/snow-removal.asp>

Engage Hamilton's survey revealed strong support for action, and I can assure you, as a homeowner, I would welcome the relatively small tax increase that snow removal would add to my property taxes for the added mobility it would provide residents of the city.

Mobility is a human right, and a lack of action on this basic right is an abdication of responsibility, in my opinion.

Lastly, I would add that making walking (and cycling) possible year round is a very good tactic to address climate change and to help people to move around the city safely during the pandemic. Since the city has agreed to make climate mitigation a priority, this small tax increase (up to 0.4%) would be a wise investment that would pay dividends in a healthier and safer city.

I've included some photos from last winter showing the poor quality of snow clearing efforts in the city of Hamilton (below).

Leaving this for another year is unacceptable, I urge you to do the right thing and fast-track the sidewalk snow clearing decision.







Thanks for your consideration,

Randy Kay

**From:** Ja'miil Millar <  
**Sent:** November 17, 2020 11:51 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Cc:** Farr, Jason <[Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca](mailto:Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca)>  
**Subject:** Snow Removal - General Issues Committee

Hello,

I'm a resident in Ward 2. I am emailing to express my full support for the mobility of all citizens in Hamilton. I believe that it is vital for city sidewalks to be cleared and snow to be removed throughout the winter months and during any weather where there is snowfall. This is imperative in order to ensure accessibility and mobility of all people in Hamilton.

I understand that this is a topic for discussion in tomorrow's General Issues committee meeting and would like to share my full support as a citizen, prior to this meeting.

Thank you,

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**From:** Michelle Tom  
**Sent:** November 17, 2020 10:44 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** SideWalk Snow Removal

To Chair and Members of the General Issues Committee,

Please institute a city-wide **Sidewalk Snow Removal** Program immediately. The mental and physical health of residents will benefit. As well, with the CoVid pandemic, the less residents who visit local hospitals or clinics to address slips or falls, the better!  
This is a wonderful measure to support the well-being of our residents, especially the elderly or those with mobility issues. Thank you Council!

Michelle Tom

**From:** Determination Martial Arts <  
**Sent:** November 17, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)  
**Subject:** Snow Clearing

Hi Folks,

Just wanted to echo my support for Sidewalk clearing on the municipal level.

I am a resident of Ward 3 and business owner in Ward 4.

We are seeing more and more ways our society is acknowledging we are set up with an ableist lense, and that we need to listen to the voices who are neurodiverse, physically disabled, or chronically ill to fully enhance our community for all.

Regulating snow clearing to the municipal level seems like a simple way to further acknowledge that our community is made up of many needs and trickling down the responsibility to individuals isn't accessible.

I fully support a tax increase to ensure sidewalks are cleared by the city,

Emily Kulpaka

**From:** Ani Chenier <  
**Sent:** November 16, 2020 4:05 PM  
**To:** [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca); Farr, Jason <[Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca](mailto:Jason.Farr@hamilton.ca)>  
**Subject:** A call for universal snow clearing on Hamilton sidewalks

Hi Jason,

I am writing to you today to add my voice to those of others calling for universal sidewalk snow removal across Hamilton.

I recently participated in *Engage Hamilton's* [Snow Clearing Survey](#). The survey was launched with the understanding that results would be shared with, and acted on by City Council in the Fall of 2020. According to a recent article in [The Hamilton Spectator](#), City Staff have recommended adjourning discussion of these results until next year. **I urge you to speak up on this Wednesday's General Issues Committee, to demand that a decision be reached now, before this winter.**

In Winter, many Hamilton sidewalks become impassable for people with limited mobility, including parents pushing strollers, people using assisted mobility devices, elderly people and people with physical disabilities. As an otherwise healthy person who walks a lot, I can attest to the fact that I often slip on icy, uncleared sidewalks, and am often forced to walk on the street instead of on sidewalks that are completely blocked. I live in the North End, a neighborhood with many older residents. It's sad to see my neighbors, people who normally walk or use scooters to stay connected to their community, lose that ability once winter hits. This winter will be particularly hard, given that so many of the indoor spaces people visit to stay connected will be closed due to Covid, and that many will try to avoid public transit in order to limit possible exposure. Uncleared sidewalks will only add to Hamilton residents' difficulties.

Hamilton's current approach to sidewalk clearing does not work. Even with best efforts from many residents, it takes only one or two un-cleared lots to make an entire street inaccessible. Enforcement is slow and reactive, leaving residents literally stranded. A better approach is possible. According to City Staff's [own estimates](#), it could cost as little as \$8 a year per resident to clear high-traffic roads across the City, and as little as \$16 to clear all roads. That's less than what it would cost for each of us to purchase a new shovel, and *much* less than it would cost for any of us to individually arrange for effective and timely clearance.

In the end, clear sidewalks are a matter of equity, justice, and inclusion. We should not leave fellow residents stranded over the winter.

Thank you so much for taking the time to consider this perspective.

Have a great day,

Ani Chénier

-----Original Message-----

From: Hermann Daxl >

Sent: November 13, 2020 11:46 AM

To: [clerk@hamilton.ca](mailto:clerk@hamilton.ca)

Subject: Only Airtight Masks can work

For 8 months we have heard general nonsense that appalled logical people, and even today still nobody stresses that a mask works only if airtight at the edges, misled by Dr. Tam's "droplets", although that medical term also includes 5 micron-size invisible vapour. Has nobody seen what actually is worn and how ? So what is all your knowledge worth if it is not executed ? Please do your part, don't just talk smart, when people are actually stupid.

Officials finally admit that covid can be airborne. Of course they say aerosol to further cover up. You realize that unless it is publicly stressed that all masks must be worn airtight all around the edges, they all are useless, because vapour from infected lungs will go around the outside, so whatever the mask is made of is totally irrelevant. So why do they now explain the tissue, when they do not even stress an airtight design and fit ? And why do they still talk about "non-medical", discouraging further N95 production or use once available. All were misled by "droplets", which is a medical term including vapour-size, visible in freezing temperature. Even an invisible 5 micron droplet can carry thousands of virions lingering in the air for 10 minutes in the subway, bus, office, factory, etc.

The virus is spread where the most people inhale and exhale it. Private gatherings are only a small fraction, so why are they blaming that, rather than educate that "masks must be worn airtight" and the "non-medical" masks are therefore useless. We all need N95 or equivalent, to be rotated over 3 days, and not thrown out by the dozens by each health care worker daily, whereas the public cannot find any.

N95 has been worn for decades at hard dusty work, in all temperatures. It does not collapse and is not like breathing into a paper bag. Not the finest dust goes through it, and one gets used to it, and glasses will not fog up once they are warm enough. So the push must be for enough N95 production, not more rags. If everybody wears them properly adjusted and rotates them over 3 days to consume fewer, the virus gets eradicated in 3 weeks.

Today in the big supermarket, only one mask was worn airtight, out of 100, most did not even have a wire stapled on to fit it around the nose, and the ones that did, were not adjusted. Even those loose rags collapse at the nose and mouth which makes it like breathing into a paper bag, which is bad. Our premiers do not even wear their rag airtight around the nose, what an example from the supposed wizards. Some people think the wire is to keep the space by the nose open. It would take only this sentence, "adjust your masks airtight all around, otherwise the vapour with the virus exhaled from infected lungs goes in or out around the sides and is not filtered". Don't expect people to

have this logic themselves if experts have not found it in 8 months. It is written into the rules, but who will read all these pages. Spread this logic, we have to defend ourselves. We cannot stay stuck in Dr. Theresa Tam's and WHO's illogic of droplets and "non-medical" masks for this medical emergency.

## Request to Speak to Committee of Council

Submitted on Thursday, November 12, 2020 - 1:02 pm

==Committee Requested==

**Committee:** General Issues Committee

==Requestor Information==

**Name of Individual:** Dermot Nolan

**Name of Organization:** Hamilton Museum Citizens'  
Committee

**Contact Number:**

**Email Address:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Reason(s) for delegation request:** To speak to item. 9.4 of the GIC Committee Agenda. Specifically the staff report about the Virtual Commemoration of 175 Years of Hamilton's History

**Will you be requesting funds from the City?** No

**Will you be submitting a formal presentation?** No