

From: Subject: Date: To: Cc:

From : Dennis Fernandez Dennis.Fernandez@tampagov.net

Subject : RE:2201NFloridaRequestforADAWaiver

Date : September 3, 2024 at 12:24 PM

To : stephen michelini smichelini@msn.com, JC Hudgison
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Cc : John Mistretta jam@mico.works, Nathan Kalasho natekalasho@gmail.com,
Angela Yue Yborcitygrandcathedral@gmail.com, Michele MotleyDeGuenther
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Good afternoon:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the historic preservation of the First Congregational Church building (c. 1907) at 2201 N. Florida Avenue. The former church is a contributing resource to the Tampa Heights national register and local historic districts. The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties recommends avoiding the alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that are characteristic of a historic property. It is my opinion that the degree of intrusiveness that the results from the vertical lift being placed on a character defining elevation of the historic building results in an adverse impact that diminishes the resource's historic integrity. The introduction of the lift and its resulting impact to the building's historic fenestration rhythm and stained-glass windows are significant consequences in providing access to the limited interior space it would service. Interior modifications also necessary to accommodate the landing and access points result in further undesired impacts. Given the prominence of the historic church building in the Tampa Heights historic district, a waiver to vertical accessibility requirements is warranted and would preserve the building's historic character. It is also justifiable based on the unique circumstances that achieving full ADA compliance would entail.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please let me know if you require anything additional.

Dennis Fernandez

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