

August 24, 2023

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Florida Building Commission

I am in receipt and acknowledge the petition with all attachments from Abrams Law Firm regarding Accent Closets submitted for your consideration.

To clarify my position, I have attached my original code determination prior to revision from our former Assistant City Attorney. Having researched the code in effect at the time of original construction and following a logical path to the 2020 FBC 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Existing Buildings and the 2020 FBC 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Building to arrive at my conclusion as noted in my attachment as a "change of use". This Occupancy Classification requires a "fire area" for woodworking operations less than 2500 sq. ft. or have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed.

"Fire Area" as defined by 2020 FBC 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Building as follows... the aggregate floor area enclosed and bounded by fire walls, fire barriers, exterior walls or horizontal assemblies of a building. Areas of the building not provided with surrounding walls shall be included in the fire area if such areas are included within the horizontal projection of the roof or floor above.

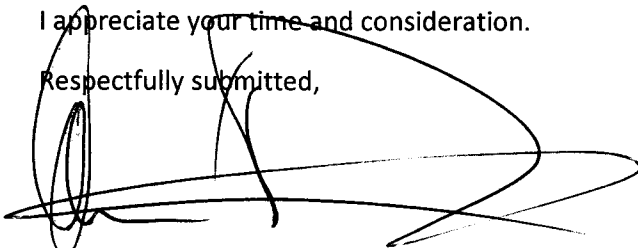
The Life Safety Plan provided from the petitioner clearly indicates the fire area containing the woodworking operations exceeds the maximum allowable area. The Building Data indicated on this plan has an arbitrary area associated with the recent mill working equipment installed, not an area as defined by the FBC. The photos also provided from the petitioner shows obvious wood dust particulate in and around the electrical panel and disconnects, water bottles, ductwork and floors through-out the entire tenant space.

It must be noted, the informal, non-binding interpretation from the Building Officials Association of Florida was considered in the final determination by the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals.

Based on all facts presented and the governing codes, laws and rules of this jurisdiction, I remain steadfast in my determination..... supported by the decisions of the local Fire and Building Appeals Board. My first and foremost responsibility as Building Official is the protection of lives and property.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Rada', is written over the signature line and extends into the name line below.

Michael Rada C.B.O.

City of Pompano Beach, Florida.