



MEMO

TO: James McGonagle, DPW Commissioner, John Lojek, Inspectional Services Commissioner, Chief John Carmichael

CC: Jonathan Yeo, COO

DATE: June 21, 2022

FROM: Andreae Downs, Chair, PS&T, Alison Leary, Chair Public Facilities

RE: Sidewalk Obstruction & Sidewalk Parking Ordinance Follow up (#72-22 discussion of June 8)

Dear Commissioners McGonagle and Lojek; Chief Carmichael

Thank you for your participation in our discussion of the item referenced above. The members of the Public Safety & Transportation and Public Facilities committees appreciate the level of inter-departmental coordination needed to ensure that our sidewalks and bikeways remain passable especially for children and people with disabilities at all times, even during construction.

It was heartening to hear that there is new training for inspectors and new policies in place when permits are pulled, also that ISD speaks with contractors about access at the time of a new permit being issued. We also appreciate the issuance of MUCTD detour guidelines for sites where sidewalks and bikeways might be obstructed.

We left the discussion feeling that the way forward on this issue is not so much legislative as operational, and to that end have a number of requests (made at the meeting and reiterated here) as well as a suggestion. We hope these will be useful in your establishment of new procedures and policies and that we can discuss these again when Public Safety takes up this docket item later in the term.

Requests--Please provide the Council with:

- A copy of the new contractor check list referenced at the meeting.
- A copy of what ISD gives to contractors and utilities about sidewalk obstructions and parking

Suggestion:

As mentioned in the meeting, we feel it would help residents and contractors to have the rules available **on site** in the form of a sign noting the ordinances and which numbers to call in case of violations. Councilor Bowman has designed the attached, which we suggest could be easily printed & laminated for mounting with zip ties on any fenced site or nearby sign post.

Thank you, and please reach out to me on behalf of the two committees if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andreae Downs
Chair
Public Safety & Transportation Committee