

Kemp Mill Civic Association

Silver Spring, MD 20902
A Registered Montgomery County Civic Association
www.kempmill.org

December 26, 2002

VIA ELECTRONIC AND REGULAR MAIL

Albert J. Genetti, Director
Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation
Office of the Director
101 Monroe Street; 10th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850-2450

Re: **Snow and Leaf Removal Efforts**

Dear Mr. Genetti:

I write pursuant to the resolution of the membership of the Kemp Mill Civic Association, a registered civic association in the Kemp Mill area of Silver Spring, to convey our enormous disappointment over the County's recent snow- and leaf-removal efforts.

Your Department's "Action Plan" for snow removal, publicly posted on your website, promises that "[s]econdary neighborhood streets . . . will always be plowed Residents . . . will have complete vehicular access as soon as possible when the storm is over." Yet, several streets in our neighborhood (including Charlton, Hillsboro and Yeatman Terrace, to name just a few) remained unplowed and treacherous for days after the December 5 snowstorm. We recognize that the County possesses limited resources and must prioritize the streets it addresses. Yet, your Department's stated policy is that *all* streets eventually will be plowed, when, in fact, several streets in our community were *never* plowed at all, despite frequent resident requests.

Leaf removal this year has been no better. The County posted signs announcing leaf removal on or about Nov. 25 in our neighborhood. That date came and went, with the result that, when ten days later the snowstorm hit, the area remained clogged with piles of leaves that only added to the general treacherousness of the roadways. This problem is particularly disturbing in that it was easily predictable. The December 5 snowstorm was predicted well in advance of its arrival, providing the County ample time to remove the leaves so as to avoid the later difficulties. Moreover, we have yet to receive notice of when the second scheduled leaf removal will take place. As we move deeper into the winter, the risk of another snowfall that creates havoc with remaining leaves increases (as our near-miss with yesterday's snow, which fortunately rapidly dissipated, attests).

It is important to understand that, for many of our residents, snow and ice on the road present more than an inconvenience. Many of our residents are elderly, disabled or have

small children, and slick streets make it extremely unsafe for them to leave their homes to obtain needed goods or services. The County has undertaken the responsibility of providing them, and all of us, with clear streets. It must meet that obligation.

We write this letter to you recognizing that December 5 was the first storm of the season and that, perhaps, some of the Department's difficulties can be attributed to inefficiencies associated with the unexpectedly early transition into winter. We also recognize that the County faces serious fiscal challenges that already may have impacted its snow- and leaf-removal efforts. However, we trust that, as the winter season progresses, DPWT's performance will improve and that *all* of our residents will be able to look forward to plowed streets in the wake of the snowstorms that undoubtedly are to come.

Respectfully,



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cc: Council President Michael Subin (via e-mail)
Councilwoman Marilyn Praisner (via e-mail)
KMCA Executive Committee