

Mezzanine and Spiral Stair:

The mezzanine is approximately 388 square feet, has a current seat count of 16 and utilizes a spiral stair as its only means of egress.

Definition of a spiral stair per the 2007 Minnesota State Fire Code: A stairway having a closed circular form in its plan view with uniform section-shaped treads attached to and radiating from a minimum-diameter supporting column.

The stair at The Strip Club is a spiral stair. It is not a circular stair or a winder.

According to the current edition of the Minnesota State Fire Code, Section 1009.8 Spiral stairways are permitted to be used as a component in the means of egress as long as it is not more than 250 square feet in area and serving no more than 5 people.

In the 1997 Minnesota State Building Code, under which the mezzanine and spiral stair were constructed in 2001, stated a spiral stair could only be used in residential applications. The 2001 building permit was for a café, not the current business.

The 2001 building permit application specifically notes special approval for the mezzanine and spiral by the then building official and senior plans examiner. There is no mention of what the *use* of the mezzanine was to be for.

Summary: The mezzanine and spiral stair are not and never have been compliant per the letter of the code. Construction of the mezzanine was specifically approved in 2001 but there is no record of what it was to be used for.

Exiting:

With an occupant load over 49, two exits are required. All of these requirements are in Chapter 10 of the 2007 Minnesota State Building Code. The exits have to meet the following requirements:

- Doors shall swing in the direction of travel
- Doors shall have panic hardware
- Exits shall have a separation of ½ the diagonal of the occupied space
- Labeled with a self-lit or externally lit exit sign with back-up power
- Directional signs leading to the exits shall also be self-lit or externally lit with back-up power
- Aisles leading to exits shall be lit with at least 1 foot-candle of light
- Exits shall not go through a more hazardous area

Summary: The current seating layout accommodates 55 seats. The occupant load of the restaurant, according to square footage is 43, without the mezzanine. Any occupant load over 6 on the mezzanine would make the total over 49 occupants. Therefore, the above requirements would be applicable. The July 8, 2015 proposal from Johnson Consulting Specialists, LLC covers these items in general. DSI would like to see clear plans showing the exit path and location of exit signs and exit illumination.