

**Pilon, Janet**

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**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  
Ward 2 resident