

Madalyn Letellier

From: Sravana Reddy [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:02 AM
To: Public Comments
Subject: comment on sidewalk shoveling

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Good morning,

My name is Sravana Reddy and I'm a resident of Ward 5 [REDACTED] in Somerville. I would like to comment on the issue of snow clearance on sidewalks.

Somerville, being an urban location, has a large population of residents -- including the elderly, disabled, and young children -- that walk as a means of getting around. It is therefore imperative that our sidewalks are cleared and safe after snowstorms.

At the same time, Somerville has a large population of elderly, disabled, busy parents of young kids, people who travel often, students, and other populations that cannot be relied upon to clear their sidewalks in a timely manner.

The resulting reality is that after any major snowstorm that is followed by cold temperatures, such as this week, miles and miles of sidewalks are left uncleared, often turning into treacherous ice. Residents sustain falls or resort to walking on the street.

I urge the city to reconsider the status quo of keeping the sidewalks safe. It may be time to consider centralized public solutions that remove the onus from the homeowners, or at least opt-in programs where residents can easily access services to help them keep our sidewalks safe.

Thank you,
Sravana Reddy