



Hamilton

# INFORMATION REPORT

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	September 19, 2016
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Use of Snow Blowers on Residential Streets (PW16076) (City Wide) (Outstanding Business Item)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Bob Paul 905 546-2424, Extension 7641
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Brian Hughes Acting Director, Operations Division Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

## Council Direction:

On November 2, 2015, the Public Works Committee requested that staff assess the benefits and drawbacks of using snow blowers to widen residential streets, in cases where such removal is warranted due to sightlines being impeded.

## Information:

Snow blowing and hauling (snow removal) to widen residential streets is an existing operation within the City's winter control program. The need for snow removal from residential streets is assessed on a street by street basis. Snow removal operations are commenced when snow and ice issues at intersections hamper the ability of vehicular traffic to enter or exit roadways safely, when roadside snow storage capacities are maximized or when the ability for emergency vehicles to pass is hindered. Snow removal operations are also activated to relieve trapped water on the roadway or sidewalk.

Current snow removal operations include blowing snow from roadside snow banks into the backs of tandem dump trucks. The snow is then hauled to a City snow dump facility for further handling and snow storage management.

Snow blowing directly onto abutting private property was discontinued several years ago due to increased property/vehicle damage claims and complaints. Snow blowing operations can also be very noisy by nature and these operations lead to a number of complaints.

While current snow removal operations provide a level of service to address operational concerns, an enhanced removal program could require the following considerations:

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*OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.*

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- Increase to the operating budget. Snow removal costs have averaged \$1.3M over the past 3 years and would need to be increased to reflect a higher level of service;
- Additional posted no parking timelines;
- Increased noise concerns from operations;
- Risk and property damage increase;
- Increased cost of snow storage facility;
- Increased cost for removal equipment ;
- Additional staff;
- Environmental impacts;
- Residential concerns with snow blown on properties;
- Timeline considerations.

Snow removal is typically undertaken after roadways and sidewalks have been cleared. Any change to this prioritization level would also require further consideration of impacts. A program delivery model would need to be developed to confirm service levels and determine the associated costs to deliver this program City wide.

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