

From: Elizabeth Levy [mailto:elizabeth.r.levy@gmail.com]

Sent: Sun 3/2/2014 2:04 PM

To: Janice Delory; Mayor; John Long; John Connolly; Mary Jo. Rossetti; Dennis Sullivan; William White; Matthew McLaughlin; Maryann Heuston; Robert McWatters; Tony LaFuente; Mark Neidergang; Rebekah Gewirtz; Katjana Ballantyne

Subject: letter from group of moms regarding snowy sidewalks

March 1, 2014

Dear Mayor Curtatone and members of the Board of Aldermen,

We are writing to you as a group of mothers of small children around Somerville. Over the past few weeks, the conditions of the sidewalks around town have left us stranded, afraid, and frustrated. Sidewalks were sometimes left covered in snow; sometimes shoveled to the best of the shovelers' ability, but not all the way to the pavement or wide enough for strollers; and often compacted into ice no matter whether the original shoveling had complied with city code.

We were often faced with tough choices for how to transport our small children: use a stroller because sidewalks are too icy for a baby carrier, or wear a carrier because cleared, icy paths are not wide enough for a stroller. Often the safest choice to make was to walk with our babies in the street, a daunting prospect on side streets and terrifying on main streets. As many of you have experienced this yourselves in the recent or not so recent past, we are sure you can empathize.

While we recognize that sidewalk snow removal is the responsibility of property owners, we think it is clear the current system isn't working. We hope that in this period of thawing we can think of ways to prevent similar situations next winter. We realize that while we are speaking on behalf of some of Somerville's youngest citizens, many of Somerville's oldest or physically challenged citizens face similar hardship dealing with the snow, and may have been forced to stay inside for weeks.

While many of us alerted the 311 line of these problems, some particular problem areas we have noted include:

- College Avenue from Davis Square to Tufts, and in particular sidewalks around the churches on this street
- The city-maintained sidewalks surrounding Powderhouse Park
- Mystic Ave between McGrath Highway and the Medford line
- Jacques Street between Fellsway West and Temple Street
- Somerville Ave between the Cambridge border and Elm St along the rail road tracks
- Union Square near Rickis
- Summer St between Porter and Davis Squares
- Kirkland and Holden Sts
- Evergreen Ave and Marshall St
- Benton Rd
- Summer St, Putnam St, Bow St, and Church St.

- Willow Ave and Highland Ave
- Kidder Ave from Liberty Ave to Willow Ave
- Elm St between Davis and Porter

We hope that over the next few months creative solutions to this problem can be found, and are willing to work with you on this issue. We hope for safer sidewalks for the whole city next winter.

Respectfully,
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Molly Wylie, Concord Ave
Georgy Cohen, Moreland Street
Maggie Norcross-Devin, Summer Street
Erin Conrad, Highland Ave
Kelly Duda, Murdock Street
Rachel Dunham, Summer Street
Allison Goodman, Claremon Street
Nellie Tran, Josephine Ave
Jenna Smith, Boston Street
Kelli Stauff, Warwick Street
Ksenia Samokhvalova, Irving Street
Danielle Fillis Evans, North Street
Martha Kelehan, Weston Ave
Tina Miller, Rossmore Street
Melanie Herscovitch, Calvin St
Alethea Moraes-Ignatius, Oak Terrace
Leah Markowitz, Craigie St
Elizabeth Pinsky, William Street
Amie Briesen, Joseph St.
Melissa Suderman, Evergreen Ave
Becca Gerner, Oxford St.
Heather Whitney, Mason St
Trisha Shrum, Union Square
Jardayna Laurent, Lexington Ave
Allison Boehret, Liberty Ave
Lynne Doncaster, Chandler Street