

Whereas the Arlington county Civic Federation passed a "Resolution Regarding Arlington County's Snow and Ice Policy" on December 4, 2000 (see below), which calls upon the County to adopt and enforce an ordinance that requires owners or tenants of private property to promptly clear sidewalks in the public right of way of snow and ice, and also calls upon the County to take the necessary actions that will ensure that County streets and sidewalks and trails on public property are promptly cleared of snow and ice;

Whereas no action was taken by the County pursuant to the Federation's Resolution of December 4, 2000, purportedly due to perceived difficulties in enforcing an ordinance and in removing snow and ice from public properties;

Whereas neighboring communities and communities throughout the country have adopted and enforce ordinances that require commercial and residential property owners and tenants to remove snow and ice, and also have implemented policies that ensure that snow and ice are promptly removed from public streets and sidewalks and trails on public property;

Whereas snow and ice on sidewalks and streets pose a serious danger to the health and safety of pedestrians and motorists, particularly the elderly and those with disabilities; and

Whereas the County's increased emphasis since 2000 on alternative transportation and on "safe routes" to school for children make the adoption of an appropriate ordinance and policies all the more urgent;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Arlington County Civic Federation reaffirms its resolution of December 4, 2000, and calls upon the Arlington County Board promptly (a) to adopt a snow and ice removal ordinance and take the necessary actions that will ensure that the ordinance is enforced, and (b) allow for exceptions for residents who are physically unable, and (c) take the necessary actions that will ensure that County streets and sidewalks on public property, including frequently used bike and pedestrian trails, are promptly cleared of snow and ice.

Civic Federation resolution from December 2000:

Whereas unsafe walking conditions, sometimes lasting weeks, exist in the county following periods of snowfall forcing persons to walk in the street, drive, or remain snowbound,

Whereas the county encourages citizens to walk or use transit when weather conditions make driving dangerous or difficult,

Whereas current road clearing methods often push snow onto sidewalks, bus stops, and crosswalks,

Whereas many county trails which are used for transportation (e.g., walking to school or Metro), not just recreation, and walkways over bridges, which serve as crucial pedestrian connectors, are left uncleared,

Whereas Arlington, unlike other local jurisdictions such as the Cities of Falls Church and Alexandria, does not require property owners to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property,

Therefore, the Civic Federation resolves that,

Arlington should enable citizens to walk or use transit when weather conditions make driving dangerous or difficult by:

Enacting a snow ordinance requiring all property owners (business and residential) to clear snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within a reasonable period of time following snowfall, with an exemption, as permitted by the state, for those persons physically and financially unable to clear snow and ice; and

Setting an example by effectively clearing snow and ice from the walkways of county facilities including police and fire stations, county offices, and schools; and

Clearing snow from high-priority trails, walkways, and bridges used by pedestrians, bicyclists and others for transportation; and

Improving roadway snow clearance by using methods which will not block sidewalks, crosswalks, and bus stops and considering long term solutions such as designing sidewalks with planting strips wide enough to store snow cleared from roads.