



## MEMORANDUM

To: Administration/Public Works Committee Members

From: Rick C. Brown, Director of Public Works

Date: February 1, 2019

Re: Snow Removal in Cul-de-Sacs

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### **Background:**

The City contracts with seven (7) companies to provide snow removal services throughout the City each year. These contractors are selected annually by the Department, typically in October for the following calendar year. For 2019, we have budgeted about \$300,000 for snow and ice removal. Over the last 10-15 years, this cost has averaged around \$310,000/year. For data comparing Wildwood snow removal operations with other St. Louis County municipalities, please see **Table 1**.

For snow removal, we have the City divided into 26 separate routes, and we typically have about 30 snow plows on the road during a snow event. Our contractors are instructed to focus on hills and hazards first, followed by primary streets and then secondary (side) streets. After a normal snowfall has ended; it takes about four (4) to six (6) hours for the City contractors to completely clear the streets. For the 12" snowfall event on January 11-12<sup>th</sup>, our snow plow crews worked a 24-hour shift removing snow.

After the January 11-12th snow storm, the Department was forwarded a concern from a resident regarding snow plow operations in cul-de-sacs. The resident requested that the Department plow his cul-de-sac in a clockwise direction, to direct the snow towards the inside center island and away from the driveways on the outside. While this sounds like a logical solution to eliminate snow from being plowed across driveways, it is not feasible. When plowing a cul-de-sac it does not matter if you travel to the right (counterclockwise) or left (clockwise) of the circle, the snow will go to the outside of the circle due to the centrifugal force. Even with the plow angled toward the center island, the result is the same. Additionally, storing snow in the center islands can result in re-freeze, as the cul-de-sac is sloped to drain toward the outside. Finally, most cul-de-sac islands have shrubs and landscaping, that can be damaged due to snowplow operations.

It should be noted that there are over 400 cul-de-sac islands on our Wildwood streets. While we do encourage our drivers to push the snow against the curb in the front of the cul-de-sac, it is not practical for the Department to remove the snow directly in front of all driveways within cul-de-sacs. Providing this benefit citywide would result in significant additional costs for snow removal on an annual basis. For large storms, it would require our crews to come back to work for an additional shift. Finally, how would the Department justify clearing driveways for cul-de-sac homeowners, while other homeowners, not on a cul-de-sac, would still be required to clear their driveways?

I will be available for any questions or comments regarding this matter at the February 5th, 2018, Admin/Public Works Committee meeting.

RCB

<b>Table 1</b>				
<b>SNOWPLOW TRUCKS/DRIVERS vs. LANE MILES</b>				
1/8/2015				
	<b>Min Trucks/Shift</b>	<b>No. of Lane Miles</b>	<b>No. of Lane Miles (in 100s)</b>	<b>No. of Trucks/100 lane miles</b>
Manchester	7	66	0.7	10.6
Des Peres	10	96	0.96	10.4
Valley Park	7	82	0.82	8.5
Ellisville	7	84	0.84	8.3
University City	8	100.5	1.005	8.0
<b>Wildwood</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>
Richmond Heights	5	66	0.66	7.6
Clayton	7	99	0.99	7.1
Chesterfield	22	364	3.64	6.0
Sunset Hills	6	110.5	1.105	5.4
Ballwin	13	263	2.63	4.9
Hazelwood	7	153	1.53	4.6
Creve Coeur	8	175	1.75	4.6
Florissant	12	334	3.34	3.6
Webster Groves	7	220	2.2	3.2
Kirkwood	5	234.25	2.3425	2.1
St. Louis County	116	3200	32	3.6