

## MuniLegislativeReview

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**From:** Posie Row <info@posierow.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 20, 2018 9:52 AM  
**To:** MuniLegislativeReview  
**Subject:** Municipal Legislation Written Submission

I'm happy to see that a review of bylaws will be part of the Municipal Legislation review. My past experience with bylaws has been less than satisfactory. My concern is the enforcement. What's the purpose of a bylaw or regulation if the city is not prepared to enforce it ?

I recently spoke with the supervisor of parking, [REDACTED], asking that the 2 hour limit be enforced on the parking meters. Just before Christmas, so many meters were absent that Duckworth Street became a free parking lot. As a business owner this is a concern because customers have nowhere to park when people working downtown park on a meter all day. The loading zone was a problem as well, as we couldn't take delivery of much needed inventory due to cars parking for as much as a couple of hours. In both cases the supervisor basically said they were not willing to enforce the bylaw because of the manpower needed to do so. He also deemed the derelict meters as unenforceable, which makes no sense to me. Just because the meter is unavailable, does not change the 2 hour time limit. The city needs to come up with a way to easily recognize offenders and ticket them, as part of the everyday enforcement of parking violations. Not as a separate task force effort. Other municipalities mark tires with chalk. And yes, there may be one or two jerks that will move their cars a foot ahead and avoid penalty ( this was the supervisors prediction), but most people are law abiding and would follow the rules if a ticket is pending. If enforcement is a problem, it's a problem that needs solving.

The other bylaw that I have asked about on several occasions is one that demands business owners clear their sidewalks of snow and ice. Not a single offender to my knowledge has ever been ticketed. Why have the bylaw if it's unenforceable? Personally , I would like to see ALL sidewalks cleared by the property owners, and failure to do so would be a ticketable offence. And yes, I know that not all citizens are capable and allowances have to be made. If Toronto can manage it, then so can we. Many people have suggested this would be a great way to keep our sidewalks cleared for walking. The lack of snow clearing in this town is the worst I've ever seen, and I've lived and travelled in many cities in winter. The policy to not remove snow on Thursday , Friday and Saturday nights is ludicrous and desperately need to be changed. Yes there are safety issues surrounding clearing snow when people are out and about. So, find a solution to ensure safety without creating a no go zone for 3-4 nights after a snow fall. Honestly, other cities manage it. So can we. Some outdated thinking needs to be changed. Safety can be ensured so that downtown is not held hostage after a snow storm for as many as 4 days.

As a friend of mine recently said "I have lived in 4 cities, and have never come across a municipality that coddles it's citizens as much as St. John's does." Meaning, the minute some one complains that a certain bylaw will have a negative impact, the city backs down. I want the city to create bylaws that benefit the majority. Knowing these bylaws laws and their repercussions is the responsibility of the citizen. If they violate them, they face the consequences. Will someone be angry when their car gets towed for snow removal? yes. Will someone be angry when they get ticketed for not clearing their walkway ? yes. Will someone be pissed off at getting a ticket in the loading zone while they went to yoga? yes. Tickets are unavoidable in city centres. Their purpose is to discourage violations and allow the majority of people to benefit from the bylaw that was deemed necessary for many reasons. And creating "worst case scenarios" is not helpful towards making decisions on the creation of bylaws. Worst case scenarios are often speculative and unlikely to occur. Many times I have spoken to city officials and the response is "well, the problem with that is.....(insert worst case scenario or a single negative past experience from 30 years ago)." This type of thinking prevents us from moving forward with decisions that could be of great benefit to all.

So in closing, I hope a review and creation of bylaws will push past outdated thinking, weigh the pros and cons to the benefit of the majority, and carry enforceable fines that encourage people to obey the laws set down for their own good.



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