

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2022-12

I, Melvin Carter III, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, on February 23, 2022, pursuant to Saint Paul Legislative Code section 13.06, do hereby issue the following Executive Order:

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2020, I issued an Emergency Declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 12.29, which the City Council consented to on March 17, 2020, and which has been extended and remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, Saint Paul Legislative Code section 13.06(b) provides that, “whenever necessary to meet an emergency ... the mayor may by executive order promulgate regulations ... for which adequate regulations have not been adopted ... respecting the conduct of persons and the use of property during emergencies; the repair, maintenance and safeguarding of essential public services; emergency health, fire and safety regulations; and all other matters which are required to protect public safety, health and welfare in emergencies”; and

WHEREAS, buildings and residences in downtown Saint Paul are connected by a robust skyway system which allows downtown residents to move between buildings and provides downtown residents with access to essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, the hours of the skyway system are governed by Saint Paul Legislative Code section 140.10, which sets the General Hours of Operation and requires that “all parts of the skyway system shall be open to the public every day between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.”; and

WHEREAS, compliance with the skyway hours of operation requires monitoring by both Saint Paul Police and building owners;

WHEREAS, on April 9, 2020, I issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-5 to allow an individual with responsibility for a portion of the skyway system to close their portion of the skyway for which they are responsible at 7 p.m. provided that notice of the revised skyway hours are posted in conspicuous locations; and

WHEREAS, based on the easing of COVID restrictions statewide, the fact that the spread of COVID-19 had slowed, and the wide availability of vaccines and the recommendation of skyway stakeholders, I issued Executive Order 2021-23, which adjusted the skyway closure hours to keep the skyways open longer; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-23 was rescinded and replaced with Executive Order 2021-40, which allowed for an individual with responsibility for a portion of the skyway system is permitted to close their portion of the skyway for which they are responsible no earlier than 11:00 p.m., provided that notice of the revised skyway hours are posted in conspicuous locations; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-40 was extended by Executive Order 2021-44, which was set to expire on January 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2021-44 was extended by Executive Order 2022-6, which was set to expire on February 23, 2022 and which would return skyway hours to normal; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) identified new variants of the COVID-19 virus which are present in the United States and medical experts determined that some of these variants are significantly more contagious than previously known variants. The COVID-19 Delta variant has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” due to its high transmissibility and continues to account for a large number of new cases sequenced in Minnesota and Ramsey County, thereby substantially increasing the potential risk of infection and the spread of the virus through the community. The COVID-19 Omicron variant, which has been identified in Ramsey County, has been determined by the CDC to be a “variant of concern” and appears to be easily transmitted; and

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2021, representatives from the Department of Safety and Inspections met with representatives from SPPD, Downtown Alliance, BOMA, and Skyway Easement Property Owners and discussed that due to COVID cases resurgence a comprehensive and coordinated Skyway security and maintenance effort was not yet ready to move to adding additional hours; and

WHEREAS, a request was made to retain the current Skyway Hours of 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Melvin Carter III, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby renew the following Emergency Executive Order in order to keep the current Skyway Hours in place:

- Executive Order 2022-6 is extended to retain the current Skyway Hours and allow an individual with responsibility for a portion of the skyway system to close their portion of the skyway for which they are responsible no earlier than 11:00 p.m. provided that notice of the revised skyway hours are posted in conspicuous locations.

Pursuant to Chapter 13 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code, the above listed Executive Order will remain in effect upon my signature and, if not sooner rescinded or later extended, shall expire at the end of forty (40) days after the effective date or at the end of the declared local emergency to which they relate, whichever occurs first.

Signed: February 23, 2022



Mayor Melvin Carter III