

From: [Mitchell Imbertson](#)
To: [Luis Sanchez-Panadero](#)
Cc: [Adrian Neis](#); [Tom Ferrara](#)
Subject: RE: 325 Cedar St: Degree of Honor Skyway Hours Exception Application
Date: Friday, August 1, 2025 1:56:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Luis,

I don't believe this will be an issue if I am correctly understanding how they will set up the locks. The door marked red in their diagram would be ok to lock from the skyway side. This is not marked as an exit going from the spot marked as "common area" back into the hallway. If it had been a required exit, the door swing direction isn't correct and it already has locking hardware on it, so it clearly wasn't intended as an exit going in that direction.

Historically we have frequently allowed other setups for buildings to have a skyway passthrough without providing exits as long as there is no occupied space on the public skyway level of that building. I don't know if we have any permanent setups like this but it's somewhat common during construction. For an example right in this building, during construction to convert to residential, Angie and Steve Ubl had approved Degree of Honor to lock off the skyway level access to exits and keep the skyway open just as a hallway passing through.

Thanks,

Mitch Imbertson

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From: Luis Sanchez-Panadero <Luis.Sanchez-Panadero@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 10:35 AM

To: Mitchell Imbertson <mitchell.imbertson@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Cc: Adrian Neis <adrian.neis@ci.stpaul.mn.us>; Tom Ferrara <tom.ferrara@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: 325 Cedar St: Degree of Honor Skyway Hours Exception Application

Hello Mitch,

The Degree of Honor has applied for a skyway hours exception to close part of the skyway system within their building. As part of this process, we are looking for any comments or concerns relevant DSI divisions may have. It ultimately goes to City Council for approval. The request is to close a hallway that mainly consists of doors into resident's apartments and leads into the Capital City Ramp. Could you share any comments or concerns Fire Safety may have with the closure of this request?

One question that we wanted Fire Safety's thoughts is that on the skyway level of this building, the only exits (staircase and elevator) are within this hallway that is proposed to be closed. The doors into this hallway would be locked throughout all hours with tenants of this building maintaining access through their fob keys. Non-residents would need to exit out the adjacent Walsh Gaertner/InterContinental building or through the Press House. Would any signage be required or in the case of emergencies, Tom was wondering if DSI can request that the door unlock during emergencies.

Background Information:

With the ramp condemned, as well as the skyway that connects the ramp and The Degree closed, the residential hallway is currently dead-end. The applicant claims that trespassers have loitered at the end of this hallway, regularly leaving trash behind. The applicant is looking to close this hallway during all required skyway hours and would open them the Capital City Ramp is permitted to be open again.

The Skyway Governance Advisory Committee met last Friday and recommended approval of this request up until the Ramp is open again.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Luis

Luis Sanchez-Panadero

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DSI Inspector I

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