

**Thank you** for giving me this opportunity to appeal the **\$530** I was charged for snow removal at my student rental at 1435 State St, for snow that fell between Feb 4 and 5.

FIRST: **The City should NOT have to shovel my sidewalks.**

- I'm not here to ask the charges be cancelled, but \$530 is very punitive, and I believe there were some extenuating factors in this case.
- **Thank you for taking photos**, very helpful.

Please look at (BEFORE the City shoveled) photos #1 and #2: these show a number of facts:

1. As you can see, the walks were shoveled, the FULL WIDTH of the sidewalk, and **the curb ramps too**, for snow that fell prior to Feb 4.
2. Only a dusting of snow fell between Feb. 4 and 10, because you can see < ½ inch is on the sidewalk.
3. Also, you can see, the **snow plow went by sometime after shoveling was done**, throwing snow on the street in front of the curb ramps. (I know streets need to be plowed, often more than once, and **it is my responsibility** to keep ramps cleared of snow, even on the street in front of the ramps, regardless.)
4. You can also see that **MY PROPERTY IS ON A CORNER**, Photo #1 shows **State St** and Photo #2 shows the **very long** sidewalk on **N 15<sup>th</sup> St**. I have a huge number of feet of sidewalk!

Extenuating factors:

- So for several years, I paid a guy to remove snow from sidewalks and parking area. However, I could not re-hire him this year due to serious issues with his character. But **it is extremely difficult to find someone to do snow removal in student areas, they hate it**. However, I found someone to plow the parking areas but he "does not do sidewalks."
- So, **this winter was a "transition" winter** for me, trying to solve this snow removal issue.
- My son-in-law volunteered to do the walks, but he lives out of town, both have jobs and 3 young children. He really has done a great job but I knew he couldn't catch it every time the plow by a went by again.
- So, I arranged with the girls renting from me that they would watch if street plow came by and they would go out and remove the snow on the ramps. They eagerly agreed to help and I agreed to pay them for their work plus, I supplied the shovels. **Problem solved! Ah, no, not really**. Unfortunately, it **just could not work this winter** because of **COVID**. They were at times gone home during January and February. People say to me, "*Why not charge the students for the fine, then?*" I cannot charge my young tenants, they work hard and don't have excess funds.

SUMMARY: All of that said, **I know the CITY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO SHOVEL MY WALKS. It is my responsibility. But certain factors seem important:**

- I KNOW that curb ramps are very important to be cleared of snow, especially for handicapped and elderly. I thought this was solved but, **COVID** totally messed up my good solution.
- **\$530** really is a huge amount for a < ½ inch dusting of snow when it is a VERY long sidewalk. (12% of my property taxes!) Question: is the linear foot cost the same for less than an inch of snow as for 6 inches of snow? Realistic?
- Please note that **I am not a repeat offender.**

Suggestion:

- Could you charge me for shoveling the curb ramp but not for the small dusting of snow on the LONG sidewalk? (or at least not so much per linear foot since the amount of snow was so small)

Other insights that might be of some interest:

- If you dropped me a quick “first notice” I would have gotten it done immediately and had it prevented from then on. I could have paid a friend \$75 to get over there do it right away and he would have been happy to do it.
- **I KNOW that I can plan ahead in 2021-22 winter and make sure this problem won’t happen again.** If you could just give me a little grace this time on this huge charge??

Thank you very much for any consideration you give my situation.

Mary Gander, property owner.

I am ALWAYS very responsive to any building-related requests and demands the City has made of me. I am a very responsible property owner. My student tenants love my rentals and appreciate me as an owner, and I really care about and appreciate my student tenants.