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TO: Jim Matherly, Mayor  
City Council Members

FROM: Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Winter Snow Removal Update

DATE: December 11, 2017

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In November, there was funding for only permanent employees to plow streets in all but three neighborhoods throughout the City. Most of the sidewalks were plowed or hand shoveled. Sanding trucks were brought in on weekends to address slippery road conditions. With limited staff, it was not possible to remove snow berms which created narrow roadways and difficulties with mail and newspaper deliveries.

Beginning in December, three temporary operators were hired for snow removal in the three remaining congested neighborhoods Arctic Park, Slaterville and Island Homes. With the prospect of additional funding being approved by the City Council over two dozen additional operators were hired to remove snow in all the other neighborhoods beginning December 11<sup>th</sup>. With 355 lane miles of roads to plow and dozens of miles of sidewalks to clear, plowing and removing snow is labor intensive and takes time even in the best conditions.

This fall, available funds for snow removal were lower than normal due to the heavy snowfalls in January and February that exceeded budgeted funding. Keeping the streets and sidewalks safe for residents is our top priority, one that must be balanced with available funds. The Public Works Department recognizes and appreciates the patience and understanding that residents have demonstrated and at the same time, acknowledges that many are asking for relief and greater snow removal action to address the snow berms plaguing our City. With additional funding, we are relieved to announce to residents that help is on the way. A schedule of snow removal in all the neighborhoods will be posted this week on the City Website under the **Snow Removal Schedule** link. It is our goal to remove as much of the snow berms in the City by the end of December.