



340 1st Avenue East, Dyersville, Iowa 52040 • Phone: 563-875-7724 • Fax: 563-875-8238

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December 3, 2025

Mayor Jacque and Members of the Dyersville City Council
City of Dyersville
Memorial Building
340 1st Avenue East
Dyersville, IA 52040

RE: Public Notice defining 'Reasonable Time' for Snow and Ice Removal from Sidewalks

Dear Honorable Mayor Jacque and City Council Members,

I have attached the public notice for publication and posting effective January 1, 2026. The purpose of this notice is to define 'reasonable time' under Section 136.15 of the Dyersville City Code, so residents clearly understand their duty to remove snow and ice from sidewalks and the City's enforcement approach.

Section 136.15 of the Dyersville Code requires the abutting property owner to promptly remove natural accumulations of snow and ice from sidewalks and authorizes the City Administrator to have those accumulations removed without prior notice when the owner fails to act within a 'reasonable time'; the City may file an itemized, verified statement of costs with the Council and assess the costs against the property as taxes.

Iowa law is consistent with our code: Section 364.12(2)(b) of the Iowa Code places the duty to remove natural accumulations of snow and ice on the abutting property owner and uses the same 'reasonable amount of time' language without prescribing a specific timeframe, which cities typically clarify through local policy or ordinance. The Iowa League of Cities guidance notes that many communities set 24–72 hours in their local rules; several Iowa cities have adopted 24 hours as the standard. Defining a specific timeframe improves public understanding and supports consistent, defensible enforcement.

Based on safety, ADA access, and common practice, I am defining 'reasonable time' under Section 136.15 of the City Code as within twenty-four (24) hours after the end of a snow and/or ice event. This interpretation is consistent with the ordinance, past practices, and adheres to regional norms. No code amendment is required to implement this interpretation; however, acknowledging the Council's approval in the minutes will aid transparency and consistency.

Upon receiving and filing the public notice, staff will publish the notice in the city's official newspaper and post it online. The notice reiterates the 24-hour requirement and the assessment language in Section 136.15 of the City Code.

I request that the City Council please acknowledge and support the administrative interpretation that 'reasonable time' under Section 136.15 of the City Code means 24 hours after a snow/ice event, and authorize publication and posting of the attached notice, effective January 1, 2026.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mick J. Michel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mick J. Michel,
City Administrator