
From: David Guth [mailto:dguth@ku.edu]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2008 11:49 PM
To: David L. Corliss
Subject: Feedback from CMO Contact Us page

Dear Sir:

I am dismayed -- angry is a better adjective -- to hear that the commission is considering a no-warning ordinance to fine homeowners for failure to remove snow from sidewalks.

I own a tract of land that borders Sixth Street, just across from HyVee. I have approximately 300 feet of sidewalk. Over the years, the City of Lawrence has carved away my original property to accommodate commercial properties across the street. In doing to, the city has moved the sidewalk closer to my fence and closer to the street. The effect is that the sidewalk gets no afternoon sun to help with the melting of the snow AND city snow plows throw snow up onto the sidewalk. (Last winter, I remember shoveling the sidewalk, going inside for a drink of water, and coming back out to find half of my work undone.)

Now you are threatening me - and people like me - with an unreasonable fine. I suggest you think twice about it. Not only is your action unreasonable -- especially to people like me with property along major thoroughfares -- but it calls into question the legality of the city's actions, especially in regard to its abuse of so-called public right of way. If the city claims to have an absolute right to seize my property for the "public good," then it may find that a court will agree with me that the city, in turn, will have to maintain it, as well. Considering the fact that mine is a city-engineered problem, you may not want to open up this can of worms.

Cleaning my sidewalk is a major endeavor. At 56 and widowed, I am not exactly a spring chicken. Nor I am in a position to take time off from work in the middle of the week to satisfy an artificial deadline established by bumbling bureaucrats who feel it is better to spend \$440,000 to retrofit intersections in my neighborhood for undersized roundabouts in an effort to solve a problem that could have been handled with \$1,500 worth of stop signs and occasional police enforcement. Why must you people always use sledgehammers to kill flies?

Back away from this foolishness while you have time.

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