



District 17

CapitolRiver  
Council

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April 11, 2017

Tom Ferrara, City of Saint Paul  
Councilmember Rebecca Noecker  
City of Saint Paul  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

**SUBJECT: Skyway Governance Advisory Committee action regarding variance request**

Tom and Councilmember Noecker,

The Skyway Governance Advisory Committee met on March 31, 2017, and discussed a request to reduce the hours of skyway access by the owner of the Railroader Printing Building, located at 235 East 6th Street. The building owner, Jaunae Brooks, has installed a keypad that would enable her tenants to access the skyway system using an access code, and she told committee members that she would be willing to give the code to any residents or tenants of neighboring buildings. She said people who are apparently homeless have caused damage to the building and made tenants feel like it is not safe. Her request was to change the hours of access to the skyway bridge over Wacouta Street, so that it would be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., except to those who have the access code.

Some committee members expressed sympathy for the building owner and tenants. However, Ms. Brooks also said she has called the police, and they have not responded, but a Saint Paul Police Department Officer at the meeting said that would not happen. Only a responding police officer can indicate that a call has been cleared, so if it is true that police are not responding, that would mean that an officer is violating the department's procedures and falsely indicating that he or she responded. Committee members also pointed out that the Skyway Vitality Group that has been formed by the Mayor's office and Council Member Rebecca Noecker is making meaningful progress on developing solutions to these kinds of problems, which affect all buildings in the skyway system.

Therefore, the CapitolRiver Council's Skyway Governance Advisory Committee passed a motion not to approve the variance request.

On behalf of the committee, I request that the City deny Ms. Brooks' variance request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Fure

Director, CapitolRiver Council