

Scott E's Blog

Howard County Maryland Information About Technology, Politics, Events, Sports and More
(<http://scotteblog.com/>)

Howard County Government Warning via Social Media (<http://scotteblog.com/2016/01/25/howard-county-government-warning-via-social-media/>)

POSTED ON JANUARY 25, 2016 (<HTTP://SCOTTEBLOG.COM/2016/01/25/HOWARD-COUNTY-GOVERNMENT-WARNING-VIA-SOCIAL-MEDIA/>) UPDATED ON JANUARY 25, 2016 (<HTTP://SCOTTEBLOG.COM/2016/01/25/HOWARD-COUNTY-GOVERNMENT-WARNING-VIA-SOCIAL-MEDIA/>)

******Update Notice:** There has been new guidance this morning: <http://scotteblog.com/2016/01/25/new-information-of-howard-county-government-about-sidewalks/>
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So when our elected officials and local government social media accounts do good on social media. I am the first one to say what a good job they are doing informing us (the residents) of important information. What happened from the Howard County Government Facebook page yesterday was not a case of that.



Howard County Government

15 hrs · 2

Property owners who abut a sidewalk in a public right-of-way please be aware, per Sec.18.402 (h) of the Howard County Code: "It shall be the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen. In the case of a multiunit building with more than one occupant, it shall be the duty of the lessor to remove the snow unless the lessor has obligated a tenant who is actually occupying the property to do so. Any owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way, lessor of a multiunit building, or tenant obligated by the lessor, who fails to remove the snow from the abutting sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$50.00. Alternatively or in addition to and concurrent with all other remedies, the Department of Public Works or the Police Department may enforce the subsection with civil penalties pursuant to title 24, 'Civil Penalties,' of the Howard County Code. A violation shall be a Class E offense."

To report a property owner who has not cleared the sidewalk within this time frame, please call the County's non-emergency phone number at 410-313-2200 or Department of Public Works, Bureau of Highways at 410-313-7450.

To view the Code, please visit https://www.municode.com/.../howard.../codes/code_of_ordinances...

This seems wrong given the impact of the latest storm. There are so many roads still not plowed and to provide this information (or warning or threat given how you read it) does not seem appropriate. Go read the comments on Facebook, I am far from alone in this feeling. <https://www.facebook.com/hocogov/posts/941234972590414?fref=nf>
(<https://www.facebook.com/hocogov/posts/941234972590414?fref=nf>)

I worked hard clearing "a path" on the sidewalk in front of my house but I have heard of many instances where it would be near impossible for residents to have their sidewalks fully cleared by today. It is also 9 degrees this morning...with a high expected around 35 - not real helpful in getting rid of this snow anytime soon.

I call on Allan Kittleman to have his staff respond to the MANY comments on Facebook and to post an update that is more responsible to the situation that we all face with this latest storm

The roads are still a bit sketchy out there so everyone be careful if you have to be out and about.

Scott E

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New information from Howard County Government about sidewalks (<http://scotteblog.com/2016/01/25/new-information-from-howard-county-government-about-sidewalks/>)

POSTED ON JANUARY 25, 2016 (<HTTP://SCOTTEBLOG.COM/2016/01/25/NEW-INFORMATION-FROM-HOWARD-COUNTY-GOVERNMENT-ABOUT-SIDEWALKS/>) UPDATED ON JANUARY 25, 2016 (<HTTP://SCOTTEBLOG.COM/2016/01/25/NEW-INFORMATION-FROM-HOWARD-COUNTY-GOVERNMENT-ABOUT-SIDEWALKS/>)

Here is the new guidance provide from Howard County Government about our sidewalks:



Howard County Government

2 mins · ↗

An IMPORTANT MESSAGE about shoveling your sidewalk:

We are asking that you do what you can, when you can, to shovel sidewalks. This is essential to helping us recover from the storm. But we understand this is an historic storm and we do not want you to do anything to jeopardize your personal health or safety.

Glad to see that they have updated their stance about sidewalks in this historic snowfall event.

On a personal note, Allan Kittleman did respond to me and I REALLY appreciate his response.

Scott E

Update: Here is what went out from the HoCoExec Facebook page:



Howard County Executive Allan H. Kittleman

40 mins · ↗

An IMPORTANT MESSAGE and an apology about shoveling your sidewalk:

We are asking that you do what you can, when you can, to shovel sidewalks. This is essential to helping us recover from the storm. But we understand this is an historic storm and we do not want you to do anything that could jeopardize your personal health or safety.

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