



For Immediate Release
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Reminder of Updated Ordinance for Winter Weather

Harrisonburg, Va. – Harrisonburg is gearing up for another winter season and wants to remind residents of a change to an ordinance that is primarily impacted by winter weather.

In October 2015, City Council updated city code Section 6-1-15 to allow for a better process of clearing snow from sidewalks. It remains the same that residents and property owners are responsible for clearing snow from sidewalks in front of their homes or businesses. As in the previous ordinance, waivers and exceptions to this portion of the city code are given to those residents physically unable to clear the sidewalk. The city also still encourages neighbors to help one another during the winter months.

What has been updated?

Property owners now have 24 hours to remove snow if it is six inches deep or less. In the event of a significant snowfall of six inches or more, property owners have 36 hours to clear the sidewalks. The time begins after the snow has stopped falling.

If the occupant or property owner fails to clean off the sidewalk, a notice of violation will be given. After 24 hours of the notice being given and if the sidewalk is still not clear, the city will clear the sidewalk and the expense will be billed to the occupant or owner.

The Public Works Department will manage this ordinance on a complaint-basis.

Why is this important during the winter months?

Harrisonburg is a pedestrian-friendly community and it is important to have clear sidewalks for those using the sidewalk as a mode of transportation and to be able to do so safely. Sidewalks that are not clear of snow may force pedestrians to walk in the street, which is not safe.

The Public Works Department will also continue to put an emphasis on clearing priority sidewalks or sidewalks in areas of high pedestrian traffic, around public property, and on bridges or overpasses. A new map has been created to better depict these areas, which is available at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/snow-plow.

For more information about the city's snow and ice program and the primary and secondary snow routes, visit www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/snow-plow.



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