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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TO: Ralph Becker, Mayor
Charlie Luke, City Council Chair
City Council Members

FROM: Rick Graham, Director 
Alden Breinholt, Operations Division Director

DATE: November 14, 2014

SUBJECT: Memorandum: Restricted On-Street Parking During Snow Removal Operations Pilot Program

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Streets Division in Public Services currently clears snow from Salt Lake City streets, but plowing snow to the curbs has proven to be unfeasible with the vehicles parked on the street. The Public Services Department is planning to move forward with a pilot program for clearing snow from pre-determined City streets to the curb to maximize efficiency and safety. This program will benefit residents and business owners by greatly improving snow removal from streets which, in turn, will improve the flow of traffic, improve access getting in/out of streets, improve safety, increase parking availability, reduce snow bound vehicles, reduce vehicle damage, reduce the amount of snow curbside, and reduce complaints due to snow removal in residential and business areas throughout the City during the winter months. Another benefit of the program would be to improve bike lane accessibility and improve transportation by ensuring bike lanes are cleared during and after heavy snow accumulations. This proposal seeks to improve snow removal operations while restricting parking only when necessary. That is, when a "heavy snow alert" declaration is made.

PUBLIC PROCESS:

The Public Services Department collected feedback from the public on a city-wide initial proposal via Open City Hall during October of 2013. Visits to community councils were also made throughout the 2013-2014 winter season. The pilot program committee, with representatives from the Mayor's Office, Transportation, Streets, Sanitation, Compliance, and Public Services Admin, worked on both program proposals. This pilot program would allow Public Services to solicit additional feedback and engage the public throughout the pilot program. As a result, Public Services would be able to better evaluate the program and respond to the residents immediately prior to or after a snow alert declaration. The committee listened to the public's concerns regarding the initial proposal and have responded appropriately with changes we feel address those concerns. One major change from the initial proposal is a snow alert declaration system, which would limit the amount of times a declaration would occur and impact residents. It also includes a standard for when to declare a "heavy snow alert." The committee believes this pilot program is less burdensome to Salt Lake City residents and will provide Public Services with valuable information throughout the pilot program.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

The pilot program for the 2014-2015 winter season would restrict on-street parking at night on pre-determined priority roads when the City declares a "heavy snow alert." This pilot program would restrict parking ONLY when a certain number of winter season conditions combine to cause enough safety, lane access, and operational concerns to necessitate plowing the accumulated snow/ice clear to the curb. Some of these conditions are:

1. Number of inches of accumulation on roads from prior collective storms.
2. Forecast of a major heavy snow storm of 3 inches or greater followed by very low daytime temperatures.
3. Forecasts of multiple and sequenced snow storms with 3 inches or more of snow fall.
4. Excessive and prolonged sub-zero temperatures.
5. Unexpected heavy snow storm(s) missed by forecasters

These factors will be evaluated with available professional weather forecast services, retained by Salt Lake City, on a case by case basis to determine if a "heavy snow alert" is necessary to allow the snow teams to plow the snow all the way to the curb with no cars in the way. If weather conditions are relatively mild throughout the winter season, the Administration may decide to evoke a "heavy snow alert" simply to allow the pilot project to be tested and provide data for evaluation and decision making. If a "heavy snow alert" is deemed necessary based on the above factors, the Public Services declaration team will declare the alert via telephone, text messaging, the City's snow website, social media sites, and e-mail to alert the public of the restriction. Residents and businesses on the pilot program roads will be able to subscribe to a free notification service managed by Public Services that will alert them via text messaging, telephone, and/or e-mail. A phone number will also be available for residents to call in and get a recording with the alert information and instructions. It is estimated that "heavy snow alerts" may occur a total of 2-5 times per season. Parking on the listed streets would be restricted only at night between 1am-6am in order to accommodate business operating hours as well as City sanitation services. During such declarations, residents are not to put their sanitation bins out prior to 7am. Again, the parking restrictions only apply to the roads selected in the pilot program.

The proposed pilot parking restriction is as follows:

No person shall park a vehicle on the following streets when a "heavy snow alert" has been declared by the City Administration between 1am to 6am on the days indicated in the declaration. Parking off-street is recommended, if available. However, parking will be allowed on the even or odd side of the street corresponding to the odd or even home addresses and dates. For example, the odd / even parking regulations require that vehicle owners either:

1. Park off-street, if available, or
2. Park on the street as outlined below:
 - a. Park on the side of the street with home addresses ending in an odd number (one, three, five, seven, or nine) on odd numbered days (first, third, fifth, etc.).
 - b. Park on the side of the street with home addresses ending in an even number (zero, two, four, six, or eight) on even numbered days (second, fourth, sixth, etc.).

For example, when a "heavy snow alert" is declared by the City, the parking restriction will be in effect from 1am to 6am on the days indicated in the declaration. If the City declares a "heavy snow alert" on January 15th in the afternoon, the parking restriction would not begin until 1am on January 16th. Thus, residents will need to prepare the evening before and park their vehicles on the even side of the street to reflect the even date of January 16th. Some declarations may last a few days, depending on the severity of the snow conditions. In this case, residents would switch to parking on the odd side of the street for

January 17th from 1am-6am and so on. Residents must continue to park legally and adhere to the City's parking regulations.

The streets chosen for the pilot program are listed below and represent streets in each City Council district. Please see Attachment "A" for a map highlighting these pilot streets.

EAST-WEST PILOT PROGRAM STREETS:

- 200 South from State Street to University Street- District 4
- 3rd Avenue from Canyon Road to Virginia Street- District 3
- 800 South/Indiana from Redwood Road to 1300 East- Districts 2 & 4
- 900 South from 1300 East to Foothill- District 6
- 2700 South from Highland to 2200 East- District 7

NORTH-SOUTH PILOT PROGRAM STREETS:

- 500 East from 800 South to 2100 South- District 5
- 200 West from 750 North to 900 South- Districts 3 & 4
- 900 West from North Temple to 1000 North- Districts 1, 2, & 3
- 1200 West from 300 North to Reclamation Road- District 1

NOTIFICATION:

In order for impacted area residents to know that the restriction will take place ahead of time, the Salt Lake City Department of Public Services will forecast snow storms with expected increased snow accumulation and declare, by 3:00 PM, a "heavy snow alert." These declarations would be made with as much notice as possible with the help of weather forecasters evaluating the storm conditions. Similarly, a follow up declaration will be made to identify the end of the "heavy snow alert" parking restriction.

EDUCATION/ENFORCEMENT:

During the pilot program operation, enforcement will be geared towards education. Public Services will issue postcard mailings and door hanger notices to residents and businesses on the pilot program streets to accomplish this. Salt Lake City Parking Enforcement crews will also be monitoring the areas during the declaration and issuing warning only notices to those who do not comply. All other applicable parking ordinances will remain enforceable.

PILOT PROGRAM QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

For questions, comments, or concerns, residents and businesses in the program can contact:

- SLC Public Services at publicservicesinfo@slcgov.com or 801-535-7116
- SLC Streets Customer Service at 801-535-2345

NEXT STEPS/FOLLOWUP:

After the 2014/2015 winter ends, the pilot program will be evaluated to determine whether a similar system should be used in future winters and whether additional streets should be included in the program. If you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions with this pilot program, please let us know as soon as possible.

BUDGET IMPACT:

It is anticipated that there will be minimal impact to the current budget for the pilot program.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Pilot Program Street Map