



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** November 28, 2023
From: Jatinder Johal **File:** 10-6000-01/2023-Vol
 Acting Director, Public Works Operations 01
Re: **Sidewalk Snow Removal Housekeeping Amendments to Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 and Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Bylaw No. 8122**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 10517 be introduced and given first, second and third readings; and
2. That Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 10519, be introduced and given first, second and third readings.

Jatinder Johal
 Acting Director, Public Works Operations
 (604-233-3338)

Mark Corrado
 Director, Community Bylaws and Licencing
 (604-204-8673)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Bylaws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

Staff have undertaken a review of Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, which currently does not require owners of undeveloped properties to remove snow from adjacent sidewalks. Staff are proposing housekeeping amendments to correct this, thereby requiring owners of undeveloped properties to remove snow from sidewalks adjacent to their property, and to enhance enforcement measures available to the City to ensure compliance with the Bylaw. This includes a review of the City's fines in relation to comparator jurisdictions to achieve compliance.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #3: A Safe and Prepared Community:

Community safety and preparedness through effective planning, strategic partnerships and proactive programs.

3.2 Leverage strategic partnerships and community-based approaches for comprehensive safety services.

3.3 Ensure the community is collectively prepared for emergencies and potential disasters.

3.4 Ensure civic infrastructure, assets and resources are effectively maintained and continue to meet the needs of the community as it grows.

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Focus Area #4: Responsible Financial Management and Governance:

Responsible financial management and efficient use of public resources to meet the needs of the community.

4.2 Seek improvements and efficiencies in all aspects of City business.

Analysis

Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 encompasses the requirement for the owner or occupier of real property to remove all snow and ice from property adjacent sidewalks by 10:00am following a snowfall. As presently drafted, the snow and ice removal requirement found in Section 6.1 excludes owners of undeveloped properties from removing snow and ice.

Traffic Bylaw No. 5870 Amendment Bylaw No. 10517

The proposed amendment (Attachment 1) removes the stipulation that only "developed" properties must adhere to the removal of snow and ice from adjacent sidewalks and introduces language that clarifies the scope of the requirement. This amendment ensures any parcel of real property, regardless of development status, must take appropriate snow and ice removal actions

from sidewalks adjacent to their property following a snowfall event. This amendment excludes properties zoned for Agriculture and Golf (as defined by City of Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500), as well as real property owned by the City and maintained under existing policies or practices.

Staff are also recommending the current maximum fine amount for failure to remove snow from sidewalks be increased from \$70 to \$125. This increase would better align with fine amounts of other municipalities based on staff's review. The contraventions and proposed fine amounts are included in Attachment 2.

Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 10519

The Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 10519 (Attachment 2) provides Bylaw Enforcement Officers and Building Inspectors with the ability to issue tickets of up to \$125 for violations of Traffic Regulations Bylaw No 5870. These types of tickets may be disputed and are reviewed by an independent adjudicator at hearings held throughout the year.

To facilitate a smooth transition, enforcement will initially emphasize targeted education and a warnings program for a period of six months so that owners affected by the amendment can familiarize themselves with the new snow removal requirements. Furthermore, a comprehensive communications strategy will be deployed. This proactive approach aims to enhance community awareness and understanding of the changes, fostering cooperation and compliance.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

These bylaw amendments are needed to ensure a wider application of snow and ice removal requirements in the community. This will assist Public Works and Community Bylaws in the continued education and enforcement of snow and ice removal requirements while encouraging a safer urban landscape after a snowfall.



Larry Ford
Manager, Roads and Construction Services
(604-244-1209)

LF:hh



**Traffic Bylaw No. 5870
Amendment Bylaw No. 10517**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. **Traffic Bylaw No. 5870**, as amended, is further amended at Section 6.1 by deleting Section 6.1 in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

“The owner or occupier of any parcel of real property shall remove all snow and ice from any sidewalk adjacent to such parcel for a distance that coincides with the property line of their real property, not later than 10:00 a.m. of everyday, including Sunday.”

2. **Traffic Bylaw No. 5870**, as amended, is further amended by adding the following as Section 6.2 and renumbering the remaining Subsections in Article 6 appropriately:

“Section 6.1 does not apply to the portion of real property that is:

- (i) zoned under section 14 (Agriculture and Golf Zones) of the City of Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500, as amended; or
- (ii) owned by the City and maintained under existing policies or practices.”

3. This Bylaw is cited as “**Traffic Bylaw No. 5870, Amendment Bylaw No. 10517**”.

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept. SB
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor LB

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER



**Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122,
Amendment Bylaw No. 10519**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, as amended, is further amended by deleting in its entirety the content of the following line in Schedule A of Bylaw:

Description of Contravention	Section	Compliance Agreement Available	Penalty	Early Payment Option	Late Payment Option	Compliance Agreement Discount
Failure to clear snow from sidewalk (commercial, industrial and residential)	6.1	No	\$70.00	\$45.00	\$95.00	n/a

and adding in its place the following line:

Description of Contravention	Section	Compliance Agreement Available	Penalty	Early Payment Option	Late Payment Option	Compliance Agreement Discount
Failure to clear snow from sidewalk (commercial, industrial and residential)	6.1	No	\$125.00	\$75.00	\$175.00	n/a

2. This Bylaw is cited as “**Notice of Bylaw Violation Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 8122, Amendment Bylaw No. 10519**”.

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating Division
MC
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor
LB

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICE