

April 29, 2017

To the Members of the City Council of the City of St. Paul, Minnesota

According to my understanding, your upcoming agenda for your meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers in City Hall will include consideration if the owner of the Railroader Printing Building could legally lock access to the St. Paul Skyway System through that building starting at 8:00 p.m. daily. This would be a variance to the designated operating hours of 6 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily.

If I am correct with this **perception**, I ask that the City Council comply with city ordinances and send the proposed item to the Board of Directors of the Capitol River Council for the required public hearing and recommendations back to your body for final action.

According to law, requests for variances to the established operating hours or any other deviation of operating procedures of any part of the St. Paul Skyway System but be first submitted to the Capitol River Council. The Skyway Governance Advisory Committee is to hold a properly advertised public hearing to consider of any such requests and submit its recommendations to the full CRC Board of Directors who, in turn, will finalize its recommendations to the City Council for final and legal actions.

As owners of our property that is immediately across Sixth Street the Building in question, we never received any official notice of any public hearing concerning any such closure. To the best of our knowledge and believe, neither the CRC Board nor the Skyway Committee have ever held any public hearing on this issue. If such a hearing were held, we would object to the closure because we believe that such action would discriminate and/or cause unsafe conditions against the elderly, the disable and women in general.

For your information, I have been involved in the betterment of the St. Paul Skyway System ever since we began purchased on condo in River Park Lofts in July 2006. Through my initial efforts, I was able to convince city officials to bring about serious improvements of the chaotic and poorly managed city skyways. I was a member of the first Skyway Committee and remained for several terms until I decided to retire from active committee work. I was materially involved in the formulation for the operating procedures, designation of the operating hours and establishment of procedures to obtain permission to deviate from established rules and regulations.

Again, I urge that the City Council reject the proposed legislation dealing with the closure of the Skyways and require that the CRC Board perform its assigned duties.

Sincerely,

Terry J. Henry PhD

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