Ferrara, Tom (CI-StPaul)

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 3:50 PM
To:

Subject: Fwd: Skyway Meeting Follow-Up

Dear Skyway Committee Members and Friends,

Below is a copy of an email I sent to Julie Bauch, manager of 180 E Fifth, as a follow-up to her presentation at our meeting last Friday. I thought you should see it, and I hope I correctly expressed the attitude of the committee.

It is not enough for us to oppose Julie's application to close her skyways early; we need to help her and other building owners and managers deal with these issues which affect us all and impede prospects for growth and satisfaction with Downtown Saint Paul.

Please share any suggestions you may have as they occur to you, and we will certainly discuss them at our next meeting if not before. Thank you!

Andy Flamm

Owner and General Manager / Cedar Printing / CedarBP.com
Securian Center, Skyway Level / 401 Robert Street N, Suite 211 / Saint Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-293-3904 / Fax: 651-293-3905
[redacted]

Dear Julie,

Thank you so much for attending our Skyway Governance Advisory Committee meeting last Friday. Your presentation regarding the issues you are having with misbehaving youths and homeless individuals was quite illuminating and good for everyone to hear, and I was sincere when I expressed our sympathy for your situation. Quite frankly, I don't blame you for taking action you feel is required to safeguard your tenants, staff and others.

The committee ultimately decided not to support your application to close your building's access to the skyway system early. Some of the members felt that we lacked the hard data necessary to determine if closing at 10 PM would significantly improve matters, whereas it would cut off an important link between Union Depot and the rest of the system. There was also a sense that if your building closed access early the troublemakers there would simply move to other buildings, and it is not hard to imagine those other buildings wishing to close early as well.

It is not our opinion that all reasonable solutions to the problem have been tried, so we are not willing to recommend crippling the skyway system into which so many resources

have been invested over the years. We do not wish to see a retreat from our efforts to help St Paul grow; rather, we think that growth will help alleviate some of the current issues. We realize that right now you are bearing many of the costs of dealing with these challenges, and it is only fair that the City partner with you and others to solve them.

The solution that seems most likely to yield positive results without working against the purposes of the skyway system would be a major cooperative effort by Police, building security staff and perhaps other members of the skyway community (a "surge" if you will) to deter bad behavior and remove those who refuse to be deterred. Exactly how this is to be achieved has yet to be determined, but I believe that with adequate resources we can drive out those who are causing trouble and make it clear they won't be allowed back.

In sum, the Skyway Committee shares your concerns, but we can't support your application to close early. I will do all I can to assist you and others in coming up with positive solutions which encourage growth and a safer, more pleasant environment throughout the skyway system. I do appreciate your understanding, Julie, and I hope to discuss this with you again soon. Thanks again for your time.

Sincerely,

Andy Flamm
, Chair, SGAC

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