



Source: Public Works *John*

Agenda Item No: REP 3-12

To: City Council  
From: City Manager and Staff

Council Meeting Date: Jan 3, 2012

Re: Snow Removal by Private Contractors

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a report concerning snow removal by private contractors. During the pre-council meeting held on October 17, 2011 discussing the topic of snow removal, staff was directed to report back on the possibility of allowing private contractors to perform snow removal on city streets. During major snow events, when necessary, private contractors are used to remove snow from the downtown streets only. The Snow Policy adopted by Council in 2008 covers snow removal operations on all city streets:

*For snow events with less than 4 inches of snow:*

- City crews will clear first, second and critical streets to a safe and passable pavement, utilizing overtime if necessary.
- Crews will treat residential streets during regular working hours only.

*For snow events with more than 4 inches of snow:*

- City crews will clear first, second and critical streets to a safe and passable pavement, utilizing overtime if necessary.
- Crews will treat residential streets utilizing overtime until streets are safe and passable.

### **DISCUSSION:**

At Council's request, staff has researched the idea of granting neighborhood associations, or individuals, permission to have private contractors perform snow removal on city streets. Staff is concerned this activity could result in a higher liability for the city if accidents or injuries occur. Staff also checked with other municipalities and learned they have the same liability concerns. The City of Maryland Heights and the City of Springfield do not allow neighborhood associations to hire private contractors. Both municipalities indicated this activity does occur, but not with city consent. Currently, the City of Columbia does not have an ordinance prohibiting the use of private contractors for snow removal; however, it is not condoned.

A similar idea would be to contract with private businesses for snow removal through a bid process. In this process, liability concerns would be addressed and contractors would be required to carry the appropriate amount of liability insurance. This system would only be necessary during extreme snow events, such as the February 2011 seventeen inch event. The City of Maryland Heights and the City of Springfield indicated that they have contracts with private companies to assist during extreme snow events, as we do in Columbia.

During the same pre-council meeting, a discussion took place about neighborhood associations voluntarily having no parking on their streets during snow events. Neighborhoods that sign up for this program will have priority for snow removal in an event of 4 inches or more of snow. There are 80 recognized neighborhood associations in Columbia (see attached map). In January, staff will send letters to 30%, or 24 of the neighborhood associations, to gauge interest in this type of program. Public Works staff and the Office of Neighborhood Services staff will work together to identify interest from other areas of the city. Pending the level of interest, staff will report back to council, as well as send letters to the remaining neighborhood associations.

During the upcoming budget process, staff will study the impact of an additional salt dome on the southern side of the city. The practice of using salt only for normal snow events will continue. If an ice event occurs, cinders will be added to the salt for traction.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None with this report.

**VISION IMPACT:**

<http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Council/Meetings/visionimpact.php>

None

**SUGGESTED COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

For information only.

FISCAL and VISION NOTES:					
City Fiscal Impact Enter all that apply		Program Impact		Mandates	
City's current net FY cost		New Program/Agency?	No	Federal or State mandated?	No
Amount of funds already appropriated		Duplicates/Epands an existing program?	No	<b>Vision Implementation impact</b>	
Amount of budget amendment needed		Fiscal Impact on any local political subdivision?	No	Enter all that apply: Refer to Web site	
Estimated 2 year net costs:		<b>Resources Required</b>		Vision Impact?	No
One Time		Requires add'l FTE Personnel?	No	Primary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	
Operating/Ongoing		Requires add'l facilities?	No	Secondary Vision, Strategy and/or Goal Item #	
		Requires add'l capital equipment?	No	Fiscal year implementation Task #	



# City of Columbia Neighborhood Associations

## August 2011

- 1 - Bearfield Meadows
- 2 - Bedford Walk
- 3 - Benion Stephens
- 4 - Bluff Creek Estates
- 5 - Brookside Square
- 6 - Cedar Lake
- 7 - Chapel Hill Estates
- 8 - Chapel Hill Lake
- 9 - Chapel Woods
- 10 - College Park
- 11 - Country Club Estates
- 12 - Country Club Fairways
- 13 - County House Branch
- 14 - Deer Ridge
- 15 - Douglas Park
- 16 - Dumas
- 17 - East Campus
- 18 - East Pointe
- 19 - East Walnut
- 20 - Eastland Hills
- 21 - Fairview
- 22 - Grasslands
- 23 - Green Meadows
- 24 - Greenbriar Trail Ridge
- 25 - Grindstone Rock Quarry
- 26 - Haden Park
- 27 - Highland Park
- 28 - Hinson Creek Valley
- 29 - Historic Old Southwest
- 30 - Historic Sunset Lane
- 31 - Historic West Broadway
- 32 - Hominy Branch
- 33 - Hunters Gate
- 34 - Indian Hills
- 35 - King's Meadow
- 36 - Lake Shire Estates
- 37 - Lenoir Woods
- 38 - Limerick Lakes
- 39 - Longview
- 40 - Meadows
- 41 - Meadowdale
- 42 - Mexico Gravel
- 43 - Miles Manor
- 44 - Moon Valley Heights
- 45 - North Central
- 46 - Northland-Parker
- 47 - Oakland Manor
- 48 - Oaks
- 49 - Oakview Drive
- 50 - Park De Ville
- 51 - Park Hill
- 52 - Parkside
- 53 - Quail Creek
- 54 - Quarry Heights
- 55 - Ridgeway
- 56 - Rockledge
- 57 - Rockingham
- 58 - Rothwell Heights
- 59 - Shepard Boulevard
- 60 - Shoe Factory District
- 61 - Smithton Ridge
- 62 - Southwest Hills
- 63 - Stadium Heights
- 64 - Stonecrest
- 65 - Tanglewood
- 66 - Tenth Hill Elm Locust
- 67 - Timberhill Road
- 68 - Vanderveen Crossing
- 69 - Westmount
- 70 - Westlands Park
- 71 - White Gale
- 72 - Woodridge
- 73 - Zaring
- 74 - Spencer's Crest
- 75 - Baum Avenue
- 76 - West Ash
- 77 - Katy Lake Estates
- 78 - Heritage Estates
- 79 - Valley View Gardens
- 80 - Wooley Street Park

