

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND  
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**

**MEETING OF THE**

**ELEVATOR SAFETY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023**

**COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM**

**HELD AT:**

**STAYBRIDGE SUITES ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD**

**6985 SEA HARBOR DRIVE,**

**ORLANDO, FL 32821**

**AUDIO TRANSCRIBED BY:**

**CLARA ROTRUCK, FOR THE RECORD REPORTING**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

**The Elevator Safety Technical Advisory Council meeting was called to order at approximately: 9:00 a.m. by Josh Phillips, Bureau Chief of Elevator Safety.**

### **Members Present**

William (Bill) Snyder

Abel Arabitg

Dale Deleacaes

David Alekna

Douglas Kai

Steve LaRocca

### **Members Not Present**

Vacant, Building Design

Vacant, General Public

### **Others Present**

Josh Phillips: Bureau Chief, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Kela Bishop, Deputy Chief, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Bob Stark, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Chris Macduff, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Michael Garcia, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Scott Crawl, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Joey Gan, City of Miami Beach, Chief Elevator Inspector

Nicolas Ortiz, Miami-Dade County, Chief Elevator Inspector

Vincent Jimenez, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Keshia Pierre, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

### **On the Phone**

Alan Hutto, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

John Hofbauer, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Marc Drexler, DBPR, Office of General Council

THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH A ROLL CALL AND A QUORUM WAS ESTABLISHED.

### **Statement of Purpose- Kela Bishop, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Elevator Safety**

Ms. Bishop read the statement of purpose and role of the ESTAC as specified in statute.

### **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Acting Chair Bill Snyder called for acceptance of minutes for the February 1, 2023, meeting.

MOTION: Dale Deleacaes made a motion to accept the minutes.

SECOND: David Alekna seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Bureau of Elevator Safety Report- Josh Phillips, Bureau Chief**

Chief Phillips informed the council that there are currently no vacancies for the Division's State Inspectors and coverage is maintained throughout the State, with exception to the contracted jurisdictions.

#### **Administrative Update:**

Chief Phillips reported there are 63,995 conveyances licensed in the State and 92.4% of those licenses are current. Chief Phillips stated the application processing time is roughly 48 hours or less. He further stated the Bureau has monitored 88% of all 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspectors who have submitted an inspection report this fiscal year.

#### **Rule Report:**

Chief Phillips reported that Rule 61C-5.006 is in the final step of the adoption process. This rule is a formal adoption of the accident form and includes definitions of accident and entrapment. Once the rule is in effect, the Bureau will be looking at an easy electronic submittal process.

Chief Phillips reported that Rule 61C-5.016, is in the beginning of the adoption process. This rule is in regard to the ESTAC guidelines, and the Bureau is looking to repeal the rule as it is no longer needed. After approval, this moves to the notice phase.

### **Legislative Session:**

Chief Phillips stated there are a few proposals in the works for changes to Chapter 399 F.S. and Administrative code 61C-5. He stated the Director's office has requested a requirement of an online account for elevator owners and professionals to streamline the renewal process. Chief Phillips stated the Bureau is looking into requirements of residential elevators. He stated they would like the permit to install be pulled by a registered elevator company and the initial acceptance inspection be performed by a licensed certified elevator inspector. The Bureau is looking at the removal of the two-stop exemption and is working with technology to create an online inspection form template. The Bureau is also going to address size requirements for first responder stretchers and clear up language regarding alteration permits. The Bureau is interested in raising minimum fine amounts for non-compliance. Finally, Chief Phillips stated the Bureau is waiting for directives from the Secretary's Office about the name change of Reedy Creek to Central Florida Tourism Oversight.

### **Council Nominations**

Acting Chair Bill Snyder called for nomination for Council Chair and Council Vice Chair.

#### **Council Chair:**

David Alekna nominated Bill Snyder. Douglas Kai seconded the nomination. With no other nominations for the seat, Bill Snyder became Council Chair.

Council Vice Chair:

David Alekna nominated Abel Arabitg. Bill Snyder seconded the nomination. With no other nominations, Abel Arabitg became Council Vice Chair.

**Industry Update**

**Building design professional:** vacant.

**Public:** vacant.

**Labor:** Represented by Abel Arabitg. Mr. Arabitg stated there have been some licensing issues, but it sounds like that is being addressed. Mr. Arabitg opened the floor to discussion on maintenance routes and the number of accounts that the mechanics have to do regular maintenance on. Mr. Arabitg expressed concerns on the high-volume number of accounts that are assigned to some mechanic routes. No action was taken.

**Local Government:** Represented by Dale Deleacaes. Mr. Deleacaes stated that the City of Cape Coral has changed their local ordinance involving elevator monitoring companies. In the event of an entrapment or accident, the monitoring company must notify local fire department as well as the elevator technician. Mr. Deleacaes further stated they have extended the local ordinance for emergency two-way communication in the hoistway to also include the elevator car as a critical area. This update was to ensure the two-way communication would work while the emergency personnel is in the elevator car.

**Manufacturing:** Represented by Douglas Kai. Nothing to discuss.

**Private Inspections:** Represented by Bill Snyder. Mr. Snyder stated the inspectors are very busy and this time of year tends to be the busy season. After discussion, no action was taken.

**Elevator Service Companies:** Represented by David Alekna. Mr. Alekna opened discussion about door lock monitoring and possible inspection violations. Parts have been difficult to obtain. After discussion, no action was taken.

**Building Owners and Managers:** Represented by Steve LaRocca. After introduction, nothing to discuss.

## **Old Business**

### **Key Boxes and Alternative testing**

Mr. Phillips stated the Bureau has started on rule language for key boxes and will address that further in the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Phillips also stated that the state is willing to look at specific alternative testing, but no companies who do such testing, have reached out.

### **Industry Bulletins**

Mr. Phillips informed Council of two industry bulletins released by the Bureau. The first is in regard to tag and records being marked correctly, and the second is in regard to elevator disconnects being protected against public access.

### **Private Residence Elevators and 2-Stop Exemptions**

Mr. Snyder stated there are two issues that the council needs to re-visit. He stated the first is a need for Initial Acceptance Inspections to be performed on private residence elevators and the second is the 2-Stop Exemption. Mr. Snyder stated that he is an advocate for safety and code compliance and believes that the Bureau needs to continue pursuing these topics in the interest of public safety.

After discussion, no action was taken.

## **New Business**

Mr. Snyder asked for discussion and recommendations for the Florida Building Commission on adoption of A.S.M.E 17.1-2019, 17.3-2020, and 18.1-2020. The Council discussed many

changes from the earlier editions to these editions and discussed whether the Building Commission should revert back to the A17.3-2017 version. Mr. Snyder recommended moving forward with A17.3-2020 as it is very clear on door lock monitoring for hydraulic elevators. Discussions commenced on emergency brakes and unintended movement (3.8.5, 3.13.1, 3.10.13, 3.10.14, and 3.13.2) which will come in under A17.3-2020. A phase in period (Capital Improvement Plan) for these items was recommended by council members. Due diligence from elevator owners will be critical when understanding if, and when these A17.3-2020 items are required, or if they are already included based on the year the elevator was built.

Extending the deadline for door lock monitoring for another 2 years was discussed due to a backlog of parts, and most notably labor requirements.

Mr. Snyder discussed some minor changes in A18.1-2020, which includes a new type of lift called a 'performance area lift'.

Bill Snyder asked if Council had any feedback on the change from the 2013 language to 2016 and 2019 language that states, it is considered an alteration if the governor is replaced and therefore requires testing.

After discussion, a small task group will take a look at rule language to clarify requirements and expand definitions regarding testing.

There was discussion from the Council and audience about writing in Rule language that would make governor replacement a formal alteration to include testing and witnessing. Suggestion was supported by Chair Snyder.

Joey Gan asked about compliance with witnessing annual generator testing. Mr. Phillips stated the Bureau put out an industry bulletin on this topic in September 2022. Council discussed the need for the tests to be performed by a technician as well having it witnessed by an elevator inspector, installer, and possibly fire inspectors.

### **Open Discussion**

Council discussed flood insurance issues from the past hurricanes. Council also discussed door lock monitoring upgrades along with alterations and modernizations. Finally, Council discussed the Bureau future upgrades to Bureau technology, electronic inspection reporting, and scope of work for permits.

After Discussion, no action was taken.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Joey Gan stated they would like to share a presentation at the next meeting regarding new dispatch and touch screen operations of elevators for the blind.

The Council discussed the date of the next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for December 13, 2023 in Cocoa, Florida.

The council will also hear from the task group regarding testing and alternative testing.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:39 a.m.

