

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 606 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER RELATING TO REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM PUBLIC SIDEWALKS

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds that snow and ice accumulation on public sidewalks presents a risk to pedestrian safety and accessibility; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin law authorizes municipalities to require sidewalk snow and ice removal, enforce violations by citation, and recover abatement costs through special charges pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 66.0113, 66.0114, and 66.0907; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to simplify and clarify enforcement procedures, improve compliance, and ensure recovery of actual City costs associated with snow and ice removal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Richland County, Wisconsin, as follows:

SECTION 1. Repeal and Recreation of Chapter 606

Chapter 606 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Richland Center is hereby repealed and recreated in its entirety to read as follows:

CHAPTER 606

REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM PUBLIC SIDEWALKS

606.01 Duty to Remove Snow and Ice

- (1) When snow falls or ice accumulates on any sidewalk fronting on or abutting a public street within the City of Richland Center, the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the abutting lot shall remove all snow and ice from the sidewalk, regardless of the source of accumulation.
- (2) Snow and ice shall be removed from the entire width of the sidewalk within twelve (12) hours after the end of a snowfall.
- (3) For properties abutting sidewalks on two intersecting streets, the duty includes sidewalks fronting on both streets, including:
 - a) Sidewalk areas bordering crosswalks; and
 - b) Any associated curb ramps.
- (4) If ice cannot be immediately removed, the sidewalk shall be treated with sand or other suitable material to provide safe passage until removal is possible.
- (5) The City recognizes that some occupants may require assistance to comply with this section. This provision does not create an exemption or extension of time, and the responsibility to ensure compliance remains with the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the property.

606.02 Failure to Comply; Abatement

- (1) If snow or ice is not removed within the time required by 606.01, the City may cause such snow or ice to be removed beginning the following morning.

- (2) The City may, as a courtesy, place a doorhanger on the front or apparent main door of a structure on the premises, informing the owner or person in possession of the premises of the duty to remove snow and ice under this chapter. However, failure of the City to place such a doorhanger shall not relieve the owner, occupant, or person in charge of the abutting property from the requirements of 606.01 and shall not prevent the City from proceeding to perform the removal and collect the costs thereof.
- (3) All costs incurred by the City, including labor, equipment, materials, and an administrative fee, shall be charged to the property owner. Labor and equipment charges shall be assessed at a minimum of one-half (½) hour per occurrence.

606.03 Billing; Delinquency; Special Charge

- (1) The City shall mail a bill for abatement costs and administrative fees to the landowner at the address shown by the records of the Richland County Treasurer for mailing of real estate tax bills for the property.
- (2) If the costs are not paid within thirty (30) days after the billing is mailed, the charge shall be delinquent and shall become a lien against the property as of the date of delinquency.
- (3) The delinquent special charge shall be included in the current or next tax roll for collection and settlement pursuant to §§ 66.0907 and Ch. 74.

606.04 Citations and Penalties

- (1) Violations of this chapter may be enforced by citation whether or not the City performs abatement, and the issuance of a citation shall not preclude the City from removing snow or ice and recovering the costs thereof.
- (2) Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, forfeit not less than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each separate offense, together with all applicable court costs, fees, surcharges, and assessments as provided by law. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.
- (3) For purposes of determining forfeiture amounts, offenses shall be tracked on a calendar-year basis, with each calendar year beginning January 1.
- (4) The specific forfeiture amounts to be imposed for first, second, and subsequent offenses shall be established by resolution of the Common Council.

606.05 Administrative Fee

When the City performs snow or ice removal under this chapter, an administrative fee will be assessed in addition to actual removal costs. The administrative fee is intended to recover costs associated with inspection, documentation, equipment coordination, billing, and enforcement, and shall be established by resolution of the Common Council.

606.06 Enforcement Authority

Citations for violations of this chapter may be issued by any person authorized under Section 980.06 of the Code of Ordinances, as amended.

SECTION 2. Repeal of Conflicting Provisions

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Severability

If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.

SECTION 4. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Richland Center on this 3rd day of February, 2026 by the following votes: AYES _____, NOS _____.

Todd Coppernoll, Mayor

Attest:

Misty Molzof, Deputy Clerk