



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

Res 31908

Record No.: Res 31908

Type: Resolution (Res)

Status: Adopted

Version: 1

Ord. no:

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 09/11/2019

Final Action: 10/11/2019

**Title:** A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Department of Transportation develop policy options for the maintenance of existing sidewalks, create a public education program on snow and ice removal responsibilities, and develop a program to enforce snow and ice removal requirements by private property owners.

**Notes:**

Date  
Filed with City Clerk: 10/11/2019

Mayor's Signature: 10/4/2019

**Sponsors:** Herbold

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

**Attachments:**

**Drafter:** patrick.wigren@seattle.gov

**Filing Requirements/Dept Action:**

**History of Legislative File**

Legal Notice Published:  Yes  No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	09/11/2019	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
1	Council President's Office	09/13/2019	sent for review	Sustainability and Transportation Committee			
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Resolution (Res) was sent for review. to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee						
1	City Council	09/16/2019	referred	Sustainability and Transportation Committee			
1	Sustainability and Transportation Committee	09/20/2019	adopt				Pass
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Committee recommends that City Council adopt the Resolution (Res). In Favor: 2 Chair O'Brien, Herbold						

Legislative Summary Continued (Res 31908)

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Opposed: 0

1 City Council 09/30/2019 adopted Pass

Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was adopted by the following vote, and the President signed the Resolution:

In Favor: 8 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember Mosqueda, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Pacheco, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

1 City Clerk 10/03/2019 submitted for Mayor  
Mayor's signature

1 Mayor 10/04/2019 Signed  
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was Signed.

1 Mayor 10/11/2019 returned City Clerk  
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was returned. to the City Clerk

1 City Clerk 10/11/2019 attested by City Clerk  
Action Text: The Resolution (Res) was attested by City Clerk.

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CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31908

A RESOLUTION requesting the Seattle Department of Transportation develop policy options for the maintenance of existing sidewalks, create a public education program on snow and ice removal responsibilities, and develop a program to enforce snow and ice removal requirements by private property owners.

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle (“City”) is committed to investing in improving all modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, safe places for people to walk and roll are an integral part of our transportation network; and

WHEREAS, most of us are pedestrians at some point during our daily routines, whether crossing a parking lot, rolling to a bus stop, or walking a dog around the block; and

WHEREAS, from toddlerhood to old age, walking and rolling provide a critical link to our communities; and

WHEREAS, our sidewalks should be well-maintained so that everyone can walk and roll safely; and

WHEREAS, in Seattle, private property owners are responsible for maintaining adjacent sidewalks, but in practice the City is rarely able to enforce this responsibility; and

WHEREAS, the City budget has very limited funds for sidewalk maintenance, so it will take multiple centuries to address the ~156,000 repair issues that the City is aware of; and

WHEREAS, uneven, obstructed, or ice/snow-covered sidewalks pose extreme mobility challenges to people with disabilities and create tripping hazards – especially for elders; and

1 WHEREAS, sidewalk repair can be expensive and should not place undue financial strain on  
2 low-income families; and

3 WHEREAS, the City has no method to subsidize the cost of repairing sidewalks for low-income  
4 property owners; and

5 WHEREAS, the City's current policies result in wealthier areas being able to better maintain  
6 their sidewalks; and

7 WHEREAS, all people deserve places to walk and roll safely and with dignity; NOW,  
8 THEREFORE,

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**  
10 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

11 Section 1. The City Council requests that the Seattle Department of Transportation  
12 (SDOT) prepare a report of options for new sidewalk maintenance policies and programs. The  
13 report shall include, but is not limited to; an assessment of strategies to implement an equitable  
14 cost sharing program including an evaluation of the City of Denver's program; options for do-it-  
15 yourself maintenance and hiring an approved contractor; point of sale and lien options; a policy  
16 scan of other options; and a plan for community outreach. The report should include a  
17 recommended course of action and any proposed legislation necessary to implement the  
18 recommendations. The City Council requests that SDOT submit the report in writing to the City  
19 Council by March 31, 2020 for review and subsequent legislative action.

20 Section 2. The City Council requests that SDOT create a public education program  
21 educating residents and property owners about their responsibilities for snow and ice removal  
22 under Section 15.48.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

1           This public education program should begin no later than November 1, 2019 and should  
2 explore distributing information through utility bills, as well information distributed on social  
3 media and through traditional media sources.

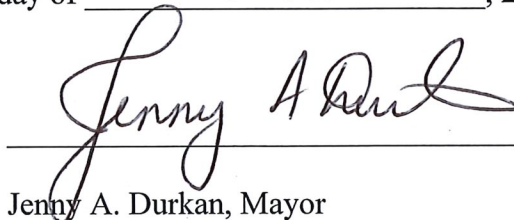
4           Section 3. The City Council requests that SDOT prepare a report describing how the  
5 department enforces Section 15.48.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code under the provisions of  
6 Chapter 15.91 of the Seattle Municipal Code. The City Council requests that SDOT consider  
7 ways to emphasize clearing of sidewalks by commercial property owners within 12 hours of a  
8 snow event. The report may include a Director’s Rule articulating SDOT’s policies, if  
9 appropriate, and any legislative proposals necessary to strengthen enforcement of Section  
10 15.48.010. The City Council requests that SDOT submit the report in writing to the City Council  
11 by January 1, 2020 for review and subsequent legislative action.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019,  
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 30<sup>th</sup> day of  
3 September, 2019.

4 

5 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

6 The Mayor concurred the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.

7   
8 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

9 Filed by me this 11<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2019.

10 

11 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

12 (Seal)

