

**Subject: PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR PLAN (Sidewalks)**

*Attention: Janesville Homeowners and Concerned Renters*

To those of you who have found yourselves on the lists of the Seven Year Sidewalk Plan, approved by City Council against your wishes, you now have an opportunity to lawfully thwart the plan's fruition, repeal the Plan's completion, and also to get restitution if you have already been forced to have sidewalks installed. **If you are receiving this letter, you are on the list.**

The plan of action is to litigate against the city to restore our choices in this current issue by hiring a legal defender to represent us. You will gain an opportunity to learn about the lawyer's experience with group litigation and how the Sidewalk Freedom Group plan will be carried out via our monthly meetings:

**Meeting Date: Every fourth Wednesday, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm starting July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Meeting Place: BASICS, 1711 Lodge Drive Janesville WI 53545**

**Q. What is the Sidewalk Plan?**

A. It is a plan by city staff to have the city install 5.1 miles of sidewalks within city limits WITH or WITHOUT necessary need or foot traffic. Not a single sidewalk was requested by a citizen.

**Q. What does this mean for me as a homeowner?**

A. You will be forced to install a sidewalk at your own cost or at the city's cost of \$28.53 per linear square foot, whether or not your property is developed. If you do not install it at your own cost, and cannot afford to pay the city for their installations, a lien will be placed against your property. Your home may also lose value with the placement of a sidewalk, trees may be removed and landscaping damaged. The annual deadline for the sidewalk installation deferment application is May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Q. What is my role? How can I help?**

A. We have created the Citizen Defense Fund and are now recruiting members. Members would pay \$50 per year to have their voices heard through the lawyer and be part of the litigation to put a stop the process and get restitution if you have already been forced to have sidewalks installed.

**Q. What does this mean to me as a renter?**

A. If your landlord is required to raise the property taxes to pay for installing sidewalks, it is possible that he/she may need to raise rent after your lease is over to compensate for the additional expense.

**Q. Was this plan part of the city's budget?**

A. No, an additional loan of half a million dollars per year is being taken out to install the sidewalks.

**Q. If the city installs the sidewalk, is it mine?**

A. It does not matter who installs the sidewalk, it is still city property, but the property owner must repair it, keep it cleaned and shoveled, and is liable for the safety of pedestrians on that sidewalk.

**Q. I already have a sidewalk. Am I in the crosshairs of this plan?**

A. The sidewalks have a new wider regulation width. You may be included in the Plan if the city wishes your sidewalks to match the new sidewalks being installed.

**Q. Do you want positive change in your community and for generations that follow? Or do you want to wait for change to happen?**

A. The answer is up to you.

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