

This meeting is being held in accordance to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order and other Federal and State Orders that impact in-person attendance at public meetings, if applicable orders expire or are revoked before January 27, 2021, this will be an in-person meeting in City Hall, please check our website and Facebook for updates. Please submit your public comment via email [commoncouncil@albanyny.gov](mailto:commoncouncil@albanyny.gov) or on our website <https://www.albanyny.gov/Government/CityOfficials/CommonCouncil.aspx> by **January 27, 2021 12pm**. These comments will be shared with members and/ or read for the record at the meeting. The meeting will be held using Zoom and streamed through the Albany Common Council's Facebook. To stream this video please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/albany.commoncouncil>. If we experience any technical difficulties on Facebook, the video will be streamed to YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-rQHp1fBLPcdk4N6J4XbQ>



## **COMMON COUNCIL MEETING**

### **GENERAL SERVICE, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Michael O'Brien, Chair**

**DATE: Wednesday, January 27, 2021**

**TIME: 6:30 p.m. (following Caucus)**

**TOPIC(S) OF DISCUSSION/CONSIDERATION:**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 6.21.20R**

**RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE EQUITY IN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND MOBILITY  
BY IMPROVING SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL FROM CITY SIDEWALKS, STREET  
CROSSINGS AND BUS STOPS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: YES**

**Councilmember Fahey introduced the following:**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 6.21.20R**

**RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE EQUITY IN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND MOBILITY BY IMPROVING SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL FROM CITY SIDEWALKS, STREET CROSSINGS AND BUS STOPS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Albany is subject to significant intermittent snowfall and ice storms over a period of five months in every year that impedes the mobility and safety of its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, great efforts have been made and considerable resources expended annually by the City to clear its streets of snow and ice for vehicle traffic and parking by instituting a citywide Snow Emergency plan; and

**WHEREAS**, it is only fair and equitable that individuals who walk or take public transportation have comparable safe access to City streets and sidewalks after significant snow and ice storms; and

**WHEREAS**, some improvements have been made to reduce the time period by which property owners are required to clear their sidewalks; and

**WHEREAS**, the City does clear a certain number of sidewalks and street corners of snow and ice on a regular basis to improve pedestrian access; and

**WHEREAS**, the Capital District Transportation Authority does clear snow and ice at high volume bus stops on a regular basis; and

**WHEREAS**, these efforts are wholly insufficient because snow and ice removal remains a significant obstacle across the City for all pedestrians particularly low income and disabled individuals, seniors and children; and

**WHEREAS**, crossing at street corners or waiting at bus stops caked with large mounds of ice and snow place all pedestrians but particularly the young, elderly and disabled at risk of serious injury; and

**WHEREAS**, the education of young children is seriously impaired because families who depend on walking or bus transportation are more likely to keep the children home during winter months because of the treacherous condition of the sidewalks; and

**WHEREAS**, a high percentage of residents in the City of Albany do not have access to a personal vehicle and are dependent on either walking or taking public transportation to fulfill essential daily tasks and obligations; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing equity for Albany residents by reducing racial, social and economic disparities in all aspects of public life is a goal of both the Mayor and Common Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the current inability of pedestrians to safely access streets and sidewalks due to snow and ice in the winter months is a major disparity;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and her administration take the necessary steps to address the pervasive inequity and disparity that exists with regard to the removal of snow and ice from City sidewalks and streets during the winter months; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor involve the Capital District Transportation Authority in discussions regarding improvements needed to improve pedestrian access to bus stops during winter months; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and staff solicit input from the community as to improvements needed and potential solutions to effectively clearing snow and ice from streets and sidewalks.

**To:** Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk  
**From:** John-Raphael Pichardo, Esq., Research Counsel  
**Re:** Request for Common Council Legislation  
Supporting Memorandum  
**Date:** January 15, 2020

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 6.21.20R**

**TITLE**

A RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE EQUITY IN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND MOBILITY BY IMPROVING SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL FROM CITY SIDEWALKS, STREET CROSSINGS AND BUS STOPS.

**GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION**

To promote improvements in the law regarding snow and ice removal from sidewalks, street crossings and bus stops and ensure equity and parity for residents whose primary mode of travel is walking and/or accessing public transportation with those residents who drive vehicles

**NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW**

Large snowfalls and ice accumulation during winter months continue to result in impassable street crossings, sidewalks, and inaccessible bus stops. The safety and mobility of low income and disabled individuals, seniors and young children is impeded. Snow removal from City streets for motorized vehicles has been prioritized over pedestrian access to streets and sidewalks creating an inequitable use of public funds and resources that must be addressed.

**FISCAL IMPACT(S)**

To be determined

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