

March 10, 2009

Office of the City Clerk
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53403

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2009

Dept of Public Works

RE: Snow Removal Regulations for Sidewalks and Crosswalks

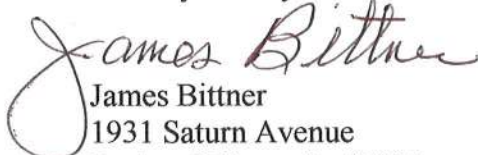
On January 26, 2009 I sent the attached letter to the Department of Public Works. This was an attempt to have something done concerning the many residences in my neighborhood that had failed to clear their sidewalks and crosswalks of snow.

Dawn Lasnicka of the Department called me and explained that those residents who had not cleared their sidewalks were in violation of the city ordinances and many had already been cited for their failure. Dawn also told me that the ordinance only required clearing sidewalks to the curb line and her department was unable to demand any greater clearing. We both agreed that the ordinance isn't solving the problem that exists at the crosswalks.

With the heavy snows that Racine had received in December and January many of the crosswalks were blocked by piles of snow that ranged from three to four feet in height. In the middle of a city block that isn't necessarily a problem but it certainly is at the crosswalks. In our neighborhood we have grade school children trying to walk to Wadewitz School. Every intersection is a challenge. Should they find a driveway and walk in the street to the next driveway on the next block? Should they climb the snow hill and risk falling while navigating the wall of snow? Yout Street and the others in this area are busy enough in the morning with parents of Wadewitz and Horlick students delivering their children. The extra traffic of small children trying to find a clear path to their school isn't safe and shouldn't be necessary either.

I would think the ordinances that govern the subject of snow removal should include the requirement that crosswalks be cleared of snow so that a clear path exists for pedestrians of all sizes and ages. I realize that this places an additional burden on those people who live on corner lots but it is something that needs to be addressed by the City of Racine.

Thank you for your time


James Bittner
1931 Saturn Avenue
Racine, Wisconsin 53404

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cc: Alderwoman Sandy Weidner
Dawn Laznicka Racine Department of Public Works

January 26, 2009

City of Racine
Department of Public Works-Administration
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, WI 53403

RE: Snow Removal of Sidewalks and Crosswalks

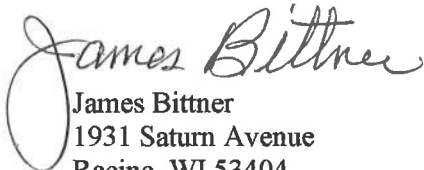
I live in the Horlick-Wadewitz and Gilmore School area. I am a walker with and without my dog and a runner in the neighborhood. Each year the attention given to clearing sidewalks in this area has decreased. We have several properties in the area that have not even given any attention to removing the snow from their paved areas.

It especially bothers me when the crosswalks are not cleared by corner property owners. My wife fell last week at the corner of Maple Grove Avenue and Northwestern Avenue while playing mountain goat at that corner. Many grade school and middle school children are forced to navigate these hazards on their daily trips to Wadewitz and Gilmore.

Here is a list of some of the properties that I took note of last week.

1721 Rapids Drive	Empty home, nothing has been shoveled
2932 Northwestern Ave	Corner property on Northwestern, Georgia and Yout
2600 Northwestern Avenue	Empty home at Maple Grove and Northwestern Ave
Rapids Drive and Shoop Street	Southeast corner crosswalk has not been cleared
High Street and Shoop Street	Northwest corner crosswalk has not been cleared
Yout Street and Mount Pleasant St	Southeast corner crosswalk has not been cleared
Shoop and Goold	Southwest corner crosswalk has not been cleared
Saturn Avenue and Jupiter Ave	Northwest corner crosswalk has not been cleared

Something should be done to clear these sidewalk and crosswalk areas.


James Bittner
1931 Saturn Avenue
Racine, WI 53404