



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
c/o Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015
www.anc3e.org

Resolution Regarding Proposed Rulemaking For The Removal Of Snow And Ice

Whereas, in December of 2014 the DC City Council passed legislation requiring the Department of Public Works (DPW) to create a system for levying fines against residential and commercial property owners who fail to clear their sidewalks and curb cuts within 8 daylight hours of the cessation of snow or ice accumulation, and

Whereas, DPW has formally proposed the rulemaking required by this legislation adopting a new Chapter 17 Winter Sidewalk Safety of Title 24 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations, and

Whereas, ANC 3E has long advocated for making our neighborhood more walkable and safer for pedestrians and has passed numerous resolutions over the years supporting additional sidewalks and traffic calming measures intended to facilitate more walking in our Ward and the District of Columbia, and

Whereas, the proposed regulations mandate a \$25 fine for homeowners and a \$150 fine for business owners who fail to clear their sidewalks and curb cuts within 8 daylight hours of the cessation of accumulation but also grants a blanket waiver to home owners over the age of 65, and

Whereas, ANC 3E believes the fines in most cases will be lower than the cost to businesses and home owners of hiring a third party to clear their sidewalks and curb cuts and therefore may not be adequate incentive for property owners to clear their sidewalks, and

Whereas, other cities in the Northeast levy greater fines for failure to clear snow and ice including:

Alexandria, VA – residential \$50¹

Baltimore – residential \$50 and commercial \$100²

Boston – residential \$50 & commercial \$200³

Philadelphia – between \$50 and \$300 for each violation⁴

¹ <http://alexandriava.gov/special/weather/snow/default.aspx?id=40386>

²

<http://snow.baltimorecity.gov/StormEventInformation/Housingremindseveryonetobeshovelready.aspx>

³ <http://www.cityofboston.gov/snow/removal/snowremoval.asp>

⁴ <http://www.philadelphiastreet.com/highways/snow>

Whereas, the Mayor's Office on Volunteerism maintains a list of residential addresses whose owners require assistance clearing their sidewalks and assigns volunteers from the same neighborhood to clear those sidewalks at no cost to the homeowners, and

Now therefore be it resolved, ANC 3E urges DPW to consider a system of graduated fines that increase for repeat offenders increasing the cost of non-compliance until it is greater than the cost of paying a third party to clear the sidewalks and curb cuts.

Be it further resolved, ANC 3E believes DPW should assist residents over the age of 65 who have failed to clear their sidewalks to register their homes on the Citizen Snow Team list so that concerned neighbors have the opportunity to ensure that the sidewalks and curbs of these homes have their snow removed.

ANC 3E approved this resolution at its meeting on September 9, 2015, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 5-0-0. Commissioners Jonathan Bender, Amy Hall, Jonathan McHugh, Tom Quinn and Anne Wallace were present.

ANC 3E
By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson