

From: [Kathleen Shannon](#)
To: [*CI-StPaul>Contact-Council](#)
Subject: Park Square Court
Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 5:25:33 PM

Regarding Park Square Court's request for an exemption to the skyway ordinance in order to close that portion of the skyway for three years, we are in agreement with the Skyway Governance Advisory Committee's decision to deny the request, and we strongly urge the City Council to deny the request. The proposed closure would block access to the skyway system for River Park Loft residents. For some residents of the building, it would be a 3-year inconvenience. For others, it would mean limiting their accessibility to needed services and social life for three years. River Park Lofts has a significant number of residents who specifically moved here because it is ADA accessible to the Saint Paul Skyway system. It is unconscionable that Park Square Court owners and managers would consider restricting those residents' access to the skyway system. At a Skyway Governance Advisory Committee meeting, the Park Square Court representative indicated that the proposed closure is necessary due to the difficulty and added expense of keeping access open throughout the remodel. How do you propose to weigh that expense against the limitations the closure would impose upon the lives of the people in River Park Lofts?

Beyond the particular concerns of River Park Lofts residents, the City Council should consider the implications for all users of the Saint Paul Skyway system. A 3-year closure of one part of the skyway system will set a precedent for the entire system. During our regular use of the skyway system, we've walked through a number of buildings under construction that have made provisions to keep the skyway open. It is unclear why Park Square Court should be an exception--and it seems likely that other building owners will use such an exception for Park Square Court as a model to follow.

At a time when business owners and residents are looking forward to the re-opening of the city after the COVID-related closings, it is hard to imagine a valid reason for closing a part of the skyway system.

Sincerely,
Kathleen and Patrick Shannon
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