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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### NEWS RELEASE

## City Responds To Residents Concerns with Snow Removal

**Reading, PA – February 19, 2014** - The City is aware of the difficulty that this year's snowfall has caused everyone. With the record snowfall this year, it has created numerous issues for residents, drivers and Public Works. The City has 173.3 miles of streets to plow with limited staff and resources. The drivers are doing the best they can, with the limited resources available. Plowing efforts on smaller streets have been more of a challenge for our crews.

We thank the residents who have reached out to the City with suggestions as to how to relieve the congestion and parking issues. Many of the suggestions, such as curb-to-curb plowing and hauling away excess snow can certainly help to relieve the situation. Unfortunately with severely curtailed resources and the thick layers of ice, coordinating such an effort would have been a difficult task. The City will be reviewing our Snow Emergency plan in order to be better prepared for future events.

While we also recognize that parking has become a serious issue in the City, we would like to remind residents that the parking spaces they clear out are on public streets. The reservation of these parking spaces with chairs, buckets and/or any other material is illegal and prohibited. The City of Reading's Public Works Department and Police Department will begin collecting any items being used to reserve parking spaces on Thursday, February 20, 2014.

With the warmer temperatures being predicted for this week, the City has now assigned crews to tackle the issue of snow and ice covered storm sewer inlets. Crews will work to remove snow and ice from storm sewer inlets for the next few days. The increased temperatures will cause melting, which in turn will cause flooding issues. Crews will work as fast as they can but melting will occur before crews can reach every storm sewer in the City. We ask for residents to work independently or as a group to help clear the storm sewers near your home to help avoid flooding issues in your neighborhood.

For more information or updates on snow removal and solid waste and recycling collection/cancellation please visit the City of Reading website and/or social media sites.

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