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City Needs to Mount Full-Court Press on Snow Cleanup; Focus on Garbage Collection a HUGE Mistake

**Statement of Alderman Bob Donovan
February 3, 2011**

While I agree the city has done a good job in general of keeping the streets and roadways open in the wake of this week's huge blizzard, now is the time to mount a full-court press to clean up the massive amount of snow that remains.

The storm was unprecedented and merits a disaster or emergency response. That's why I am calling on the Department of Public Works to focus ALL of its resources on plowing and then widening streets before anything else. I am also calling for the city to take the unprecedented move of plowing alleys. Yes, it is obvious that this type of snow "disaster" warrants alley plowing (why not make good use of our "snow and ice fee?").

Second, I'm calling on the city to restrict street parking to alternate one-side-only parking **day and night** until the clearing operations are completed. Also, all side streets must be plowed and cleared – period. If people can't park their vehicles on the street because of the snow, then we have a major problem in most neighborhoods. Let's go to one-side-only parking so we can get our streets fully plowed and widened before we worry about other issues.

Third, the city is preparing to resume garbage and recycling collection. Really? In my opinion, this is a HUGE mistake.

After we plow the alleys then let's give residents a chance to dig out their garbage and recycling carts before we even consider resuming collection. We'll be wasting valuable resources if we send collection crews out when most carts are snow-covered and/or frozen in place. Our crews are not required to touch those snowbound carts, and too many alleys right now are almost impassable.

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Fourth, we need to keep our garbage “packer” trucks out plowing snow because the smaller salt trucks cannot handle this huge volume of snow. Very simply, they’re not up to the job. Once the snow is cleared, then – and only then – we can put the packer trucks back on collection duty.

This storm was unprecedented, and my 92-year-old father told me the only storm that comes close was the blizzard of 1947. In my mind, a storm as unique as this deserves an unprecedented all-out response in terms of cleanup.

Let’s do it right and put ALL of our resources into getting our streets and alleys fully cleared.