BOCA RATON HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM BLEACHERS

Issue: Vertical accessibility to all rows of seats.

The applicant is requesting a waiver from providing vertical accessibility to all rows of seats in a new, $9,715,000 sports stadium. The project has 3,014 seats on the home side which includes 33 accessible and companion seats and 972 on the visitor side with 16 accessible seats and companion spaces. The accessible seats are located on the first row of both sides which are reachable by ramps and at the top platform which can be reached by an elevator. The top level of the home side also will contain an accessible press box. According to the applicant, consideration was given with respect to the seating locations with emphasis on unobstructed sight lines.

Project Progress:

The project is under construction.

Items to be Waived:

Vertical accessibility to all rows of seats, as required by Section 553.509, F. S.

553.509 Vertical accessibility. 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.
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: **BOCA RATON HIGH SCHOOL, STADIUM BLEACHERS**

Address: **1501 NW 15TH COURT**

**BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33486**

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: **SCHENKELSHULTZ**

Applicant's Address: **1300 NORTH CONGRESS AVENUE**

**WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33409**

Applicant's Telephone **(561) 697-3451** FAX **(561) 697-5210**

Applicant’s E-mail Address: sferreri@schenkelshultz.com

Relationship to Owner: **ARCHITECT**

Owner's Name: **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, rep: PHYLLIS KARP**

Owner's Address: **3320 FOREST HILL BLVD., SUITE C-323**

**WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33406**

Owner's Telephone: **(561) 434-8874** FAX **(561) 357-7569**

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

Signature of Owner: [Signature]

Contact Person: **JOE THOMAS - Schenkel & Shultz, Inc.**

Contact Person’s Telephone **(561) 697-3451** E-mail Address: jthomas@schenkelshultz.com

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 FACILITY IS A HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS STADIUM WITH HOME AND VISITOR SIDE BLEACHERS. THE BLEACHERS HAVE SEATING FOR 3,014 ON THE HOME SIDE WHICH INCLUDES 33 ACCESSIBLE SPACES AND COMPANION SEATS AND 972 ON THE VISITOR SIDE WHICH INCLUDES 16 ACCESSIBLE SPACES AND COMPANION SEATS FOR A TOTAL OF 3,986 SEATS. THERE IS A PRESS BOX AT THE REAR OF THE HOME SIDE BLEACHERS WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED BY A COMBINATION OF STAIRS AND RAMPS OR BY AN ELEVATOR. ACCESSIBLE SEATING IS GROUPED AT THE TOP PLATFORM AND EQUALLY DISPERSED ON THE FIRST LEVEL OF SEATING.*

5. **Project Construction Cost (Provide cost for new construction, the addition or the alteration):** $9,715,000

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 SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT REQUIRES A WAIVER RELIEVING THE REQUIREMENTS OF FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 553.509 PRIOR TO CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY.*

*THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED THAT THE STADIUM BLEACHER DESIGN DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE INTENT OF THE GUIDELINES REQUIRING ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL LEVELS ABOVE AND BELOW THE OCCUPIABLE GRADE LEVEL BY INTERPRETATION OF THE CODE. WE AND OUR DESIGN STAFF SUBMIT THIS REQUEST FOR RELIEF AS OUR BLEACHER DESIGN PROVIDES ACCESSIBLE SEATING ON THE BOTTOM/FRONT LEVEL BY MEANS OF RAMPS AND THE UPPER/REAR LEVEL BY MEANS OF AN ELEVATOR.*
7. **Requirements requested to be waived.** Please reference the applicable section of Florida law. Only Florida-specific accessibility requirements may be waived.

**Issue**

1: *FLORIDA STATUTE SECTION 553.509: VERTICAL ACCESSIBILITY*

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**Issue**

2: ____________________________

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**Issue**

3: ____________________________

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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.

[X] The hardship is caused by a condition or set of conditions affecting the owner which does not affect owners in general.

*THE WAIVER IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A STADIUM FOR PUBLIC USE WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE BUDGET, PROVIDING ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL LEVELS OF THE BLEACHERS IS NOT FEASIBLE AND WOULD INCUR UNNECESSARY COSTS TO THE OWNER. OUR DESIGN STAFF FEELS THE PROPOSED DESIGN INCLUDES ADEQUATE ACCESSIBLE SEATING AND ACCESS TO THE PRESS BOX AND FILMING STATION WITH THE RAMPS AND ELEVATOR.*

[ ] Substantial financial costs will be incurred by the owner if the waiver is denied.

*NOT APPLICABLE*

[ ] 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.

*NOT APPLICABLE*
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 vendors or contractors.

a. **ALL ACCESS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RAMP AND ELEVATOR ARE ALREADY PART OF THE PROJECT AND IS NOT A SEPARATE LINE ITEM IN THE COST ESTIMATE.**

b. 

c. 

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.

**THE STADIUM BLEACHER SEATING ARRANGEMENT PROVIDES OPTIMUM SIGHT LINES FOR STUDENTS AT TWO LEVELS. FOUR RAMPS ALLOW ACCESS TO THE LOWER FRONT LEVEL SEATING WHERE SEATING IS DISPERSED ALONG THE LENGTH OF THE FRONT ROW. AN ELEVATOR PROVIDES ACCESSIBILITY TO THE UPPER/REAR LEVEL AND TO THE PRESS BOX. THE TOP ROW PROVIDES GROUPED ACCESSIBLE SEATING AND ACCESS TO THE PRESS BOX AND ADJACENT FILMING PLATFORM. IN THE PAST THE FILMING PLATFORM HAS TYPICALLY BEEN LOCATED ON TOP OF THE PRESS BOX ROOF ACCESSED BY LADDER; THE PLATFORM IS NOW LOCATED ADJACENT TO AND AT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE PRESS BOX TO PROVIDE ACCESSIBILITY.**

______________________________  ______________________________
Signature                      Signed Name

Phone number **(561) 697-3451**

(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 25th day of JANUARY, 2023

Signature

[Signature]

Printed Name

SAMUEL J. FERNANDO AIA

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. This issue is being referred to the Florida Building Commission because the plans do not show accessibility to all levels of the bleachers 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   I recommend the Florida Building Commission approve the request.

Jurisdiction   Palm Beach County School District Building Department

Building Official or Designee   

Signature   

Thomas Hogarth, PE, CBO   Printed Name

BU0000316   Certification Number

561 688-7597 / 561 688-7654   Telephone/FAX

Address:   3300 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33406