



# City of Cincinnati

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: (513) 591-6000

Date: November 14, 2006

## City of Cincinnati Has Winter Operations Plan in Place

**Cincinnati, OH** – The City of Cincinnati is geared up for the 2006 - 2007 Winter Season. The 2006 - 2007 Winter Operations Program focuses on using a systematic approach for treating streets with a goal of having streets treated and safe for travel within 24 hours of the end of an ordinary snowfall. The operational plans used by the City are based on the efficient routing of snow treating equipment. This equipment is deployed using weather predictions provided by local television networks and a variety of local and national weather forecasting services. "Our citizens deserve the best the City has to offer in dealing with winter storms and our dedicated employees will work around the clock to ensure the community's safety," says City Manager Milton Dohoney, Jr. "We also must increase citizen awareness of approaching storms that may dramatically affect rush hour traffic."

**Operation Snow** is a new program this year designed to enlist the community in helping the City treat the streets. Anytime a winter storm is forecasted by the National Weather Service to affect rush hour traffic, the City Manager would broadcast an **Operation Snow** declaration. The City Manager will advise area employers and schools of the potential for significant travel delays and request the **voluntary** cooperation of major employers to release their non-essential employees early. **Operation Snow** will rely on the use of an extensive notification list to provide this warning to citizens in advance of the approaching storm. This will help to minimize rush hour delays from occurring, which may leave employees stuck in traffic and may hinder the City's capacity to treat streets and roadways because snow treating trucks are delayed by traffic.

Citizens can also help improve the safety of the City by exercising extreme caution when snowfall begins, by shoveling their sidewalks, and limiting travel as much as possible during extreme winter snow events. The partnership between dedicated City employees and the citizens they serve is essential to a successful winter season.

Streets may be treated with salt, calcium chloride, or salt brine (a mixture of salt and water). The City has ensured that all four of its salt domes are filled to capacity and that contracts are in place to acquire more salt throughout the winter, if needed. The fleet of City snow fighting equipment has been inspected and is ready to go and drivers are also currently finishing refresher training in anticipation of the coming winter.

For more severe snowstorms, the City will issue a parking snow emergency. A snow emergency declaration initiates parking restrictions on signed routes. Cars not moved are subject to ticketing and towing. These severe storms sometimes require hauling away snow and makes clearing streets more difficult. Although this can delay the full treatment of streets, every effort is made to make roads passable as soon as practical.

###

For more information, please call 591-6000 or visit our website at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/pubsvr/pages/-3253-/>