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Seth Walsh
Councilmember

1/14/24

MOTION

To Review the City's Response to Winter Storm Blair and Prepare for Future Major Weather Events

WE MOVE that the Administration provide a report and presentation to Council evaluating the snow removal plan implemented during the week of January 6, 2025. This report should discuss the positives from the response, lessons learned and identified areas for improvement, creative and innovative solutions to the identified areas of improvement, and funding needs to implement the areas for improvement.

STATEMENT

Winter Storm Blair hit Cincinnati the week of January 6th, dropping over 10 inches of snow and ice according to the National Weather Service. The Department of Public Services (DPS) worked tirelessly, with snowplow drivers working alternating 12-hour shifts for days to get the streets cleared to get schools and businesses open following the snowfall.

Now that the storm has passed, we are asking the City to do an after-action look at what went well and what did not in the preparation and response to the snowfall. Particularly, we are asking the Administration to look at the policies regarding the prioritization of residential streets and those surrounding schools and hospitals which prevent them from opening, ensuring all roads get cleared and any capital needs associated with implementing improvements for future major storms.

Some solutions may include reviewing current staffing levels and policies within DPS that makes retaining experienced drivers difficult, exploring collaborations between other departments such as utilizing off duty firefighters to provide additional manpower during major snow or other weather events, exploring share services with Hamilton County, and evaluating and improving the how we track progress on clearing streets of ice and snow including improving the plow tracker and working with the Office of Performance and Data Analytics and 311 Cincy .

Councilmember Seth Walsh

Councilmember Jeff Cramerding

Councilmember Mark Jeffreys

Councilmember Meeka D. Owens