


DATE: February 5, 2016

TO: Michael O. Geisel, P.E.
Director of Public Services

FROM: James A. Eckrich, P.E. 
Public Works Director / City Engineer

RE: Snow Removal Recoupment Program
Private Gated Streets



As you know, over the past several months the Planning and Public Works Committee has been debating expanding the Snow Removal Recoupment Program for Private Streets (Program) to include private gated streets. Gated streets have never been included in this Program because those streets are not open to the public, and their clearing did not constitute a "public purpose" due to solely benefiting those residents who abide within the gated subdivision.

Over the past several months there has been a myriad of information provided to the Planning and Public Works Committee regarding this topic. I believe it might be beneficial to compile that information into one memorandum to assist the Committee in its debate of this matter. That information is as follows:

- The current Street Snow Removal Recoupment Program is detailed within Public Works Policy Number 38 (Policy). That Policy stipulates that the Program shall be funded in the General Fund each year in an amount of \$145,000. That amount has increased over time as subdivisions have joined the program, and the annual liability based upon the subdivisions that have signed up for the program is now \$162,445. The subdivisions currently in the program are comprised of a total of 25.3 miles of private streets.
 - There are 21 gated subdivisions which contain 14.9 miles of private streets. If these streets were eligible for reimbursement under the Policy, I estimate they would be eligible for an annual reimbursement of \$101,000.
 - There are 35 non-gated subdivisions that are eligible for the Program but have not previously requested any kind of reimbursement. These subdivisions contain 12.7 miles of private streets. If these subdivisions requested reimbursement under the Policy I estimate they would be eligible for an annual reimbursement of \$86,000. If the program is expanded, Council should be advised that at least some of these subdivisions may request reimbursement.
 - There are 12.1 miles of non-residential private streets. These streets are not eligible under the current Policy, as private streets must be "non-gated, single family residential developments or condominium developments." However, these streets are private streets and it would be difficult to make a significant legal distinction to exclude them from the program if the eligibility is going to be based upon public health and safety concerns.
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The Planning and Public Works Committee, and ultimately City Council, can decide to expand the Program, eliminate the Program, or leave the Program exactly as it is today. **Regardless of whether the PPW Committee / Council decides to expand the Program, it is City Staff's recommendation that PPW / Council consider the annual funding for this Program each September. This will allow PPW / Council to ensure funding for the Program is available, and the level of funding can be communicated to the private subdivisions prior to the snow season.** Accordingly, regardless of the eligibility level decision chosen by the Committee (delineated below), the Committee should separately determine whether the annual reimbursement should be included in the annual budget or considered separately each September.

Regarding Program eligibility, the Planning and Public Works Committee could take one of the following actions:

- a) Leave the Policy as-is and make no eligibility changes. The annual funding should be increased to \$163,000.
- b) Modify the Policy to add gated streets to the list of eligible streets. Leave the reimbursement formula the same. This would require increasing the annual funding by approximately \$101,000 to a total of \$264,000.
- c) Modify the Policy to add gated and commercial streets. Leave the reimbursement formula the same. This would require increasing the annual funding by approximately \$185,000 to \$348,000.
- d) Modify the Policy to add gated and/or commercial streets. Revise the reimbursement formula to reduce the payment to each subdivision. If PPW elects to pursue this option it would have to select a reimbursement amount (say \$200,000) and authorize Staff to calculate a formula which would result in a reimbursement of that amount. This would necessarily reduce the annual reimbursement currently being provided to non-gated subdivisions.

Action Recommended

The Planning and Public Works Committee should determine how it wants to proceed regarding the Snow Removal Recoupment Program for Private Streets. The Committee should first determine whether the reimbursement should be funded through the Annual Budget or by authorization of the PPW Committee / City each September. Second, the Committee should determine which of the above options (a-d) should be incorporated into the Policy

MBH
2/10/16

**CITY OF CHESTERFIELD
POLICY STATEMENT**

PUBLIC SERVICES

NO. 38

SUBJECT Street Snow Removal Recoupment
Program - Eligible Cost Formula

INDEX PW

DATE
ISSUED 8/16/1999 (original)

DATE
REVISED 10/21/2013

POLICY

Owners of un-gated, improved and platted private streets in subdivided developments are eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred for snow removal.

This program is based upon private streets located within non-gated, single family residential developments, and condominium developments. It does not include commercial subdivisions or apartments. Within these developments, City staff will distinguish between private streets, alleys, and parking areas.

The funding formula is intended to provide reimbursement for reasonable and customary expenses for snow removal and deicing efforts on private streets, for participating subdivisions during a typical winter season.

Reimbursements will be limited based on a formula of \$40 per residential unit or \$4,500 per centerline mile of private street, whichever is larger.

The Snow Removal Reimbursement Program will be funded annually, in the amount of \$145,000 from the General Fund, subject to annual appropriation by City Council.

In the event of a "severe season", defined as a season during which the City of Chesterfield receives thirty or more inches of snow, as measured by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), City Staff will provide City Council information as to the amount of supplemental funding necessary to provide for reimbursement at the 80th percentile value for each category of reimbursement.

**CITY OF CHESTERFIELD
POLICY STATEMENT (continued)**

PUBLIC SERVICES

NO. 38

SUBJECT Street Snow Removal Recoupment
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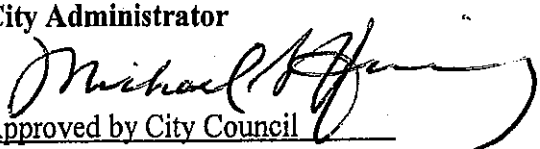
**DATE
REVISED** 10/21/2013

City Council would subsequently decide what level of supplemental funding would be provided through a Fund Transfer from the General Fund - Fund Reserves, if any.

RECOMMENDED BY:

Recommended by the Planning and Public Works Committee 10/10/2013 _____
Department Head/Council Committee (if applicable) **Date**

APPROVED BY:

City Administrator **Date**

Approved by City Council 10/21/2013 _____
City Council (if applicable) **Date**