

City of Harbor Springs

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11 December 2018

Dear Downtown Merchants/Property Owners,

Just a friendly reminder to all downtown merchants and property owners of your responsibility to keep the downtown sidewalks clear and safe during the winter months. This year, winter has come early to the benefit of our ski resorts and snow enthusiasts. With that being stated, it is important to make our downtown accessible and safe to anyone wishing to experience our beautiful and a one-of-a-kind historic downtown. Business accessibility via safe and clear sidewalks is critical to our valued businesses and their success, especially at this time of the year.

Briefly, the requirement is; within 12 hours after the accumulation of snow or ice, the owner and occupant is responsible to remove or treat the snow or ice to protect the safety of pedestrians. Failure to comply can result in the snow or ice being removed by the City, with the owner being charged for the removal costs.

City Code Section 40.110

"In the Central Business District, when ice is formed, or snow is permitted to accumulate on any sidewalk, the owner and occupant of the abutting premises shall, within twelve (12) hours after the same has formed or accumulated, cause the same to be removed, or cause sufficient salt, sawdust, sand or other abrasive to be strewn thereon, so that pedestrians may safely traverse said sidewalk. If not so removed within said twelve (12) hour period, the City may, without notice, proceed to remove said ice and/or packed snow, and bill the cost thereof to the owner of said premises. If not paid by the owner within forty five (45) days of billing, the City may direct the City Assessor to spread the amount of the bill against the description of property chargeable therewith on the next general tax roll for the collection of taxes in the City."

It is asked that merchants and property owners removed all snow encompassing the entire sidewalk (buildings edge to the curb). Once at the curb, our valued Public Works staff can access the snow and remove it.

Thank you for your cooperation and help in promoting public safety in our downtown district.

Respectfully,

Andrew Potter
Assistant to the City Manager
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