

Snow Plow Hero or Criminal?

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When Mitch Fisher cleared the snow-covered streets in front of his elderly neighbors' driveways Wednesday, he didn't think he'd get punished for it.

But that's what Fisher, who lives on McCormick Street in Pocatello, says happened.

Fisher was given a \$206 citation Wednesday for depositing snow on a city road. Police say they fielded complaints from neighbors and from the city's street department that Fisher was putting snow on the road.

However, Fisher contends that he was simply moving the snow that was already on the road to his side of the street. Fisher says he'd used a four-wheeler to plow snow that was on the street against the curb. The pile of snow is no wider than a car. On Wednesday when a Pocatello police officer drove up to him and presented him with the citation, Fisher says he tried explaining what he was doing — that he was consolidating the snow that was already on the road.

"I tried to tell him that," Fisher said. "And he said, 'I don't care.'"

According to Pocatello police, putting any snow that was on one's property onto the road is prohibited. According to Pocatello city code, "it is unlawful for any person to deposit, place or allow to remain in or upon any public right of way any material or substance injurious to persons or property."

Fisher's neighbor, 78-year-old Carol Wardrip, believes Fisher shouldn't be reprimanded and that he was doing a service for her and his neighbors.

"He moved no snow from the sidewalk or the driveway into the street," Wardrip said. "He only moved street snow to one side so that we could exit our driveways. I don't know what I'd do without him."

Fisher says the next step for him is to appeal the citation.

"I tried to go down and plead today but they wouldn't let me because they said they can't figure out if it's a misdemeanor or an infraction," Fisher said. "The \$200 ticket I could care less about. ... I don't care if they want to go to a jury trial and spend all that money. I'll spend it for them. It's silly."

