

To: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

From: Dan Storck, Supervisor
Mount Vernon District

Subject: **BOARD MATTERS for February 2, 2016**

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For your consideration, I submit the following Board Matters accompanied by a brief explanation. Your support will be appreciated.

- 1. Plowing Bonded Development Streets**
- 2. Request to Prioritize Shoveling Walkways on County Land in Close Proximity to Schools**
- 3. Mount Vernon's 29th Annual Town Meeting**

1. **Plowing Bonded Development Streets**

Background

A little over one week, and a lifetime's worth of shoveling ago, Fairfax County experienced Snowzilla, a historic blizzard. After the snow let up, several residents contacted me seeking assistance to have the developers in their communities come out to plow their streets. All around them, state, county, and many private roads had been cleared, but some of the bonded developments, which had not yet been transferred into VDOT's secondary system, had not been touched. Public Works staff has been excellent reaching out to these developers to have the roads plowed, and most did so without prompting or shortly thereafter. Some took over a week to have a single car lane's width plowed to provide access. Without vehicular access, our resident's safety is at risk and their daily living is compromised.

Currently, Public Works holds a bond for public infrastructure for developments, some new, some many years old. Some residents inquired if Fairfax County could withhold a portion of the developers bond to cover our expense, or for us to pay for VDOT's or the HOA's expense, to plow the streets if the responsible party does not perform the work in a certain prescribed period of time. I know the amount of snow that fell recently is historic, but this is not a new issue. This raises a few questions: Is snow plowing a bonded item? If not, do we have the enabling authority to make it a bonded item? Can a portion of the bond be used to reimburse the cost to plow if it isn't done in a timely manner? Ultimately, I would like to find a way for Fairfax County to incentivize snow clearing in bonded developments so our residents can be safe, the developers responsive and our streets clear.

Proposed Action

Therefore, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the County Executive and County Attorney to examine this matter and return to the Board with a memorandum on recommendations for snow removal on bonded streets.

2. Request to Prioritize Shoveling Walkways on County Land in Close Proximity to Schools

Background

One of the biggest challenges to getting schools open again in our region is clearing sidewalks, bus stops and sight lines at intersections of snow. Every organization responsible for clearing sidewalks has made a herculean effort over the last several days. As the snow melts, some kids are still walking in the street and bus passengers are waiting in highway lanes to catch the Connector or REX bus because sidewalks or bus stops are not clear. One constituent contacted my office to see if a sidewalk on parkland adjacent to a school could be shoveled so children had a clear and safe path. This local park was low on the Park Authority's priority list for snow removal. In other places around my district, community members had to come together to shovel out thousands of yards of sidewalk to connect communities to their local schools.

While I don't believe government should do all things for all people, I do think Fairfax County, our school system and our communities can have a more systematic and dependable way to partner and pool resources to clear designated sidewalks to allow safe paths for school children. Fairfax County could even seek out and recognize communities, businesses, agencies and organizations to adopt a sidewalk to clear in the event of a snowstorm. I believe Fairfax County Government and its many contributory agencies should prioritize clearing of pathways near schools to assist in this effort. While I hope Snowzilla never blows its arctic breath our way again for many years, the partnership among our government, businesses, non-profits and communities help maintain our public spaces for the safety of our school children, walkers and public transit users.

Proposed Action

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the County Executive to review this matter, discuss it with the School's Superintendent, as needed, and return to the Board with his recommendations.

3. Mount Vernon's 29th Annual Town Meeting

Background

This year I am fortunate to have the opportunity to continue a Mount Vernon tradition established by my predecessor, the annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting. While Gerry Hyland began the annual Town Meeting back in 1988, he made sure the meeting wasn't about him. The Town Meeting is about informing the Mount Vernon community of what its government is doing for them, and even more importantly, listening to the people discuss and debate our future in an open forum. I am pleased the Chairman Sharon Bulova, County Executive Ed Long, Fort Belvoir Commander Colonel Mitchell, School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders will join me. Due to scheduling difficulties, we will not have our meeting on Super Bowl Saturday at Mount Vernon High School, but instead will have it on February 27th at Walt Whitman Middle School. I invite all my colleagues to join me there.

Proposed Action

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I ask, with unanimous consent, that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Public Affairs to advertise the Town Meeting on its various communications platforms.