PALM BEACH GARDENS COMMUNITY REPLACEMENT SCHOOL

Issue: Vertical accessibility to all rows of seating at stadium bleachers; vertical accessibility to all rows of seating at gymnasium bleachers; vertical accessibility to all rows of seats in an auditorium; and, vertical accessibility to the upper level of a two level computer skills lab.

Analysis: The applicant is requesting a waiver from providing vertical accessibility in four locations of a new, \$86,000,000 school. The auditorium contains 828 seats with 11 wheelchair accessible spaces dispersed between the upper mezzanine, midlevel main aisle and the front row. The gymnasium has a 1,421 seat retractabke bleacher system with 18 floor level accessible spaces. The stadium bleachers have 2,943 seats on the home side with 34 accessible spaces and 980 seats on the visitors' side with 16 accessible spaces. The home side seats are dispersed with 6 of the seats at the upper level serviced by an elevator and 28 in the front row of the bleachers, which are located 7 feet above the running track. The second level of the computer lab is 14 feet above the main floor of the lab. The main floor computer stations are all accessible, and the contractor estimated it would cost an additional \$15,000 to install a ramp to that area. According to the applicant, it would cost \$18,000 for a lift, excluding installation, to provide a lift to the upper level.

Project Progress:

The project is under construction.

Items to be Waived:

- 553.509 Vertical a ccessibility. Nothing in Sections 553.501-553.513 or the guidelines shall be construed to relieve the owner of any building, structure or facility governed by those sections from the duty to provide vertical accessibility to all levels above and below the occupiable grade level regardless of whether the guidelines require an elevator to be installed in such building, structure or facility, except for:
 - (1) Elevator pits, elevator penthouses, mechanical rooms, piping or equipment catwalks and automobile lubrication and maintenance pits and platforms;
 - (2) Unoccupiable spaces, such as rooms, enclosed spaces and storage spaces that are not designed for human occupancy, for public accommodations or for work areas; and
 - (3) Occupiable spaces and rooms that are not open to the public and that house no more than five persons, including, but not limited to equipment control rooms and projection booths.

Waiver Criteria: There is no specific guidance for a waiver of this requirement in the code. The Commission's current rule, authorized in Section 553.512, Florida Statutes,

provides criteria for granting waivers and allows consideration of unnecessary or extreme hardship to the applicant if the specific requirements were imposed.



To <mary-Kathryn.Smith@dca.state.fl.us>

cc "Lance Courtemanche" <lcourtemanche@tc-arch.com>

bcc

Subject RE: Waiver Application

History:

This message has been replied to.

Below please find the additional information requested. Please let us know if anything else is required.

Auditorium Seating - 828 fixed seats, 11 Accessible Spaces. The Accessible Spaces are spread equally between the upper mezzanine, the mid-level main aisle and the front row. All spaces are ramp accessible.

Gymnasium Seating - 1421 retractable bleacher seats, 18 floor level Accessible Spaces.

Stadium Bleachers - Home side - 2943 fixed seats, 34 Accessible Spaces. The Accessible Spaces are dispersed with 6 of the seats at the upper level services by an elevator to the Press Box and 28 spaces in

Row of the bleachers which sits 7 feet above the running track.

Visitor side - 980 fixed seats, 16 Accessible Spaces. The Accessible Spaces are dispersed across the front row of the bleachers which sits 7 feet above the running track.

In addition to the letter of cost previously provided by the Contractor to provide ramped access to the upper level of the computer lab, we have received an estimate of \$18,000 from the manufacturer to provide and accessibility lift to the second level. In this 2 level stadium style computer lab there is no difference between the main floor spaces and the 2nd level spaces other than 14" of height from floor to floor. Full accessibility to the second level via ramp or lift would physically not be possible within the square footage dictated by the State for these computer labs. This lab configuration has been proven to be the best configuration because the teacher has full view of all computer screens while working in lab and the student can rotate around 90 degrees to face the Teacher and the marker board during lecture.

René Tercilla, AIA, REFP tercilla courtemanche architects, inc. 561-478-4457

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From: Mary-Kathryn.Smith@dca.state.fl.us [mailto:Mary-Kathryn.Smith@dca.state.fl.us]

Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 10:17 AM

To: Rene Tercilla

Subject: Waiver Application

I'm in the process of reviewing your application for the Palm Beach Gardens School. You did not identify the number of seats in the auditorium nor the seating capacity in the bleachers and stadium, I need to know that figure to verify that you have provided the correct number of accessible seats. Also, no

estimates were submitted for the cost to provide lift(s) to the seats as well as the upper portion of the computer lab. The Commission requires the quotes to determine that a hardship, indeed, exists. Thank you for your cooperation. MK

The Department of Community Affairs is committed to maintaining the highest levels of service and values your feedback. Please take a few moments to complete our Customer Service Survey by visiting http://www.dca.state.fl.us/CustomerServiceSurvey/. Thank you in advance for letting us know what you think.

The Florida Discount Drug Card is designed to lower the cost of prescriptions for certain Florida residents. To learn more, visit http://www.FloridaDiscountDrugCard.com or call toll-free 1-866-341-8894 or TTY 1-866-763-9630.

Florida has a broad public records law and all correspondence, including email addresses, may be subject to disclosure.

This application is available in alternate formats upon request.

REQUEST FOR WAIVER FROM ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPTER 553, PART V, FLORIDA STATUTES

Your application will be reviewed by the Accessibility Advisory Council and its recommendations will be presented to the Florida Building Commission. You will have the opportunity to answer questions and/or make a short presentation, not to exceed 15 minutes, at each meeting. The Commission will consider all information presented and the Council's recommendation before voting on the waiver request.

1. Name and address of project for which the waiver is requested.

Name: Palm Beach Gardens Community Replacement School

Address: 4245 Holly Drive, Palm beach Gardens, Fl. 33410

2. Name of Applicant. If other than the owner, please indicate relationship of applicant to owner and written authorization by owner in space provided:

Applicant's Name: Rene Tercilla

Applicant's Address: 2047 Vista Parkway, Suite 100, West Palm Beach, Fl. 33411

Applicant's Telephone: <u>561-476-4457</u> **FAX**: <u>561-478-4102</u>

Applicant's E-mail: Address: rtercilla@tc-arch.com

Relationship to Owner: Architect of Record

Owner's Name: School District of Palm Beach County

Owner's Address:

Owner's Telephone: <u>561-434-8918</u>/ Cell <u>561-248-8253</u> FAX <u>561-434-8884</u>

Owner's E-mail Address: garciaa@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

Signature of Owner Selus Sujua

Contact Person: Angel Garcia

Contact Person's Telephone: 561-434-8918 E-mail Address: garciaa@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

This application is available in alternate formats upon request. Form No. 2001-01 3. Please check one of the following:
[X] New construction.
[] Addition to a building or facility.
[] Alteration to an existing building or facility.
[] Historical preservation (addition).
[] Historical preservation (alteration).
4. Type of facility. Please describe the building (square footage, number of floors). Define the use of the building (i.e., restaurant, office, retail, recreation, hotel/motel, etc.)
The project consist of a replacement community high school with 404,363 square feet total on all floors. Approximately 75% of the facility is in a three story configuration and the remainder is single story.
5. Project Construction Cost (Provide cost for new construction, the addition or the alteration): New construction cost is approximately \$86,000,000.00
6. Project Status: Please check the phase of construction that best describes your project at the time of this application. Describe status.
[] Under Design [X] Under Construction*
[] In Plan Review [] Completed*
* Briefly explain why the request has now been referred to the Commission.
The owner has instructed the Architect of record to apply for a "Request for Waiver" which address four areas of the building.

7. Requirements requested to be waived. Please reference the applicable section of Florida law. Only Florida-specific accessibility requirements may be waived.

- 1: FBC 11-4.1.3(5) Vertical access to all rows of seating at the stadium bleachers. 2: FBC 11-4.1.3(5) Vertical access to all rows of seating at the gymnasium bleachers. 3: FBC 11-4.1.3(5) Vertical access to all rows of seating in the auditorium. 4: FBC 11-4.1.3(5) Vertical access to the upper level of a two level Computer Skills Lab. 8. Reason(s) for Waiver Request: The Florida Building Commission may grant waivers of Florida-specific accessibility requirements upon a determination of unnecessary, unreasonable or extreme hardship. Please describe how this project meets the following hardship criteria. Explain all that would apply for consideration of granting the waiver. [] The hardship is caused by a condition or set of conditions affecting the owner which does not affect owners in general. [X] Substantial financial costs will be incurred by the owner if the waiver is denied. Providing vertical access to every level of seating in the auditorium, stadium and gymnasium would develop into a very expensive undertaking due to the large number of seating rows at these locations. The second level of the Skills Computer Lab is 14" above the main floor of the lab. The main floor level computer stations are accessible and to also make the second level stations accessible would require a lift which would be an expensive means to raise an occupant to the second lever. Another option would be to provide a ramp which would consume a great deal of floor area and therefore require redesigning the room to a larger size in order to accommodate the ramp which in turn would greatly increase the cost of the room. [] The owner has made a diligent investigation into the costs of compliance with the code, but cannot find an efficient mode of compliance. Provide detailed cost estimates and, where appropriate, photographs. Cost estimates must include bids and quotes.
- 9. Provide documented cost estimates for each portion of the waiver request and identify any additional supporting data which may affect the cost estimates. For example, for vertical accessibility, the lowest documented cost of an elevator, ramp, lift or other method of providing vertical accessibility should be provided, documented by quotations or bids from at least two

10. Licensed Design Professional: Where a licensed design professional has designed the project, his or her comments MUST be included and certified by signature and affixing of his or her professional seal. The comments must include the reason(s) why the waiver is necessary.

Accommodations for accessibility are presently provided in the four areas which are indicated in the "Request for Waiver" as per the attached documents. The accommodations provided are intended to follow the FBC 11-4.33.3 "Placement of wheelchair locations" requirements. To provided access to all individual seating levels would produce a very costly expense to the owner due to the large number of seating rows.

Signature

Rene Tercilla

Printed Name

Phoné number: 561-478-4457

(SEAL)

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT:

I hereby swear or affirm that the applicable documents in support of this Request for Waiver are attached for review by the Florida Building Commission and that all statements made in this application are to the best of my knowledge true and correct.

Dated this 27 day of	03	,20 68	
Julium			
Signature			
Rene Tercilla			
Printed Name			

By signing this application, the applicant represents that the information in it is true, accurate and complete. If the applicant misrepresents or omits any material information, the Commission may revoke any order and will notify the building official of the permitting jurisdiction. Providing false information to the Commission is punishable as a misdemeanor under Section 775.083, Florida Statutes.

REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION BY LOCAL BUILDING DEPARTMENT.

Please state why the issue is being referred to the Florida Building Commission as well as a recommendation for disposition. The Building Official or his or her designee should review the application and indicate that to the best of his or her knowledge, all information stipulated herein is true and accurate. Further, if this project is complete, explain why it is being referred to the Commission. The Building Official or his or her designee should sign a copy of the plans accompanying this application as certification that such plans are the same as those submitted for building department review. Please reference the applicable section of the Accessibility Code.

a. <u>Ithis issue is being referred to the Florida Building Commission because the plans do not show</u>
accessibility to all levels of the facilities as required by Florida specific requirements of FBC-Building section 11-4.1.3(5)
b. To the best of my knowledge, all information stipulated herein is true and correct.
c
Has there been any permitted construction activity on this building during the past three years? If so, what was the cost of construction?
[] Yes [X] No Cost of Construction This is new construction.
Comments/Recommendation <u>I recommend the Florida Building Commission approve the request.</u>
Jurisdiction Palm Beach County School District Building Department
Building Official or Designee Signature 3/25/08
Thomas Hogarth. PE,CBO
Printed Name
<u>BU0000316</u>
Certification Number
<u>561 688-7597 / 561 688-7654</u>
Telephone/FAX
Address: 3300 Summit Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL 33406

JAMES B. PIRTLE CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

D/B/A PIRTLE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

DESIGN BUILDERS • CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS • GENERAL CONTRACTORS

5700 GRIFFIN ROAD • DAVIE, FLORIDA 33314 • BROWARD (954) 797-0410 • DADE (305) 944-2262 • FAX (954) 797-6330

Thursday, March 06, 2008

OWNER*015

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY 3300 Summit Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Attn: Angel Garcia

Re:

PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH MODERNIZATION

Project No: 1371-7506 ADA Ramps in Labs

Dear Mr. Angel Garcia:

We have reviewed the impact of adding an ADA ramp into the skills labs for this project. The ramps would be required to allow wheelchair access to the area above the steps. The following is the basis for our analysis:

1) There are five (5) classrooms that incorporate this step design.

2) One ramp per room would be required to provide access to this area.

3) Each ramp would be 5 feet wide by 14 foot long.

4) The area of the ramp would be circulation space; therefore, the rooms that contain the ramps would have to be increased by 70 square feet.

Based upon the above, the cost to incorporate this step into the design before construction had begun would have increased the cost of the school by \$15,000 per room or a total of \$.75,000.

However, given the fact that construction has begun and that all the buildings that house these rooms have their foundations in place and most walls are stood, to incorporate a ramp at this time would involve a redesign of the all floors involved and the demolition, removal and relocation of those areas. The impact is difficult to address without a design concept; however, to incorporate these ramps given the current stage would involve a cost impact increase in excess of \$150,000 and a delay in the construction schedule of at least six months since all work in the affected areas would have to stop pending design information.

If you have any questions on the above, please call. As we are in the middle of construction, we would appreciate your decision on this matter as soon as possible.

Very truly yours, JAMES B. PIRTLE CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

Dennis Beran, Project Manager











