

EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER 2020-17

I, Melvin Carter III, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, on June 5, 2020, pursuant to Saint Paul Legislative Code Section 13.06, do hereby issue the following Executive Order:

On May 29, 2020, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 12.29, I issued an Emergency Declaration, declaring a Peacetime Emergency due to the civil unrest occurring throughout Saint Paul. On June 1, 2020, the Council of the City of Saint Paul consented to that declaration and, unless earlier rescinded, extended the emergency for thirty days, through July 1, 2020.

Saint Paul Leg. Code Chapter 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; fire and safety regulations; and all other matters which are required to protect public safety, health and welfare in emergencies”.

On May 25, 2020, a Minneapolis police officer killed George Floyd while he was handcuffed and in the custody of officers of the Minneapolis Police Department. Other Minneapolis police officers stood guard as witnesses begged the officers to provide life-saving aid to George Floyd. Civil unrest has arisen in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and across the country since Mr. Floyd’s death. This civil unrest included mass protests in Minneapolis on May 26-31, 2020 which caused injuries, looting and the destruction of public and private property.

This civil unrest, including looting and the destruction of property, spread to Saint Paul on May 28, 2020. On May 29, 2020 the Saint Paul Fire Chief reported that between May 28, 2020 and May 29, 2020, the City received over 300 calls for service, 126 of which were related to fire calls and 55 of which were confirmed fires.

Governor Walz, in Executive Order 20-56, has declared a peacetime emergency in the City of Saint Paul as well as the City of Minneapolis and the “surrounding communities”.

Buildings and residences in downtown Saint Paul are connected by a robust skyway system which allows downtown residents to move between buildings without going outdoors. Because it is indoors and passes through private buildings, the skyway system is difficult to patrol and, should civil unrest develop within the skyways system, it would require extensive manpower to control.

For these reasons, downtown leaders have expressed concerns regarding the safety of downtown residents, businesses and the skyway system infrastructure and requested that the skyway system be closed from 2:00 p.m. on June 5, 2020 through 6:00 a.m. on June 6, 2020 in order to protect the residents and these major assets.

The hours of the skyway system are governed by Saint Paul Legislative Code §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.”. On April 9, 2020 I issued Emergency Executive Order 2020-05 which amended Saint Paul Legislative Code

§140.10 and allowed building owners connected to the skyway system to reduce their daily skyway hour of operation to 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. On June 3, 2020, I renewed Executive Order 2020-5 to extend the emergency skyway hours until July 13, 2020.


In response to the civil unrest, I have issued Emergency Executive Orders 2020-11, 13, 14, and 16 imposing a curfew in all public places in order to protect individuals and property. In addition, I temporarily closed the skyway system from 4 p.m. on May 29 until 6 am on June 1, 2020. It is again necessary to close the skyway system in order to protect the safety of downtown residents and business owners whose residences and businesses are connected to the system from incidents of violence and vandalism in the skyway system.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Melvin Carter III, Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, do hereby issue the following Emergency Executive Order:

Section 140.10 (a) of the Saint Paul Legislative Code pertaining to the general hours of skyway operation is hereby amended during the current emergency to require the closure of the skyway system beginning at 2:00 p.m. on June 5, 2020 through 6:00 a.m. on June 6, 2020. I am directing owners of all buildings connecting to the skyway to secure the entrances to the skyway system and access to the skyway during this time.

Pursuant to Chapter 13 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code, this Executive Order is in immediate effect upon my signature and, if not sooner rescinded or later extended, shall expire at the end of forty (40) days after its effective date or at the end of the declared local emergency to which it relates, whichever occurs first.

Dated: June 5, 2020



Mayor Melvin Carter, III