

Office of the Mayor

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## <u>Winter Storm Warning and Travel Advisory Remains in Effect for Valparaiso until</u> Tuesday February 16, 2021- 9 am Central Standard Time

Valparaiso has had its share of snow over the last few weeks and the City is preparing for yet another event this afternoon and into the late evening and early morning hours. The heavy snow that accumulated overnight (6-7 inches), frigid temperatures, 30 mph winds, and anticipated snowfall of another 4-7 inches will continue to cause challenges for commutes this afternoon, evening and tomorrow morning. The City of Valparaiso is reminding residents to exercise caution while on the road and of the city's snow procedures. "Our priority is to provide the best possible service for emergency personnel and residents to travel during the snow event. We ask for the public's support and patience as our snow team works around the clock to maintain our city," said Steve Poulos, Director of Public Works and Utilities.

As a reminder, the City asks the community to keep in mind the following:

- Per City ordinance, please remove vehicles from City streets when there is two (2) or more inches of snow. It is nearly impossible to remove snow from the streets when vehicles are lining the curb. Please park vehicles in garages, driveways, or parking lots until the streets are cleared of snow.
- Per City ordinance, please do not push snow into the roads for your safety and the safety of others. The plowing process inevitably results in some snow being pushed back into already cleared driveways. (Please note, that Public Works will not remove snow from driveway entrances.)
- Main thoroughfares and emergency routes will continue be cleared first and focused on during overnight hours. Side streets, neighborhoods, and cul-de-sacs will be cleared once the emergency routes are safe to travel. With more than 170 lane miles of roads to plow and treat, the process takes time.
- Keep an eye on neighbors, particularly seniors and others who may have difficulty clearing snow or accessing help. The Valparaiso Police Department offers a Contact Assistance Referral Program (CARE) to check on residents with special needs when the weather is severe. To register yourself or a loved one, contact the Valparaiso Police Department at 219-462-2135.

For additional snow removal information including our winter event map, check out our website at

http://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/1617/Snow-Removal