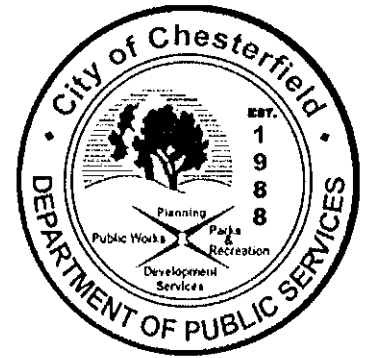


# III.C.



**DATE:** September 17, 2013

**TO:** Michael G. Herring, ICMA-CM  
City Administrator

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

**RE:** Private Street Snow Removal Reimbursement Program  
*Designation of Severe Season*

As you may recall, in March of 2013 City Council approved a revision to the City's policy on reimbursing un-gated, private streets for snow removal costs (Policy). The revised Policy allows for the recoupment of costs up to \$4,500 per centerline mile, or \$40 per residential unit, whichever is greater. Further, the Policy provides that during a "severe season", defined as a season which results in at least fifty percent of the participating subdivision reimbursement requests exceeding the allowable amount, City Council will consider supplemental funding to allow reimbursement at the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile.

You may also recall that during the 2012 / 2013 winter season, 31 of the 47 subdivisions submitted reimbursements in excess of the maximum reimbursement allowed. According to the Policy, this triggered the "severe season" provision and dictated that City Council make a determination as to whether the subdivisions should be compensated at a rate above that detailed in the Policy. During this discussion it was determined that the designation of a "severe season" should be independent of receipts submitted, and the Planning and Public Works Committee instructed Staff to improve upon the manner in which a "severe season" is determined.

After reviewing the matter at some length, I recommend that a "severe season" be 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). Thirty inches of snow represents the ninetieth percentile of measurable snowfall. This means that each year there is roughly a ten percent chance of thirty or more inches of snow falling. The snowfall totals since 1992-1993 are summarized in the table below:

Year	Total Snowfall	Year	Total Snowfall	Year	Total Snowfall
1992/93	30.3	2000/01	18.2	2008/09	12.9
1993/94	10.3	2001/02	14.0	2009/10	14.5
1994/95	5.7	2002/03	29.8	2010/11	36.8
1995/96	26.0	2003/04	7.4	2011/12	6.3
1996/97	19.7	2004/05	12.8	2012/13	27.9
1997/98	18.8	2005/06	10.5		
1998/99	15.8	2006/07	13.2		
1999/00	10.1	2007/08	30.2		

I considered a number of other ways to designate a "severe season", but ultimately felt that measurable snowfall was the best indicator of the type of winter season that occurred. Admittedly, the use of this figure is not perfect. Ten events with three inches of snow each will cost much more over a season than two fifteen inch snowfalls. The amount of ice / sleet will also be a factor. However, over the long term I believe that measurable snowfall is the best method to determine the type of winter season which occurred. Most importantly, it is a measurable, verifiable quantity which is independent of the costs experienced by individual subdivisions.

**It is my recommendation that the City of Chesterfield modify its Street Snow Removal Recoupment Program Policy to redefine a "severe season" as one during which the seasonal snowfall, as measured by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, meets or exceeds thirty inches.**

**Action Recommended**

This matter should be forwarded to the Planning and Public Works Committee for consideration. Should the PPW Committee concur with this recommendation, the matter should be forwarded to City Council for authorization of the Policy revision.

Concurrence: *Brian Whittle*  
Brian Whittle, Finance Director

Cc: Michael O. Geisel, Director of Public Services

*ok'd  
JMS  
9/22/13  
→ P/PW COMMITTEE*

**CITY OF CHESTERFIELD  
POLICY STATEMENT**

<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>		<b>NO.</b>	38
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Street Snow Removal Recoupment Program - Eligible Cost Formula	<b>INDEX</b>	PW
<b>DATE ISSUED</b>	8/16/1999 (original) 3/18/2013 (latest revision)	<b>DATE REVISED</b>	TBD

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**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), which results in at least one-half of the participating subdivision reimbursement requests exceeding the maximum eligible reimbursement by the limiting formula (see above), City Staff will provide City Council information as to the amount of supplemental funding necessary to provide for reimbursement at the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile value for each category of reimbursement.

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

<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>		<b>NO.</b>	38
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Street Snow Removal Recoupment Program - Eligible Cost Formula	<b>INDEX</b>	PW
<b>DATE ISSUED</b>	8/16/1999 (original) 3/18/2013 (latest revision)	<b>DATE REVISED</b>	TBD

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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  
**Department Head/Council Committee (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**APPROVED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City Administrator** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City Council (if applicable)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**