

My name is Amber Nicole Cannan. I live at 84 Brook street. I am a Department of Public Works Commissioner and a resident of Manchester.

I am also a person with multiple less visible disabilities. For about a year, I was unable to walk, but I still needed to navigate this city for groceries, work, teaching, and basic daily life.

During that time, I found that navigating Manchester was not just difficult. It was often unsafe, and sometimes impossible.

Sidewalk cutouts are missing in many areas, forcing people into the street. Crosswalks are too infrequent, and some have been removed, including near the library on Pine Street and across Granite at Commercial. Where crosswalks exist, many lack bump outs, making crossings longer and more dangerous.

Cars regularly block sidewalks, eliminating access entirely. This forces people into traffic.

In the winter, these issues get worse. Snow and ice block sidewalks and curb cuts, making large parts of the city inaccessible. For many people this is difficult. For disabled residents, it makes access impossible.

At the same time, parking enforcement is concentrated in downtown meter areas, while enforcement elsewhere is limited. This allows sidewalk obstruction and misuse of accessible parking spaces to continue.

There are also not enough accessible parking spaces. I have personally been unable to access businesses or even grocery stores because no accessible spaces were available, or because they were being used improperly.

New Hampshire is one of the oldest states in the country, and disability increases significantly with age. More than 40 percent of adults over 65 live with a disability. But our accessible parking standards have not kept up with that reality. What we are seeing is a gap between compliance on paper and usability in practice.

These are daily barriers.

I am asking the Board to consider the following:

Sidewalk maintenance investment that is commensurate with road budgets.

Adequate funding for DPW to maintain infrastructure, ensure timely snow removal, and install missing sidewalk cutouts, crosswalks, and bump outs.

Expanded parking enforcement, including vehicles blocking sidewalks and misuse of accessible spaces. And an increase in accessible parking spaces across the city, especially at high-use locations like the YMCA and grocery stores.

These are solvable problems, and addressing them will make Manchester more accessible for everyone.

Thank you.

May 19, 2026

Dear Mayor and Alderman:

My name is Elaine Dallaire. I'm nearly 70 years old and was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, I go to the Manchester YMCA, four to five days a week. This is how I keep my body functioning and manage my acute pain. This is how I am able to live alone and stay independent.

Year's ago, I sustained a disc injury opening the YMCA'S multiple fire doors, we then entered into an arrangement BUT access does NOT begin at the ramp. It begins where I park my car. Moreover, I cannot call the Youth Center for help if conditions should prevent me from getting to the ramp. It appears the YMCA, at least on paper, dictates their building is accessible but for who?

Most of the time, there is NO ADA parking at or near the ramp. I must park up a huge hill and make my way across sidewalks with missing bricks, which catch my crutch. Fast cars fly by me as I work my way through traffic. I am the only one risking a fall that could result in multiple broken bones. Why?

In the winter, snow and ice accumulate on the YMCA'S curbs and ADA parking areas. I have taken pictures for the last six months and reported these directly to the City. No one has taken the lead, to the best of my knowledge, which is why I have spent years trying to get this problem addressed.

I have made calls and asked questions. I have tried to locate who is responsible. Instead, I have experienced a system where responsibility or accountability does NOT exist. I am NOT the only person seeking your attention tonight. Many people in Manchester rely on accessible parking with safe pathways to survive and lead their lives. WE are NOT just inconvenienced: WE carry the BURDEN of navigating environments that are actively hostile towards US.

Please consider:

1. Adjacent parking, leading directly to the ADA YMCA ramp entrance site, (four)-
2. An ADA focused snow removal program; addressing Stark Street and far more-

I am pleading for ALL people who have NO voice tonight. I will continue my sustained focus: all Residents have the same rights to enjoy OUR community: essential for maintaining any high quality of life! Thank You for Inviting Me,

ATTACHED TO MY STATEMENT FOR MAYOR AND ALDERMAN

1. I AM ASKING FOR ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES TO BE LOCATED WHERE THEY ARE ACTUALLY NEEDED; NEAR ENTRANCES AND THEIR RAMPS; AND OR

2. I AM ASKING FOR SNOW REMOVAL PRACTICES THAT KEEP THOSE SPACES AND PATHWAYS CLEAR AND USABLE; AND OR

3. I AM ASKING MANCHESTER TO LOOK AT ACCESSIBILITY NOT AS A CHECKLIST, BUT AS A LIVED EXPERIENCE, WHICH HAVE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR EVERYONE WHO LIVE HERE IN MANCHESTER; AND OR

Thank you for allowing me to enter into the hearing record, a total of two pages; if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me. This is why I am here,

Elaine Dallaire,

Manchester Resident,

DALLAIRE, Elaine T (id #39728, dob: 05/14/1958)



AMOSKEAG
HEALTH

145 Hollis Street
Manchester, NH 03101
603-626-9500
www.amoskeaghealth.org

603-626-9500

RE: Elaine Dallaire
DOB: 05/14/1958

To Whom It May Concern:

Elaine is under my medical care at Amoskeag Health and has been diagnosed with chronic pain syndrome secondary to multiple fractures, osteogenesis imperfecta, rotator cuff tendonitis, moderate to severe spinal deformities with lumbar radiculopathy and myofascial pain syndrome, left leg length discrepancy, gait instability, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety disorder. Given the complexity of her medical history and in an effort to best meet the patient's needs, a multidisciplinary approach has been adopted. This includes the involvement of her primary care provider for chronic pain management, a neurospine specialist for epidural steroid injections as well as trigger point injections, an orthopedic for routine shoulder injections, a rheumatologist to manage her brittle bone disease, and a strict home exercise program involving swimming (aquatherapy) 5 days a week, 4 hours a day. This approach has historically proven to be successful at maintaining the patient's physical and psychological health stable.

However, it has come to my attention that in several occasions Elaine has not been able to access the ramp at the YMCA which is where she goes to perform her necessary aquatherapy. Consequentially, she has had several flare ups of her chronic pain. Not having access to the ramp puts her at an increased risk of injuring herself unnecessarily. Elaine is at high risk for fractures given her condition of osteogenesis imperfecta and her gait instability. Despite her efforts to address this with the YMCA facility, the problem has continued to persist and it has caused Elaine significant psychological distress. Elaine is now established with a counselor who is helping her work through the stress this situation has caused her.

It is imperative for the physical and psychological well being of my patient that her rights to access the ramp at the YMCA be respected so as to mitigate physical harm and unnecessary stress. It is my clinical opinion that unless this issue gets resolved, her quality of life and state of well being will continue to deteriorate.

Sincerely,

Electronically Signed by: IESSICA MONTEMAYOR, PA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Montemayor', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

05/17/2026

Cyprus Hall
609 Beech St

Dear Mayor & Aldermen,

My name is Cyprus Hall. I'm a Ward 4 resident and Ward 3 business owner. I'm a lifelong non-driver, in part due to a neurological disability and in larger part due to pure preference.

I walk everywhere, rain or shine. I walk to work, church, corner stores and yoga studios and cafes and parks and the library. The sidewalks of the central and north neighborhoods are my home, and I'm sorry to say that my home is in an increasing and dangerous state of disrepair.

Even in temperate weather on my relatively stable legs, my eyes are always glued to the sidewalk when I should be saving some of that awareness for the world around me. Cracks, dips, bumps, pot holes, root growth, overgrowth, debris, and missing slopes make nearly every stretch of my community's sidewalks a potentially injurious obstacle course. In inclement weather, these obstacles become even more dangerous, and more obstacles then present themselves.

I carry my daily needs to and from work in a small rolling cart which makes my trek even more challenging. This past winter, I closed my business several times, even when the roads themselves were clear, due to poor and absent snow removal on the sidewalks. I couldn't get myself and the things I needed to work safely. I only needed to get from Beech to Pine, and I couldn't. I couldn't even take a shuttle or rideshare because they won't take me with my cart—if they're available at all when I need them.

Increasingly, young people aren't driving. You can look up the numbers and it will shock you how many non-drivers there are under 30. Want people to "Live Work Play"? Want skilled workers and young families to come and stay? Decent pedestrian access is a no-brainer. Safe access to businesses for non-drivers *and* opportunities for drivers to *choose* to walk makes life easier and more affordable.

Pedestrian & disabled access are so severely neglected here in our Queen City that it presents not only physical and economic barriers, but it's downright embarrassing. A functional city needs safe sidewalks and crossings, needs disabled access. It is so fundamental and so basic and so obvious that it's shameful that we haven't done more already. But I know that we can do better and I'm excited to hear how we're going to do it.

Thank you

My name is Ellis. I'm 9 years old. My family and I just moved to Manchester from Auburn and I'm excited to walk on sidewalks because I've never really done that. I want to keep our community safe. I don't want dangerous sidewalks to harm us. I think it's scary to walk on the street without a safe sidewalk.

I want those who are houseless, disabled, kids, elderly people, and people who don't drive to be safe on the sidewalks because I care about them.

Also, I think walking and biking are important because it doesn't waste gas and doesn't pollute the Earth.

I also think bicycle lanes are important because I don't want bicyclists to get hurt on the road and I feel sad that people in wheelchairs have to use the bicycle lanes because the sidewalks are not clear and the snow is covering up the sidewalks.

I hope you will patch up the sidewalks and help our community to be safe. Also, I hope you will keep the sidewalks clear from snow. Thank you for allowing me to speak about sidewalks.

Ellis Daigle
255 River Rd, 03104

May 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen,

I write asking for consideration but frustrated that we have to bear ourselves to be treated equally. We have a vibrant city that is not accessible to everyone, and that is a problem the city ignores and has continued to fail to address.

It's important for the city to understand that using a handicap ramp or sidewalk to hold snow stops a person from being able to access the city. Those behaviors can cancel an appointment, end a family gathering, and make someone feel locked up. Add to that the limited parking spaces, and it's basically impossible for the majority of people with mobility issues to access anything in the city. Like the post office on Elm Street or the nearby YMCA, which has an accessible entrance but no corresponding handicapped spot. Of that, there are only two on that street. Only two people can be in that area of town at the same time. Without ramps and proximally located accessible spots, enforced by the parking department, someone in a wheelchair can't get into a business, can't get out of their car. The city does not do enough to keep people out of handicap spots and the ramp near them. I lost count of how many people without disabilities park there to pick up food. "It's just a few minutes" is not an okay excuse for locking disabled folks out of the city. That is what this does. It keeps the city inaccessible to all. This has a horrific effect on the mental and physical well-being of many in NH, most especially those of us who live right here in the city.

You have to change this and include us at the table as you talk about redesigning the city. An accessible world is life-saving. Right now, we have more isolation than inclusion.

Regards,

Hon. Jennifer Coffey, JP, NP, AA, NREMTI (Ret.), (She, Her)

78 Cartier St

National Volunteer Healthcare Advocate / Storyteller

Vice President | Mosaic Art Collective

Volunteer Social Media Assistant | CRPS Warriors Foundation

Volunteer Member Leader | Rights & Democracy NH | Rights & Democracy Institute

Volunteer Member Leader | People's Action | People's Action Institute

Volunteer Member Leader | Popular Democracy | People's Chorus

> ****Sidewalk Accessibility****

> Good evening. My name is Tamara Morris, and I have been a resident of Manchester since 1991. I appear before the council today to raise a serious concern regarding sidewalk accessibility in our city.

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> I do not drive and therefore depend entirely on walking and public transportation to reach my workplace, church, grocery stores, and family members' homes. As a result, I regularly travel on foot throughout Manchester and directly experience the condition of our pedestrian infrastructure.

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> In many areas of the city, sidewalks are inadequately maintained, hazardous during the winter months, or entirely nonexistent. These conditions pose significant safety risks and create ongoing barriers for residents who rely on walking as a primary means of transportation.

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> I urge the council to treat sidewalk maintenance and expansion as a priority. Accessible and safe sidewalks are not a convenience—they are a necessity for mobility, public safety, and equal access within our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tamara Morris

1033 Union Street 03104