

MY LEGAL RIGHTS

Q. I live in Oregon City, and some city official told me to repair the sidewalk that runs along the street in front of my home. Am I responsible for this repair?

A. The Oregon City Municipal Code states that the owner of land that abuts a street is responsible for keeping the sidewalk along that street in “good repair”. This requirement is not unique to Oregon City. The City of Portland has a similar obligation. If the City determines that the sidewalk is in need of repair, then you should receive a Notice. If you ignore the Notice, and you do not take some action, the City can make the necessary repairs itself. It will then place a lien against your property for the cost of those repairs. You should also be aware that if someone is injured because of your negligence in repairing or failing to repair the sidewalk, the Municipal Code states that you will be responsible for that person’s injuries. In fact, if the injured person brings a claim against the City, and wins, the Municipal Code states that you must reimburse the City for any amount of damages it had to pay.

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