

**SAND LAKE COMMUNITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2023-04**

**A RESOLUTION DEMANDING MUNICIPAL AND STATE ACTION TO IMPROVE  
THE TIMELINESS OF NEIGHBORHOOD SNOW REMOVAL WITH FOCUS ON  
ACCESS AND PUBLIC SAFETY.**

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) experienced record-breaking snow accumulation in November 2023, with multiple sequential storms between November 5 - 13 resulting in more than 40” of snow, less than one year after record-breaking snow accumulation in December 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Sand Lake Community Council represents Sectors 37, 42, 43, 44 and 47 of the MOA Street Maintenance “Plow Out” Sectors; and

WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 MOA Snow & Ice Control Plan establishes that, after arterial and collector streets and Priority 1 sidewalks are plowed, remaining streets “will be plowed to full width within 84 hours after the storm ends, with driveways gated;” and

WHEREAS, the stated goal of the 2023-2024 MOA Snow & Ice Control Plan is to “open Municipal streets, sidewalks, and bus stops using a priority system. Major streets designated as snow routes will be continuously plowed during a storm and completed as the first priority after the storm ends. This focus emphasizes emergency response, public safety, public transportation, and the ability of residents to travel as needed;” and

WHEREAS, neighborhoods in Sector 37 went 11 days without neighborhood snow removal, as evidenced by Concord Ln, which was plowed on November 8 and left unmaintained until November 19; and

WHEREAS, neighbors in Sector 37 couldn’t leave the neighborhood for at least three days, left with no choice but to abandon vehicles stuck in the snow and collectively organize snow blowers to clear public right-of-way; and

WHEREAS, local media reported several factors contributing to the delay of snow removal services throughout the city, including winter maintenance labor shortages, low operator wages and the diversion of municipal resources to state-maintained roads; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Sand Lake Community Council requests the Municipality of Anchorage and State of Alaska draft a contingency plan in the event of snow

storms with more than 8 inches of snow within 24 hours that prioritizes public safety and emergency access to neighborhood roads; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Sand Lake Community Council requests reimbursement from the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage for the diversion of municipal snow removal resources to clear state-maintained roads at the expense of local neighborhood access and public safety; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Sand Lake Community Council urges the Municipality of Anchorage re-enter negotiations with snow plow operators to increase base wages, boost overtime pay and consider creative pro-labor solutions to quickly expand and deploy additional municipal plow operators in the event of a major snow event.

RESOLVED this 11th day of December, 2023.

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Signature

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Title