

Amendments to The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005

ISSUE

This report recommends amendments to Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation recommend to City Council:

1. That the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005, as outlined in this report, be approved; and
2. That the City Solicitor be requested to prepare the proposed amendments to Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005.

BACKGROUND

[Bylaw No. 8463, The Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, 2005](#) (Bylaw) regulates snow and ice removal from City of Saskatoon (City) sidewalks. Schedule “A” of the Bylaw identifies locations within Saskatoon where snow and ice must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours of it being deposited and Schedule “B” identifies areas of Saskatoon where snow and ice that is removed from sidewalks may be placed in the roadway adjacent to a sidewalk due to space constraints.

Since its enactment in 2005, the Bylaw has undergone minimal amendments. The proposed amendments formalize existing practices and will also ensure consistency with other City bylaws and incorporate minor housekeeping amendments for clarity.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Replacement of Schedule “A” with a non-residential property clause

The Bylaw generally requires owners or occupants of an adjacent property to clear sidewalks within 48 hours of deposits of snow, ice, or debris, with the exception of areas of the City identified in Schedule “A”, which are generally non-residential areas subject to a 24-hour removal timeframe. This approach requires continual updates to the Bylaw to ensure that new development areas are identified in Schedule “A”. It is proposed that the current Schedule “A” be repealed, instead substituting text stating all non-residential properties must clear their sidewalks within 24 hours from the time of snow and ice deposit.

Most non-residential properties, not identified in Schedule “A”, have adopted the best practice of clearing sidewalks within 24 hours of deposit. Formalizing requirements for all non-residential properties to clear sidewalks within 24 hours provides a simplified approach that is largely consistent with existing practices.

A municipal scan supports amending the Bylaw to require non-residential properties to clear snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of deposit. Saskatoon and Regina are the only scanned municipalities that provide up to 48 hours for non-residential properties to clear sidewalks abutting private property (see Appendix 1).

As part of the ongoing commitment to provide public education on common bylaw regulations and community standards, this change will be communicated through direct contact with property owners found in contravention of the Bylaw. Non-residential properties that have not cleared snow or ice from sidewalks within 24 hours of deposit will be left a letter or will receive a phone call outlining the Bylaw requirements. Property owners affected by this change will be given an additional opportunity to clear the sidewalks before further enforcement action is taken.

Addition of 33rd Street Business Improvement District (BID) to Schedule “B”

The Bylaw generally requires persons to deposit any snow, ice or other loose debris that has been removed from sidewalks onto private property. Schedule “B” sets out areas of the city in which people may deposit snow, ice or other loose debris from sidewalks onto the roadway adjacent to the sidewalk, given that there is limited room available on private property, as long as doing so does not create a hazard or interfere with the use of the roadway.

The Broadway, Downtown, Riversdale and Sutherland BIDs are included in Schedule “B”; however, the 33rd Street BID was established after the Bylaw went into effect and has requested to be added as properties located within the 33rd Street BID generally have limited space available on private property for snow storage. While businesses along 33rd Street (from Idylwyld Drive to Avenue F) are required to clear the sidewalks within 24 hours, the exclusion from Schedule “B” means businesses are not permitted to place snow onto the roadway. Additionally, the 33rd Street BID has expanded from Alberta Avenue to Avenue G. To allow sidewalk snow to be placed on the roadway within 24 hours of deposit, it is recommended that the entirety of the 33rd Street BID be added to Schedule “B” (see Appendix 2).

Permit Limited Snow Placement onto City Boulevards

In certain circumstances, the Bylaw allows for removal of snow from sidewalks and placement onto roadways. [Bylaw No. 5713, The Anti-Dumping Bylaw, 1977](#) is primarily used to regulate the dumping of large quantities of snow onto City property from areas such as driveways or parking lots and permits people to remove snow and place onto lanes and streets and extends this regulation to boulevards. To avoid potential conflicts between the enforcement of these bylaws, it is recommended that the Bylaw be amended to allow for the placement of snow removed from City sidewalks onto City boulevards. Similar to the regulation for roadways, the Bylaw will require that any snow placed on boulevards be placed in such a manner that it does not create a hazard, such as blocking traffic sightlines or interfering with the operation of City infrastructure, such as drainage systems, fire hydrants or utility access points.

Minor Housekeeping Amendments

Minor housekeeping amendments are required to the Bylaw to account for org chart changes and reformatting of Bylaw definitions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications. The proposed amendments formalize an approach that is largely consistent with existing practices.

NEXT STEPS

Following City Council consideration of the proposed amendments, BIDs and relevant business interest groups will be notified of the changes.

APPENDICES

1. Review of Regulations in Other Canadian Municipalities
2. Proposed Sidewalk Clearing Map - 33rd Street BID

REPORT APPROVAL

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