

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**ACCESS REVIEW BOARD**

In the Matter of the Application of  
Griswold Home Care

FINAL DECISION  
Dated: October 7, 2024

Application No. 24-06

This matter came on for hearing before the Access Review Board (“Board”) on September 10, 2024. The record closed at the conclusion of the hearing.

Board Chair Karen Gridley and Board member Jim Weaver were present in person, while Board members Marvin Forbragd, David Fenley, and Elise Wehrman were present via teleconference. Board member Fenley left the teleconference during the Board’s discussion of this application and did not participate in the Board’s decision.

The issue in this application is whether the application for a waiver of the State Building Code for the purpose of installing a stairway chairlift should be granted.

Griswold Home Care (“Griswold”) requested a waiver of the State Building Code to install a stairway chairlift in its premises in Anoka, Minnesota. Griswold rents office space on the second floor of the building. Griswold seeks to install a chairlift in the stairway in leading to the second floor.

The Board reviewed the application pursuant to the factors identified in Minn. Stat. § 471.471, subd. 3.

With regard to the first factor, the need for limited accessibility when a higher degree of accessibility is not required by state or federal law or rule, the Board noted that the Griswold’s application states that it has senior clients who have difficulty walking the stairs to the second-floor office space.

With regard to the second factor, the architectural feasibility of providing a greater degree of accessibility than would be provided by the proposed device or equipment and the cost of providing a greater degree of accessibility, the Board noted that Griswold’s application and drawing do not clearly identify whether there is sufficient space in the entry vestibule to install a platform lift but the installation of a platform lift would impact other tenant spaces.

With regard to the third factor, the total cost of the proposed device or equipment over its projected usable life, including installation, maintenance, and replacement costs, the Board determined that the total estimated cost for the chairlift and a ten-year maintenance plan of \$12,500 is justified.

With regard to the fourth factor, the reliability of the proposed device or equipment, the Board noted that the proposed chairlift is manufactured by Handicare, which is a reputable company.

With regard to the fifth factor, the applicant's ability to comply with all recognized access and safety standards for installation and maintenance, the Board discussed that the chairlift model includes dual call and send remotes, a folding seat, armrests, and footrests.

With regard to the sixth factor, whether the proposed device or equipment can be operated and used without reducing or compromising minimum safety standards, the Board noted that the proposed stairway is 52 inches wide, and the folded chair protrudes 15.125 inches. The Board determined that 36.875 inches of clear passing space on the proposed stairways is a compliant clearance as allowed by IBC Chapter 10, Sections 1009.4 and 1012.8 where the occupant load is more than 50. The building does not have a smoke detector system or an alarm system but does have a fire sprinkler system. The building owner provided a letter of support for the installation of the proposed chairlift.


After considering these factors, Board member Weaver made a motion to approve the application for a waiver from the building code to install a straight rail stairway chairlift in the proposed stairway leading to Griswold Home Care's office space in Anoka, Minnesota. Board member Wehrman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board's approval is subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The stairway chairlifts shall comply with all applicable building and elevator code requirements. **Only licensed elevator contractors may install stairway chairlifts. Proper permits, inspections, and certificates for use shall be obtained by the licensed elevator contractor installing the lift.** Licensed elevator contractors may be found by searching the list of licensed stairway chairlift installers on the Board's website at:

<https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/access-review-board>

- 2) The stairway chairlift shall be maintained in the folded position when not in use.

  
KAREN GRIDLEY, Chair  
Access Review Board