

## Paparella, Stephanie

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**From:** David Hitchcock  
**Sent:** February-23-15 9:46 AM  
**To:** Paparella, Stephanie  
**Subject:** budget

Dear Stephanie,

I was delighted to read in yesterday's *Spectator* that the city's preliminary budget includes funding for clearing snow from sidewalks. I have been arguing for years that the city should clear the snow from its own sidewalks, and I strongly support keeping the money for clearing snow from city sidewalks in the budget.

The argument for this service is simple: justice for pedestrians.

The city has a moral and legal responsibility to keep its sidewalks safe for pedestrians. In particular, the city's sidewalks need to be free of treacherous and slippery snow and ice that can cause people to slip and fall, with the risk of broken bones, including hip fractures that in 20% of cases lead to death within a year. The present system of a by-law requiring the abutting property owner to clear the snow from the city's sidewalks obviously does not work: you just have to look around to see that. It is no use saying that more vigorous by-law enforcement will make the sidewalks safe. I have been e-mailing my councillor's office for years, reporting unsafe snow- and ice-covered city sidewalks. The by-law officers do their best, but the sidewalk clearing is worse than ever.

With the city clearing snow from its sidewalks, we will be able to see a real benefit from our property tax dollars.

David Hitchcock