



Hamilton

SOS - Snow Off Sidewalks

INTRODUCTION

Property owners (i.e. home and business owners) and occupants are responsible for clearing and removing snow and ice off sidewalks surrounding their properties within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling. This includes the portion of the sidewalk at street corners also known as access ramps that allow pedestrians including customer service workers, those who use mobility aids and strollers easier entry to be able to cross the road.

When clearing sidewalks it is important to know that it is illegal to place/throw snow and ice on a road or boulevard. Doing this can interfere with traffic, may cause an accident and could result in a ticket.

Keeping sidewalks and walkways clear improves the quality of life for all and will also help reduce injuries caused by slips and falls.

PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
LICENSING AND BY-LAW SERVICES DIVISION

WHAT IS THE LAW REGARDING SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL?

Property owners and occupants are responsible for the complete removal and clearing of snow and ice:

- From all City sidewalks surrounding their property within 24 hours of a snowfall
- That builds up on roofs or eaves that overhang a City Sidewalk
- From walkways, stairs, and other areas of a property where safe passage is needed

WHAT SHOULD I REMEMBER?

For safety reasons when clearing snow and ice ensure that it is not placed:

- on a road or boulevard
- immediately beside or blocking access to a fire hydrant
- in such a manner that it would block drainage to any drain or sewer

It is illegal to place snow and ice on a road or boulevard and could result in a ticket. Doing this will interfere with traffic and may also cause an accident.



WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR NOT CLEARING SNOW AND ICE?

Failure to remove and clear snow and ice within 24 hours of a snow fall, may result in one or all of the following:

- a Notice to Comply being issued (a document provided to the property owner/occupant on what actions need to be taken). See sample on the next page.
- charges under the Provincial Offences Act, which provide for a maximum fine(s) of \$5000.00, in addition to other court proceedings necessary to obtain compliance.
- fee for inspection costs added to the property taxes.
- the City removing it at the property owner's expense and the costs being added to the property taxes.

WHAT ARE SOME TIPS I SHOULD REMEMBER WHEN CLEARING SNOW AND ICE?

- Apply gravel, salt, clay kitty litter or sand to help.
- If you have a driveway, use it and keep your vehicles off the road during and immediately following a snowfall. This will ensure thorough ploughing of roadways and your vehicle will not get plowed in.
- Shovel early and often; new snow is lighter than packed/partially melted snow.

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE SURE MY NEIGHBOUR'S SIDEWALKS ARE CLEAR?

Be a Good Neighbour - Take the Time to Help

Helping people is a wonderful way to build positive relationships and to assist those who are not able to clear the snow. This By-law is intended to allow all people including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, children and service workers the ability (freedom) to use sidewalks safely. If snow is not removed in a timely fashion people may have difficulties receiving services such as Home Care and DARTS.



ARE THERE PROGRAMS THAT CAN ASSIST SENIORS AND DISABLED PERSONS?

Low income Seniors and low-income persons with disabilities may be eligible to receive financial assistance to pay for snow clearing from their sidewalk. To learn if you might qualify, or for other community resources to assist with snow clearing, visit:

www.Hamilton.ca/SnowAngels.

You can use the funds provided to hire a company, a neighbor or friend to remove snow from your sidewalk, front walkway and snow plow windrow.

WHERE CAN I FIND ASSISTANCE TO SHOVEL MY SNOW?

There are a number of community-based programs that provide snow removal assistance, even if you do not receive a subsidy:

Snow Angels Canada: <https://snowangelscanada.ca>

Stoney Creek Seniors Outreach: (905) 643-1919

www.seniorsoutreach.net

Flamborough Connects: (905) 689-7880

www.flamboroughconnects.ca/our-services/snow-angels/

St. Joseph's Home Care: (905) 522-6887

www.stjosephshomecare.ca/client-services/help-at-home/home-maintenance

Please Note: community-based programs are not run by the City of Hamilton. Please contact them directly for further information.

SAMPLE OF NOTICE TO COMPLY

Planning and Economic Development Department
 Parking and By-law Services Division
 Municipal Law Enforcement Section
 77 James Street North, suite 200, Hamilton, ON L8R 2K3



NOTICE TO COMPLY

issued under section 9 of By-law 03-296
 respecting the removal of snow and ice from sidewalks

First Offence
 Second Offence
 Third or Subsequent Offences

ISSUED TO: _____ PROPERTY: _____

TAKE NOTICE that on _____ Date: dd/mm/yy _____ Time: _____ an inspection of your property indicated that the City sidewalks adjacent to your property are not in compliance with section 5 of the City of Hamilton Snow Removal By-law 03-296, namely all snow and/or ice has not been removed.

You, as the Owner / Occupant of the property, are to remove all snow and/or ice from the City sidewalks adjacent to your property immediately.

AND TAKE NOTICE that if you do not comply with this notice, the City of Hamilton:

- (a) may carry out the work at your expense and may recover the costs of doing the work by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes;
- (b) may lay a charge for failing to comply with By-law 03-296 and, upon conviction, there is a maximum fine of \$5,000;
- (c) may take other legal action to obtain compliance with By-law 03-296.

Municipal Law Enforcement Officer _____ Badge #: _____

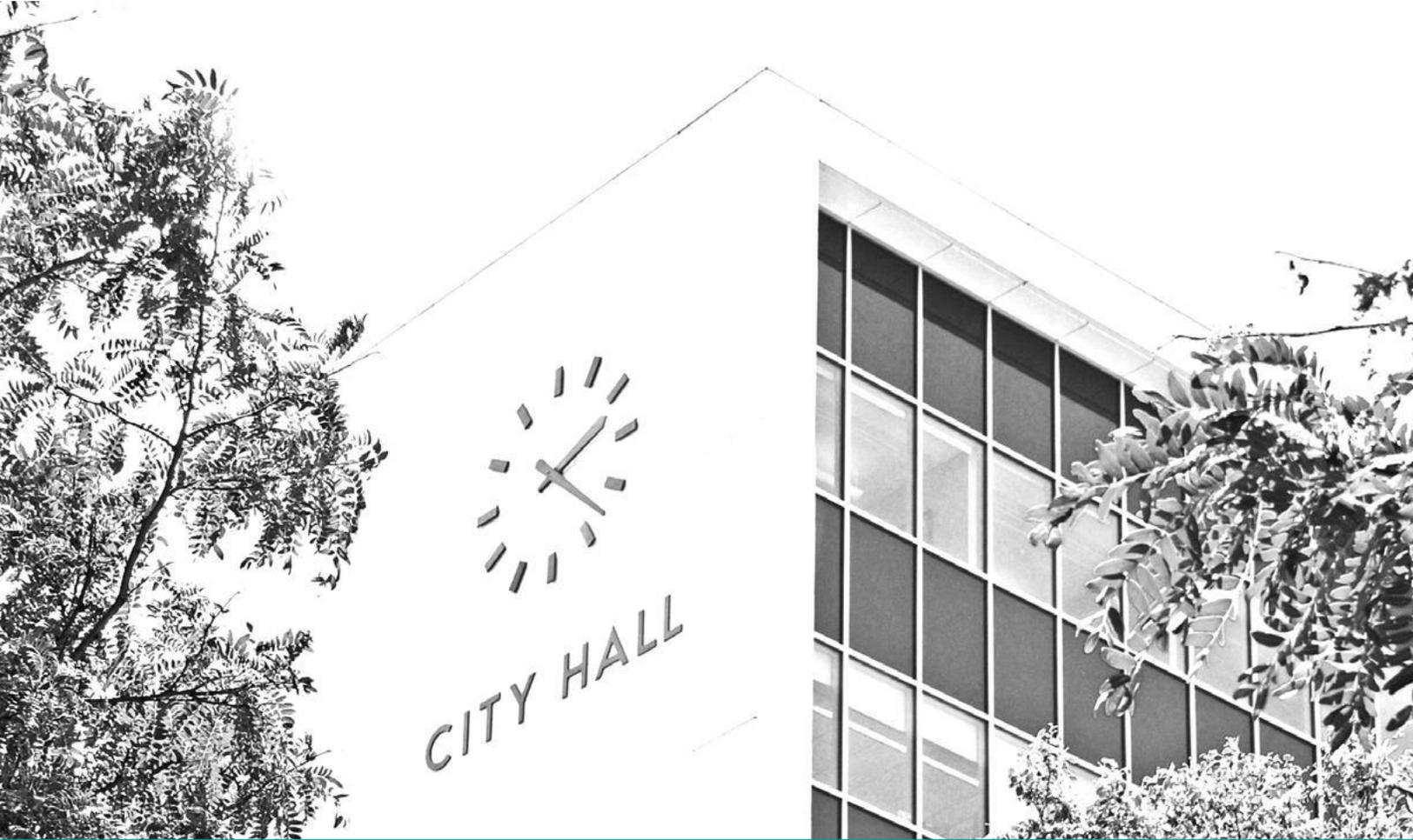
Service Request #: _____ Phone #: 905-546-2424, ext _____

Fee For Inspection: Letter given/left at property (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

white copy - Property Owner yellow copy - Office Files

By-laws are available for review on the City of Hamilton website, www.hamilton.ca, under frequently requested By-laws.





DO YOU REQUIRE MORE INFORMATION?



IN PERSON

330 Wentworth St N
Hamilton, Ontario
L8L 5W3



PHONE

TO FILE A COMPLAINT
MONDAY FRIDAY
8:30 am 4:30 pm
905 546 2782
Option #2
AFTER BUSINESS HOURS
905 546 CITY (2489)



E-MAIL

mle@hamilton.ca



WEB

www.hamilton.ca/mle