

**SCHEDULE B TO THE MINUTES OF  
THE REGULAR (OPEN) COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2006**

Mayor and Councillors, City of Richmond

December 11, 2006

I prepared a comprehensive amendment to the snow section of the Traffic Bylaw and requested from the City Clerk an opportunity to delegate to the December 11, 2006 Richmond City Council meeting. The clerk advised that the issue may come up early on the agenda, so I attach the proposal on obverse.

Based on experience in climates far more challenging than Richmond, attached is what I propose as an amendment of the ~Snow section of the Traffic Bylaw.

The proposal covers Snow /Ice, Leaves and Debris on sidewalks, and adjacent bus shelters, and adjacent gutters. The bylaw would be applicable to private residences and complexes up to 4 units as well as the commercial and industrial and larger apartments already currently covered.

The bylaw would exempt farmers actively farming given they are typically not located in residential areas travelled by the public and that they would otherwise be responsible for large acreages. Given concern for the environment, and that generally chemicals aren't needed if snow removal is timely, salt and ice melt are suggested be used in minimal quantities.

As such this proposal addresses a number of different causes that create the same resultant impediment to movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

It requires Businesses to take care of areas by 10 AM EVERY day open, and within 48 hours otherwise.

It also requires residences to take care of areas by 9 PM daily recognizing that people can't take care of homes in the morning on work days.

It also references the City's fine Schedule I so fines may be issued, increased with inflation, and applied as taxes for collection.

It also allows the City to allow seniors or the disabled to be granted extra time to address their property or for the City to assume the work, without assuming the liability.

This Bylaw approval coupled with City advertising of obligations should lead to better, more timely, Snow, Ice, Leaves and Debris removal from City sidewalks and gutters so the City can focus on clearing streets and paths in timely fashion and the public can get around efficiently and safely.

Peter Mitchell

**Re: Bylaw 5870 Part 1 Section 6.1 Obstruction of Traffic**

**Mayor and Council, City of Richmond:**

Each winter that it snows I see that most property owners are considerate, but a few show no consideration of others and their community duty. Thus seniors, and many others with mobility challenges are unable to get around after a snowfall. Sheets of ice occur on sidewalks and at crosswalks because people don't shovel, or shovel snow into the street and over gutters increasing icing in these areas. Huge areas of ponding occur next to clogged gutters after a heavy rain and pedestrians are splashed, and sidewalks are slippery due to fallen leaves each autumn.

In previous years have written and had published newspaper letters requesting that people remove snow and ice from sidewalks and gutters promptly so that disabled and seniors are not put at risk. I've also suggested that people also be considerate and help shovel the sidewalks of their neighbours who can't shovel their own. A Bylaw and City advertising is needed to guide residents.

As a person who has managed property portfolios in Whistler, Greater Vancouver, and Southern Ontario, comprising up to thousands of units of housing and/or acres of commercial and industrial development, including areas that receive meters of snow each winter here is what I propose:

#### **Existing City of Richmond Bylaw 5870 Part 1 Section 6.1 Obstruction of Traffic**

6.1 The Owner or occupier of any parcel of real property which is developed for, or used in whole or in part for, commercial, industrial or multi-family dwelling use other than a two-family dwelling shall remove all snow and ice from any sidewalk adjacent to such parcel for a distance that coincides with the property line of his real property, not later than 10:00 AM of any day, except Sunday.

#### **I propose the following Bylaw 5870 Section 6 amendments (and inclusion in Schedule I):**

6.1 Repeal Bylaw section 6.1 and replace it with . . .

6.4 The Owner or occupier of any parcel of real property which is *undeveloped, or developed for, or used in whole or in part for, commercial, industrial or multi-family dwelling use other than a four or less unit residential family dwelling* shall remove all snow and ice *and wet leaves and other debris from any sidewalk and paved transit stop and shelter and street gutter and catch basin grille* adjacent to such parcel for a distance that coincides with the property line of *the subject* real property, not later than 10:00 AM of any day the location is open for business, *and in every case within 2 days. Snow, ice, leaves, and debris shall not be shoveled or placed into streets or street gutters or pathways or transit stops or shelters. A minimum of salt and other ice melters may be used. Properties zoned and used for farming will be exempt.*

6.5 The Owner or occupier of any parcel of real property which is developed for, or used in whole or in part for, *a single family or multi-family dwelling of not more than four residential families* shall remove all snow and ice *and wet leaves and other debris from any sidewalk and paved transit stop and shelter and street gutter and catch basin grille* adjacent to such parcel for a distance that coincides with the property line of *the subject* real property, not later than 9:00 PM of any day. *Snow, ice, leaves, and debris shall not be shoveled or placed into streets or street gutters or pathways or transit stops or shelters. A minimum of salt and other ice melters may be used.*

6.6 *The City shall levy a fine per day of occurrence per 5 linear meters of sidewalk, and/or per 5 linear meters of gutter, and/or per 5 square meters of streets obstructed in contravention of bylaws 6.4 or 6.5, in accordance with Schedule I Level II of this bylaw. Such fine may be applied to the address as unpaid taxes. The City may expressly in writing upon application waive the obligation for snow or leaves or debris removal, or extend the time allowed for seniors or the disabled, or the City may remove snow or leaves or debris itself, notwithstanding which the liability for snow and leave and debris removal will remain with the Owner of the subject real property.*

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