

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Dylan J. Matiak
2902 Robinsdale Ave
La Crosse, WI 54601

Board Members- South Side Community Center
1300 6th Street South
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear La Crosse Board Members,

I'm writing you in response to a recent snow and ice removal bill I received from the city. I first want to thank you for hearing my case today and apologize for not attending in person. I'm a little old fashioned and love meeting in person, but I work healthcare and my coworkers rely on me to be there. We are extremely short-staffed, and I didn't want to add to that.

I bought this home in November 2020 and had emailed the mayor about my sidewalk because it is an isolated/fragmented sidewalk. It connects and goes nowhere, not another sidewalk. I wrote him with concerns about pedestrian safety and to see where he stood on this topic. He told me the sidewalk infill process is still being worked on. He ensured me it is a priority to him and shares my perspective on how much sidewalks contribute to our cities livability. I hope to see them finished in my lifetime.

The very few sidewalks that do exist in my neighborhood are also not handicap assessable. This forces pedestrians, strollers, kids on bikes, dogs, etc into the street/traffic. Most pedestrians don't even bother using the sidewalks that do exist because it's only for the length of one or two houses. I wish this was more of a priority to the city. All families and neighborhoods deserve safe walking. I have attached photos to show how my sidewalk goes nowhere and that it forces families into traffic.

There was some simple misunderstanding, which led me to believe since my sidewalk goes nowhere, that if it were to be left un-shoveled, that I would not receive a ticket. This has now been cleared up and I will have one of the cleanest winter sidewalks moving forward.

Immediately after receiving this hefty \$800 bill, I was filled with anxiety, knowing the city I love is trying to charge me for something I thought I didn't have to do. We obviously had some miscommunication and I apologize about that. I honestly didn't know.

I have taken several financial hits to my savings account since buying my home, including a \$600 city water bill (basement toilet leak) and a \$1,200 roof leak in my bedroom. This has brought my savings down to nothing. I'm single and don't have anyone else to fall back on. I scrape by every month so it's extremely stressful to receive a bill like this. It has caused me the most stress I've ever experienced.

Having this bill dismissed would take a lot of stress off my shoulders. I'd be forever grateful.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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