

I am a 17 year resident of Lowertown. A primary reason for purchase of our condo was skyway access to the Ordway, downtown restaurants and nightlife. My barber, dry cleaner, tailor, dentist, optician and bank are all on the skyway. Tonight we will be going to the SPCO, eating downtown and returning past 11 or 12 PM. Early skyway closure would require us to either walk home on streets with dubious corners (bus stop @ 5th & Minnesota, anyone?) or take a taxi for 9 blocks.

Previous policy required skyway ingress to be available as long as the building tenants were open. The Brooks building has not one, but two bars open until 0200. We are finally acquiring a viable entertainment district in St Paul, but with early skyway closure we are doing what Minneapolis has always accused us of: "Rolling up the sidewalks at sundown". We should be doing everything in our power to encourage tbar patrons to walk rather than drive. There are 8,000 residents of downtown and more arriving every year. Let's not revert to having St Paul close at 5PM.

Sincerely,

Dr Greg Peterson
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