Good morning Chip,

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me on this important matter. As I stated before, the customer’s description of the project is somewhat misleading. Please refer to the attached documents, showing how at least 18 more employee spaces are being added upstairs (see electrical page showing receptacles and telephone jacks, indicating that this area will probably be used for multiple work stations), and the existing occupancy of the original offices there is unknown and could easily be more than 1 per office.

Their original 2007 permit was issued stating that no more than 5 employees would be in the upstairs area at any given time (see attached letters signed by both the owner and contractor at the time). That amount with this new modification has been greatly amplified. Using the method prescribed in Chapter 10 of the 2014 FBC, 44 persons would be used for egress calculations, etc..

Finally, the Accessibility Advisory Council documents state that no modification can be given to new construction, and that a build-out is considered new construction. Therefore we request that the waiver for needing a lift be denied.

Additional background information:
As you can see by reviewing the enclosed documents, Florida Foods was given a permit to construct 1980 sf of second story offices above existing offices, within a 32400 sf building. The 1980 sf second floor includes a 200 sf conference room and one set of egress stairs; permit number 2007791, issued 8/1/2007.

A signed letter was provided from Florida Foods that the intent was to have no more than five employees occupying the space at any given time.

On 9/12/2012 they were issued a permit, number 2012874, to construct a single story, 864 sf lab room adjacent to the offices below the offices mentioned above. At some point, without a permit, they enclosed its interior roof area, making part of it an office, server room, and mechanical room, and 437 sf storage. This storage area is the “office area” they say they are reconfiguring for four more employees. These office areas to be converted from non-permitted storage. The plans submitted say the second floor occupant load will be 44.

A large part of the area is open to both floors that would lend itself to providing space for a lift. There is also a great space at the new exterior stairs where a lift could be added.
Thank you very much for your time and attention to this important accessibility matter.

Best Regards,

FRED MARTIN