



City of Tampa
Jane Castor, Mayor

**Planning & Development Department
Architectural Review & Historic Preservation**

4900 W Lemon St
Tampa, FL 33609

(813) 274-3100 Option 3

TO: Dave Jennings, Interm Construction Services Center Manager

FROM: Dennis Fernandez, Architectural Review & Historic Preservation Manager

DATE: October 18, 2019

RE: 5137 N. Florida Avenue – Vertical Accesiblity Exepmtion

The property located at 5137 N. Florida Avenue is located in the Seminole Heights Local Histoic District. Based on its designation, the structure and its site are considered historically significant.

In review through the Construction Services Division, it has been determined that vertical access must be provided to accommodate the use (201.1.1 FBC-Accessibility). In that historic preservation has a goal of facilitating access to historic properties, exemptions to vertical accessibility requirements are cafrefully scrutinized by this office. Based on research within this division and the it has been determinied that a prior exemption of vertical accessibility may have been issued by this office by a previous administrator under project number 196464.

Through a current assessment of the request, I have determined that the exterior configuration and detailing of the structure make the introduction of an attached elevator or lift difficult. The structure's modest size and configuration would result in a significant modification to the strucutre that would adversley impact its character, in conflict with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

Based on the foregoing, this office recommends that vertical accessibility requirements be exempted, thereby protecting the historic character of the building. Notably, the owner of the property has stated that services availabe at the second level will be duplicated on the first level so that a reasonable accomodation is provided. The exemption is limited to the requirement of an elevator or lift and does not apply to other ADA requirements. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fernandez, Manager
Architectural Review & Historic Preservation