

Department of Safety and Inspections

Exception Request to Skyway Hours for Railroader Printing Building at 235 6th Street East.

The property owner at 235 6th Street East requests an exception to the general Skyway hours stipulated in Saint Paul Ordinance 140. They are requesting to close at 8pm all days.

Background

Saint Paul City Ordinance 140 stipulates:

- Skyways to be open between the hours of 6:00am and 2:00am.
- Exception to hours must be approved by the City Council.
- Property owners are required to provide monitored video or patrolling security.

The property ownership at 235 6th Street East notes:

- Increase in skyway safety and livability issues (e.g. urinating, property damage, and physical altercations that put staff and the public at risk of personal harm).
- Applicant indicates cameras present in the building. DSI unable to document any patrolling security during skyway hours. Owner replied to Skyway Governance Advisory Committee question regarding security presence that they “have tried part-time, honestly cannot afford.”

On March 31, 2017, District 17 Council’s Skyway Governance Advisory Committee adopted a resolution opposing requested hours change.

Deputy Mayor Beckman and Council Member Noecker are co-chairing a Skyway Vitality Work Group. The work group consists of public employees and private stakeholders. The intent is develop action steps for creating public/private partnerships to improve the vitality of the skyway system.

Current work plan includes:

- Clarifying skyway security requirements of easement property owners
- Updating skyway behavior standards
- Amending skyway maintenance compliance process
- Discussion on skyway hours of operation

Recent work on “clarifying security requirements of private property owners” included a security survey of and a meeting of skyway easement property owners. The meeting was a collaborative effort of BOMA, the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, and the City. Based on the information collected, as well as information to be collected at a June resident skyway meeting, DSI will be developing proposed ordinance amendments related to security requirements of skyway easement proper owners. The amendments are anticipated to be before the City Council in July.

Recommendation

The City Council deny the exception request.

Chapter 140. - Skyway Conduct

Sec. 140.10. - Safety requirements.

The owner of a building containing an element of the Saint Paul Pedestrian Skyway System shall maintain said element in a condition so as not to constitute a hazard to its patrons and shall also comply with the following requirements:

- (1) On and after September 1, 1993, skyway bridges and public easements in, and areas accessible and adjacent to, buildings connected to the skyway pedestrian system shall maintain a minimum light level of ten (10) footcandles during all hours of operation. Lighting levels shall be measured within five (5) feet of the centerline of the pedestrian path throughout the skyway pedestrian system at approximately thirty-six (36) inches above the floor and in accordance with the standards as recommended by the Illumination Engineering Society (IES) unless the accessible area is greater than twelve (12) feet, at which time the illumination level of the entire area will be a minimum of ten (10) footcandles. Light fixture installation shall be so designed that failure of one (1) lamp will not leave an area inadequately lighted.
- (2) All elements of the skyway pedestrian system shall be maintained in a clean, sanitary, safe and seasonally adjusted comfortable temperature level of seventy (70) degrees Fahrenheit, plus or minus eight (8) degrees Fahrenheit, during the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., seven (7) days a week. The temperature will be maintained seasonally to within fifty (50) and ninety (90) degrees Fahrenheit at all other times. Temperatures will be measured at approximately thirty-six (36) inches above the floor in accordance with the standards as recommended by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). Design temperatures of sixty-eight (68) degrees Fahrenheit (winter) and seventy-four (74) degrees Fahrenheit (summer) shall be the standards during the skyway system operating hours. Building owners shall be responsible for necessary repair and replacement of damaged or deteriorated portions of the skyway pedestrian system. Hazardous and nonhazardous obstacles are prohibited so as to avoid the appearance of clutter.
- (3) On and after June 1, 1991, all areas of the pedestrian skyway system that, because of design, lighting, decorations or any other reason, may be construed as a "hiding place," as determined by the skyway governance advisory committee, shall be secured by a physical barrier, eliminated or monitored.
- (4) On and after June 1, 1991, all areas of the pedestrian skyway system shall provide a continuous, immediate, accessible and easy-to-perform means of communicating requests to the emergency dispatch center or "911." Communications may be provided by auto-dialed emergency response call boxes, working pay phones or other appropriate alarm devices. There shall be a minimum of one (1) means of communication located every three hundred twenty (320) feet measured linearly and a minimum of one (1) means of communication per building. These means of communication shall be located in prominent locations as determined by the skyway governance advisory committee and accessible during all hours of skyway operation. In areas where a means of communication is not visible, signage with directions to the nearest location shall be prominently displayed.
- (5) On and after June 1, 1991, signs providing location names (i.e., building name, concourse name, floor level and exits from the system) and utilizing easily readable lettering shall be prominently displayed in the pedestrian skyway system. The name utilized shall be unique and descriptive, so that calls for aid to that place name can be responded to accurately.

- (6) On and after June 1, 1991, the owner of a building containing an element of the pedestrian skyway system shall provide, in the building owned, for the reasonable observation or surveillance of the portions of the pedestrian skyway system located by video cameras or by patrolling security personnel.
- a. Video cameras used for observation or surveillance shall be monitored by personnel during all hours of skyway operation. The owner, when placing the video cameras, shall consider building design and internal layout, building usage and incident trends. The owner shall make every effort during the further development and implementation of a skyway security to achieve the optimum of a coordinated camera and voice communications and surveillance system. All cameras utilized shall provide video output at one (1) volt peak-to-peak, NTSC. The placement of cameras shall be reviewed for compliance with city standards by the skyway governance/advisory committee.
 - b. Patrolling security personnel used for observation or surveillance shall patrol during all hours of skyway operation and the frequency of patrol shall be determined by the building owner. The building owner, when determining the frequency of patrols, shall consider the size and design of the skyway portion located in the building, the type of uses located in the building, incident trends and the means of surveillance implemented in adjoining structures. The department of safety and inspections in consultation with the Skyway Governance Advisory Committee shall recommend minimum city standards for patrol and review for compliance to be approved by the city council.

(Ord. No. 17799, § 1, 12-20-90; Ord. No. 17895, § 1, 12-3-91; C.F. No. 93-1847, § 1, 3-2-94; C.F. No. 97-913, § 1, 8-27-97; C.F. No. 07-925, § 2, 10-24-07; C.F. No. 08-153, § 4, 4-9-08)