

RESOLUTION NUMBER 200

WHEREAS, This January 2014, The City of St. Louis experienced some of the worst cold weather and accumulated snowfall in several decades; and

WHEREAS, We all appreciate the dedicated hard work and long hours that the employees of the City of St. Louis extended attempting to remove the snow from our city streets, especially the Street Department employees of whom some worked 12 hour shifts; and

WHEREAS, Although the low temperatures and large amounts of accumulated snowfall is unusual for The City of St. Louis, it is not unheard of or unprecedented; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, the City of St. Louis has experienced several separate periods during the Winter Seasons (December 21- March 20) when there were large amounts of snowfall; and

WHEREAS, Although the Executive Branch of the City of St. Louis, specifically, the Mayor's Office appoints the Director of Streets whose title is Street Commissioner and who reports directly to the Mayor, the Street Commissioner should also work with and keep informed the Legislative Branch in the City of St. Louis which is known as The Board of Aldermen; and

WHEREAS, The Street Commissioner should make sure that the City of St. Louis has a snow removal plan that when implemented would ensure that snow removal in the City would be done in an orderly, timely fair manner across the entire City of St. Louis so that the residents and those doing business with our fair city or just visiting could as soon as possible return to their everyday activities such as going to work, school, and church and

WHEREAS, It is of the utmost importance that this snow removal plan be in writing and disseminated to the Legislative Branch of the City of St. Louis along with other elected Officials and the general public at large; and

WHEREAS, The current written Snow Removal Policy of the City of St. Louis is to pretreat the City's Snow Routes with a brine solution and once the snow begins to fall, the plow/salt trucks are to make their rounds treating and plowing as necessary. Also, if the forecast calls for several days of below-freezing temperatures and little sunshine, indicating snow will not be melting away quickly, crews are to salt residential intersections to ensure safe stopping.; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, the written snow removal policy goes on to state Plowing Residential streets is NOT FEASIBLE (**emphasis added**) as the streets are too narrow, often tire ruts are already formed by traffic preventing the City's ability to push the snow, and the difficulty plowing presents for residents parked on the street getting plowed in; and

WHEREAS, Lastly, the written snow removal policy states that the above procedures are in place for all snow/ice events in the City of St. Louis and instructs our Citizens that it is not necessary to call to get their street treated and the above stated snow removal policy was repeated by many members of this esteemed Board to their constituents in their respective wards when the constituents called regarding snow removal on their streets and in their neighborhoods during this past snow storm; and

WHEREAS, When the written Snow Removal Plan for the City of St. Louis was changed it was particularly important that not only should the general public be advised but also ALL MEMBERS of the Legislative Body known as the BOARD OF ALDERMEN should have been advised of said change so that they may have properly informed their many constituents to the changes in the plan in connection with what the Executive Branch and Street Commissioner were telling the regarding the current snow removal policy for the City ; and

WHEREAS, The residents and business across the City of St. Louis pay taxes and expect that they will all receive the same basic City Service including snow removal in a timely fair fashion in every neighborhood of the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the City there were many citizens who expressed disappointment and dismay at the lack of snow removal in their neighborhoods and communities. Many Citizens stating specific reasons for their disappointment such as, the snow routes in areas where they lived or worked were not properly cleaned; the secondary streets were not treated and plowed or cleaned; there was a lack of access to the bus stops because the bus stops because they were packed with snow; residential intersections were not salted; the lack of timeliness of when the City decided they would plow residential streets, and the apparent lack of a plan to address removing the large amount of snow; and

WHEREAS, It is the best interest of the Citizens of St. Louis that we seek ways that we as a City can improve upon our snow removal and plan by reexamine our written policy, especially as it relates to large accumulations of snowfall and cold weather, by evaluating our recent response to the snow, and by seeking input from the Citizens of our fair City as how we can better serve them in the removal of snow, so that all of our constituents have confidence that their neighborhoods and communities are receiving the same services and being treated fairly.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT THIS HONORABLE BOARD OF ALDERMEN direct the Streets Committee to convene hearing for the purpose of examining and investigating the events, and circumstances surrounding the recent snow removal program and to further gather information regarding the current Snow Removal Plan for the City of St. Louis, how that plan can be improved, how we can better implement the City's Plan, and how we can better disseminate information and changes to the plan to the members of the Board of Aldermen, elected officials, as well as to ALL residents, businesses, and visitors and the general public at large.

Introduced on the 17th day of January, 2014 by:

Honorable Sharon Tyus, Alderwoman 1st Ward
Honorable Antonio D. French Alderman 21st Ward

Adopted this the 17th day of January, 2014 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen