1/5/2022

Mayor Jacob Frey
City Hall
350 S. Fifth St., Room 331
Minneapolis, MN 55415

CC: City Council Members Elliot Payne, Robin Wonsley Worlobah, Michael Rainville, LaTrisha Vetaw, Jeremiah Ellison, Jamal Osman, Lisa Goodman, Andrea Jenkins, Jason Chavez, Aisha Chughtai, Emily Koski, Andrew Johnson, Linea Palmisano and Brette Hjelle, Bryan Dodds, Jenifer Hager

Announcing our campaign for city-led snow and ice removal from sidewalks

Dear Mayor Frey and decision makers,

Today, Our Streets Minneapolis is launching a campaign to create a city-led program to clear snow and ice from sidewalks.

Minneapolis sidewalks are covered with snow and ice throughout the winter. Our current system of relying on property owners to shovel in front of their homes or businesses is not working. This broken system has severe consequences for people with disabilities and people using mobility devices. Snow and ice covered sidewalks make much of the city inaccessible in winter. The ability to walk and roll in our communities shouldn’t be seasonal, it is a basic right.

This is why we are calling for the City of Minneapolis to invest in a municipal-led snow clearance program, starting with the "pedestrian priority network" of streets identified in the Transportation Action Plan. According to the plan, this is a network of our city’s most frequented streets where pedestrian improvements will be targeted.

Our goal is for the 2023 City of Minneapolis budget to include a line item for a municipal-led snow clearance pilot program that focuses on the pedestrian priority network. We will be running a grassroots organizing campaign later this year to build support for this initiative. This effort will include door knocking, phone banking and community outreach in Fall 2022.

We count on your support for this important community priority.

Sincerely,

Ashwat Narayanan
Executive Director