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# FAMILY FUN CONCEPTS, LLC <br> 722 PEACHTREE LANE <br> BOCA RATON, FL 33486 

November 1, 2011

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Re: "The Wow Factory"
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Coconut Creek, FL }3307
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## Item 8 from the "Request for Waiver" from Accessibility Requirements, Section 553.509 (Vertical Accessibility)

Family Fun Concepts, LLC is the applicant for the "Request for Waiver From Accessibility Requirements Of Chapter 553, Part V, Florida Statutes". Family Fun Concepts, LLC has developed a unique, familyformatted entertainment concept that will be located at 5891 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL. To date, we are currently in the design phase, and construction documents have not been submitted to the building department for permitting. The specific name of the family entertainment center will be "The Wow Factory". One of the attractions at the facility will consist of a Laser Tag Arena. The $2^{\text {nd }}$ level of the arena (mezzanine level) is the issue for consideration of the Accessibility Waiver.

The main floor level of the Laser Tag Arena is approximately 2,700 square feet. It should be noted, with respect to ADA conformance, that the arena has been designed so that all of the game's features are present on the main level. Team base stations and scoring icons are each located on the main level to insure that play remains focused within this area. The main level is completely accessible, and all elements pass ADA requirements. The proposed 2nd level (mezzanine level) accounts for approximately $30 \%$ ( $1,250 \mathrm{sf}$ ) of overall square footage, and is only present as a means to increase player capacity within the attraction.

As a family-focused entertainment facility, safety remains our primary concern. In our opinion, the use of elongated, elevated platforms necessary to support ADA standards, would place undue risk on both, individuals confined to wheelchair equipment, as well as, consumers not affected by such conditions. The presence of disabled players, in wheelchairs, on ramps leading to an elevated platform of a dimly lit arena, will significantly increase the potential for physical contact, possibly leading to serious injury with one or more players.

In closing, we would like to point out that there are multiple locations, throughout Florida, that are utilizing a $2^{\text {nd }}$ level, in their laser tag arenas, in the same fashion that we are proposing. A few of note are:

- Laser Quest - Sunrise, FL
- Xtreme Adventures Family Fun Center - Lutz, FL
- The Wood Laser Tag - Ocoee, FL

We appreciate your consideration of this waiver application.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Head
Family Fun Concepts, LLC

# DYNAMIC DESIGNS, P.C. 259 EAST FRANK ST. <br> BIRMINGHAM, MI 48ロロ9 

November 1, 2011
Request for Waiver Form
Accessibility Requirements
Section 553.509
Florida Statues
Re: The Wow Factory
5891 Lyons Road
Coconut Creek, FI. 33073

Dynamic Designs, P.C. is a nationally recognized architectural design firm with over 30 years of experience in the commercial market. Our team of experienced professionals has been entrusted by our clients to design entertainment spaces throughout the world. Every year we design approximately seventy-five percent of our projects with a Laser Tag Arena.

In order for us to provide accessibility to an elevated platform we will need two $108^{\prime}$ long egress ramps with a $1: 12$ slope leading to the 9 ' high elevated platforms plus four $5^{\prime}$ level landings for a total horizontal run of 128'. In our opinion, one accessible ramp from a platform is inadequate and poses a life safety hazard since it is critical that we provide players with a second means of egress in case one ramp is blocked by fire.

Based on our extensive experience in Laser Tag facilities, we strongly feel that it is technically infeasible to incorporate the long accessible ramps into our arena without fundamentally altering our game for the following reason:

## A. Floor Space Requirements

To comply with the code for accessible ramps to our elevated platform, we would have to provide the following ramp systems:

Two accessible egress ramps with 1:12 slope
From the elevated platform (2) x (4' w x 128') 1,024 sf
Total Playing Arena Ground Floor Area 2,716 sf
\% of Ground Floor Area Occupied by Ramps 38\%
We strongly feel that it is very unreasonable to expect us to occupy over $38 \%$ of our entire playing arena with non-playing circulation space.

## B. Configuration Problems

Notwithstanding the exorbitant amount of floor space occupied by the accessible ramps, it would be technically infeasible to configure 1,024 linear feet of winding ramps within the 2,716 sf of playing arena without fundamentally altering the nature of the game. The extremely long accessible ramps will invariably produce a series of intertwined vertical circulation structures without any long-term recreational value. We also feel that disabled players would be subject to undue physical stress in utilizing 128 ' ramps to access the elevated platforms with very limited interaction with other players. The facility is dimly lit arena and can significantly increase the potential for physical contact leading to serious injury with one or more players abled or disabled. As design professionals, it is our duty and obligation to minimize or eliminate all unsafe playing conditions, and we feel that by encouraging accessibility to the ramps and elevated platforms, it will invariably result in a large number of serious injuries to abled and disabled players.

If our ramp is approved with a minimum slope of $25 \%$, the disabled players would be able to enjoy $88 \%$ of the floor area on the first floor. As design professionals we will take great care of this space and design it for everyone's enjoyment.

With all of our experience, Dynamic Designs has never been forced to comply with accessibility requirements for our elevated platforms in the Laser Tag arenas. In all of our locations, the regulatory bodies have carefully evaluated our game and have acknowledged that forcing full accessibility to the elevated platforms of our arena would jeopardize the viability of our client's business and would fundamentally alter the game for all players.

Thank you for taking our request into consideration. Dynamic Designs is committed to public safety and are in compliance throughout the rest of the Wow Factory facility.

Yours truly,
Dynamic Designs, P.C.

Howard S. Ellman, AIA




