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Ald. Jim Bohl
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City Plows Haven't Touched Parts Of Northwest Side

Ald. Jim Bohl Calls Plowing Coordination "Poor and Sadly Inefficient," Demands Improvements

Despite having ample forewarning that yesterday's powerful winter storm would produce more than a foot of snow, as of this hour the Department of Public Works still hasn't made a single plowing pass on many northwest side streets and subdivisions, according to Ald. Jim Bohl.

"Here we're approaching the dinner hour and we have wholesale areas where there's not been a single pass by a city snowplow," said Ald. Bohl, who spent much of today answering calls from frustrated residents and personally contacting DPW staff to assign plow drivers to certain neighborhoods and streets.

"I think residents have been patient, and we're certainly appreciative of the hard work of our DPW drivers and staff who have been working hard to clear the streets and dig us out from this storm. But it's incredibly frustrating to see some areas where streets have been plowed curb to curb and others that are untouched," he said.

City plow routes are such that crews typically will plow streets in a grid in chronological order each time, meaning certain areas will always be plowed first and others always plowed last, Ald. Bohl said. He said he's made pointed suggestions to DPW administrators to rotate the plow routes, and Commissioner Jeff Mantes "has agreed to begin rotating routes as part of DPW's policy."

The snowstorm that hit Milwaukee and a good chunk of the southern and eastern part of Wisconsin during the past 24 hours dumped as much as 17-20 inches in some areas, and city plows had to work hard just to keep the city's main streets from getting swamped with snow, the alderman said. "I think we can do better, and I'm going to do all I can to get DPW to do a better job of coordinating and managing their plowing operations," he said.