



## Walton County Building Department

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Freeport, Florida 32439  
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February 20, 2024

BOAF  
Ann Russo  
P.O. Box 5247  
Deltona, Fla. 32728

RE: Binding Interpretation #267

Ms. Russo,

I am writing this letter in reference to the Binding Interpretation # 267 that was requested and the exception in the Existing Building Code for the requirement of a sprinkler system. My position on this matter is the size of this building and the Occupancy proposed requires a sprinkler system to be installed. The Design Professional is trying to use the exception to avoid having the sprinkler system. I don't believe that the automatic smoke detection system provides the same level of protection as the sprinkler system would as the most stringent Code requirement would not be met. We are protecting life first and then property. The smoke detection does not provide any protection for the property. It has been stated that the Fire Department is just across the street from this project. This is true, however, this is totally a volunteer Department which would delay the response time in case of a fire. With this being stated, I am still requiring the sprinkler system to be installed, however, I will abide by the Binding Interpretation results whenever the decision is made by the Building Commission.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Billy Bearden, CBO  
Building Official  
Walton County