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Subject: Streets and weather situation update

Greetings Mayor and Council

The DOC and Operations remains busy dealing with existing conditions ahead of potential snowfall tonight. I thought the following update from our City Engineer would be helpful to you.

Major Roads – Bus routes, Truck routes, Steep Hills

Major Roads are in very good shape with either dry or wet asphalt showing. They have been treated regularly for the past month with brine, salt or sand, and tonight will receive heavy treatment in anticipation of tomorrow's early morning snowfall.

Neighbourhood streets

The side-street ice maintenance effort continued yesterday with a focus on completion of streets adjacent to schools and hospitals. 125 staff were reallocated to sand side streets at priority locations which include schools, community centers and hospitals. 111 locations were identified as requiring attention. 105 of these locations were attended (95%). In addition to this there were resources dedicated to dealing with urgent calls from the public. Yesterday, a total of 198 calls were received, 106 of them deemed high priority. 76 calls were resolved. Today staff worked to clear yesterday's backlog of calls. An additional 143 calls have been received today, 10 of them high priority. 73 have been resolved. Crews continue to address conditions adjacent to schools and community centers, prioritized bike routes and respond to new requests for service.

Free Salt Distribution

The salt give-away program launched several days ago. Two deliveries per fire hall of salt and salt/sand mix were made to the 10 fire halls across the city. Demand was significant throughout the day and in both cases the deliveries were quickly depleted; there were instances of long line ups waiting for the next delivery. Today we increased the amount of salt/sand mixture to each of the 10 Fire Halls from what was delivered yesterday. Staff from Engineering have been on site to monitor deliveries. Distribution was being conducted in an orderly manner and most are respecting the 1 bucket limit.

Garbage Collection

Sanitation efforts are focused around the collection of the outstanding backlog of garbage collection. On Wednesday, 84 additional staff were reallocated from other areas of engineering and the backlog was reduced from 309 to 205. Today, additional staffing was increased to a total of 146 including operators and the backlog was further reduced. As of 4PM, Jan 5th, backlog is now at 145 with final reporting to come at the end of the day.

Staff reallocation will continue tomorrow with manual collection and reassignment of Green Bin trucks to complete the garbage outstanding blocks.

Inspection and Enforcement

We re-deployed 75 staff for inspection and enforcement of sidewalk clearing. Those staff issued 1,700 warnings yesterday, and approximately 900 as of mid-day Thursday (today). We began issuing tickets today. 135 cases are eligible for MTI ticket issuance. Also, there are approximately 21 cases being prepared for court (an additional 75 are anticipated based on running total as notices continue to be served). We have issued over 3,600 warnings since the beginning of the season.

Salt Supply

Contrary to some reports in the media, salt supply is good. We have enough salt for this weekend's forecasted snowfall and continue to receive regular deliveries.

I am so proud of what our entire team of staff have been able to do given the tough circumstances and their willingness to work through the holidays. At a minimum, we have a couple weeks of difficult weather to deal with ahead of us.

All the best

Sadhu