

Trying to park safely earns Calgarians parking tickets

BY KIM GUTTORMSON, CALGARY HERALD FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Residents along a south Calgary street are upset that trying to park safely on their ice-covered road resulted in parking tickets earlier this week.

"Don't turn around and make money from people just trying to cope with the roads they've been left with," Donna Trimble said, adding while she understands the city doesn't plow residential roads, ticketing people dealing with the conditions just pours salt in the wound.

Trimble said her home is along a steep hill in Bridlewood and in winter residents along both sides of the crescent park so their vehicles are pointed downhill.

"If you park uphill, you're never going to get going again," she said.

About 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, a parking authority officer ticketed at least four cars for parking the wrong way.

The \$36 tickets have been rescinded, following a complaint from Trimble and inquiries from Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart's office.

Dale Fraser, general manager of the Calgary Parking Authority, said a supervisor went out to look at the road Wednesday morning.

"We recognize the conditions of the road and the circumstances with the steep slope certainly necessitates a more cautious approach," he said. "We should have approached it differently."

Fraser said the parking authority has also been in contact with the roads department to make sure it is aware of the road's condition.

Trimble said for now she and her neighbours aren't parking on the front street, braving the icy but narrower back alley.

"I don't know if we're allowed to park downhill again," she said.

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