



Department of Safety and Inspections  
 Skyways  
 375 Jackson Street, Suite 220  
 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806  
 Phone: (651) 266-9117

**DSI Staff Use Only**

File number: N/A  
 Date Received: 3/27/17 per stamp  
 Fee attached: MN/ff

**SKYWAY ORDINANCE 140.11**

**Exception to General Hours of Operation Application**

This application must be filled out completely. The application fee of \$110.00 must be attached. In addition to The significant reasons for requesting an exception to the general hours of operation, please attach any supporting information you feel should be considered in granting this exception.

**\*\*Incomplete applications will be returned.\*\***

**1. Reason for request Attach additional sheet if necessary**

See attached:

**2. Skyway to be considered for exception to general hours of operation**

City skyway number: 15 Crosses over street: Wacouta

Building names and addresses on each side of the skyway:

- 1. Gilbert Building 413 Wacouta St. at 6pm to that Building
- 2. River Park Lofts

Proposed alternate hours of operation: 6am - 8pm *already agreed upon by adjacent owners with use of keypad.*

**3. APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Name of contact person: Taunae Brooks

Building or company name: Railroader Printing Building

Street and number: 235 E 6th Street

City: St. Paul State: MN Zip Code: 55101

Phone number: (651) 231-2765 e-mail: jaunaebrooks@gmail.com

**4. PROPERTY OWNER(S) INFORMATION Complete only if different from applicant**

Name: David Brooks

Street and number: 235 E 6th St.

RECEIVED IN D.S.I.

MAR 27 2017

#### Reason For Request:

The safety and health of my tenants and general public who use my skyway are in serious jeopardy. The homeless have been literally living in my skyway for the past few years suitcases and all. They sleep naked and clothed, cook on hotplates, eat, poop and pee, smoke cigarettes and pot creating a fire hazard, drink alcohol, have sex leaving used condoms behind, use drugs intravenously and leave needles behind, litter, and vandalize my property daily. I have done my very best to contend with these issues to no avail. I have installed 6 extra cameras in they skyway and stairwell that notify me when there is movement. I can speak to the vagrants though the camera, which I have done throughout many sleepless nights. I inform them that they are trespassing and that I have called the police. After calling the police I wait and watch for them to come, however the police never respond to my calls or calls from my tenants for help in dealing with these situations. I have not had one response to a call placed to the police after hours. I was informed that that type of call is a priority 5, meaning low on their list to respond. Clearly that is the case. Currently there are nowhere near enough police to patrol or respond to issues happening everyday and night in the skyways. I feel that the safety and health of the tenants in my building as well as the general public using my skyway are at risk, directly due to the current skyway hours... being open until 2 am. Because the police do not respond to our calls, I am the one who engages with the homeless much of the time, a lot of whom are unstable and can be violent. I know I am putting myself at risk when confronting them, but there has been no alternative to help me. Eventually someone is going to end up hurt or dead, I pray it isn't me.

My tenants aren't always able to get up to their offices due to a homeless man sleeping naked in the elevator or loitering in the skyway. This situation happened just this morning for the second time in a week. My tenant had to call the police because there was a naked man sleeping in the elevator. She waited and waited, finally a male colleague from her office came and helped get him up and out. I don't think the police ever came to help her. This is a common occurrence in my building. This is not my tenants responsibility, nor should it be mine. I cannot be onsite 24 hours a day. We as tax paying building owners should be able to call the police for help, and they should come! If a tenant wants to come into the office early to work they shouldn't be afraid or threatened by a naked man sleeping in the elevator or sketchy people skulking in our skyway. That is not all the homeless do either, they use my public spaces for a bathroom, leave garbage as well as their belongings all over and vandalize my property.

It is not safe at this time for the tenants in my building or the general public that pass through after 8 P.M., this is directly due to the skyways being open until 2 am. The homeless start filtering in for the night after business hours have ended. I have hired security, they rotate through our building up until 2 am. It has not been effective as the homeless still find their way in. They know the schedule of the security, they know where to hide, and they know that the police do not come when called. We do not have the money in our budget to hire a security person full time, just to sit in our building all night, nor do I think that should be our responsibility. They would also be at risk for harm, and I would be held responsible if injured.

Over the winter months alone I have incurred huge costs due to the skyway being open until 2 am and the homeless misuse of it. I have spent more than \$10,000 on replacement of carpet multiple times, multiple new locks, new glass in broken skyway glass doors, multiple new cameras, private security, a lot of extra cleaning, not to mention all the hours I have spent myself personally cleaning up the messes left behind daily from the night before. I have been dubbed the "bum chaser" because of all the clean up I have to do and because I have to constantly shag the vagrants from my building. I have been a property developer and property manager for 27 years, and this is what my job has become. My tenants feel as though they need mace and stun guns for protection. I myself now carry mace if I have to come down to the building after dark. I am actually afraid of who or what I might find, and no one answers my calls for help. I spoke to the police about the use of stun guns and mace and they advised against it saying that we might be arrested by them or sued? What can we do to protect ourselves?

I take pride in my building and I strive to keep it clean and safe, however I am not able to do this alone, nor should I have to. I am losing tenants in my building. I have longtime tenants occupying three spaces that are up for renewal in the next few months and they are currently looking elsewhere for space. They have stated to me that it is directly due to the homeless that invade my building every night, the lack of response from the City and police for help with these issues, and the hours that the skyway is currently operational. These losses would be significant for me, upwards of \$1,000,000 over the 5 year period of these leases! Our taxes increased by 20% this year, with losses of 3 tenants, I will not be able to afford to operate my building. When I contacted DSI for assistance way back in September for help this past fall, this is the response I received... "I am sorry for the lack of enforcement options available to assist you with the vagrant issue in your building." With a response like that from the City and no help or response from the police as well, what are my options? I am very disappointed and honestly I can't believe how these issues in the skyway are being handled. I feel like I have been backed into a corner with only one way to keep the tenants I have, I need to be able to close my skyway at night at 8 P.M. for the safety of everyone.

Due to the fact that the City nor the police can keep my building, tenants and general public safe from vagrants and disturbances as well as health related issues due to the daily urine, feces, needles from drug use and used condoms, I am strongly urging you to grant me an exception to the ordinance and allow me to close my skyway at 8 pm. I have taken the initiative to contact the adjacent building owners, as well as discussing it with all my tenants including both restaurants, Barrio and Bulldog. Everyone is in agreement that for everyone's safety and health our skyway should be closed at 8 pm. After speaking to everyone and getting their feedback I came up with a solution for the people who still want or need access to our skyway. I have installed keypads on both sides of our skyway doors and given anyone who is in need of access a code so that they may pass through with ease at anytime day or night. The installation of the keypads and the use of a code has been accepted by all who needed or wanted access to my skyway. I have given this a trial run to see how well it would work, I have had no complaints from any tenants or adjacent building owners. If there are people in the general public who have complained, I am not aware. If so I would hope that they can understand that this is for

the safety and health not only of my tenants but for them as well. If there are others who are still in need of access I am willing to provide the code to them in the future. During the trial period I had absolutely no disturbances, health or safety issues in my Skyway. I believe that says it all... 8 P.M. is a reasonable time for our skyway to close.

My building is the end of the skyway with the exception of RPL, who are in favor of this change. The other skyway that adjoins ours to the Gilbert Building has already been granted an exception and has closed at 6 pm for many years now. It would seem reasonable that we should be granted that same exception.

I hope this helps you better understand the seriousness of my situation. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Jaunae Brooks

City: St. Paul State: MN Zip Code: 55101

Phone number: (612) 270-3198 e-mail: cigarwally@gmail.com

**5. ATTACHMENTS**

Please include the filing fee of \$110.00, and all supporting documents required for consideration.  
**\*\*Fee is not applicable at this time.\*\***

**6. APPROVAL/DENIAL**

An exception to general hours of operation for skyways may be granted if, after review by the Department of Safety and Inspections, the Skyway Governance Advisory Committee and the Saint Paul City Council, it is found that the information submitted is sufficient to warrant an exception.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the information provided in this application is accurate.  
I have read the requirements to apply for an exception to Sky ordinance 140.11.

Signature of applicant: [Signature] Date: 3/27/17  
Signature of owner (if different): [Signature] Date: 3/27/17

**FOR DSI OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date received at DSI: 3/27/17 per stamp City Staff: Thomas [Signature] 3/28/17  
Date submitted to Skyway Governance Advisory Committee: 3/31/17 meeting & 4/11/17 letter of resolution  
(Must be received at the City Council within thirty (30) days of this date.)  
Date received at City Council: \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
Tentative Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approval: Yes or No Resolution Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate hours posted within five (5) feet of all entrances to # \_\_\_\_\_ skyway as required.  
Confirmation of signage date: \_\_\_\_\_ by Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_