

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND  
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**

**MEETING OF THE**

**ELEVATOR SAFETY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024**

**COMMENCING AT 8:30 AM**

**HELD AT:**

**STAYBRIDGE SUITES ORLANDO AT SEAWORLD**

**6985 SEA HARBOR DRIVE,**

**ORLANDO, FL 32821**

**MEETING TRANSCRIBED BY:**

**VICKY BARWICK, MARGE RAEDER COURT REPORTER, INC.**

## CALL TO ORDER

The Elevator Safety Technical Advisory Council meeting was called to order at approximately: 8:30 a.m. by William Snyder, Council Chair.

### Members Present

William (Bill) Snyder, Chair

Douglas Kai

David Alekna

Abel Arabitg, Vice Chair, by phone

Stephen LaRocca, by phone

### Members Not Present

Vacant, Building Design

Vacant, General Public

Dale Deleacaes

### Others Present

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

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

Juan Calderin, City of Miami

Nicolas Ortiz, Miami-Dade County

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

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

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

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

Vincent Jimenez, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Michael Garcia, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Savanna Clarkston, NEII

Tommy Scudero, IUEC Local 71

Tommy Demopoulos, Fire Marshal, City of Tamarac

Jose Hernandez, Central Florida Tourism Oversight District

Mario Garcia, Central Florida Tourism Oversight District

Joey Rodriguez, Sr., Central Florida Tourism Oversight District

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**

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

**Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chair Bill Snyder called for acceptance of minutes for the December 6, 2023, meeting.

MOTION: Douglas Kai made a motion to accept the minutes.

SECOND: Abel Arabitg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Chief Phillips informed the council that there is one vacant State of Florida Elevator Inspector position currently being advertised due to the retirement of Inspector David Zettle at the end of the month.

Chief Phillips expressed appreciation to the council members for their dedication to the elevator trade in all aspects within the State of Florida. He further stated the Bureau will look to this committee to assist with safety recommendations for new and existing equipment, code requirements, statute and rule mandates, as well as seek for each member to uphold the responsibilities laid out in statute to take an active role in fulfilling your duties.

**Administrative Update:**

Chief Phillips reported as of February 19, 2024, there are 65,864 moving conveyances licensed in the State and 85.2% of those licenses are current. The Bureau has 2,413 Certified Elevator Technicians and 647 Certified Elevator Inspectors currently licensed. Chief Philips further stated

the Bureau has monitored 89.9% of all 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspectors who have submitted an inspection report since July 1, 2023. He said the application processing time is between one and two days from receipt. On February 1, 2024, final notices were sent to delinquent certificate of competency holders reminding them that if they do not renew, their license will become null & void as of March 2, 2024. Renewal applications for all moving conveyance licenses will open April 1, 2024, and non-renewed licenses will expire August 1, 2024. Chief Phillips reminded everyone that to renew a two-stop exempt license, a service maintenance contract verification form is required to be submitted within the previous 365 days from the date of renewal.

#### **Rule Report:**

Chief Phillips stated there are no rules moving forward at this point.

#### **Legislative Session Updates:**

Chief Phillips reported there is one House Bill (HB 1544) moving forward with the requirement of an online account for all license holders and customers. Chief Phillips stated he was presented with House Bill 267 earlier this week that council will discuss under new business today.

After discussion, no action was taken.

#### **Industry Update**

**Building design professional:** vacant.

**Public:** vacant.

**Private Inspections:** Represented by Chair Bill Snyder. Mr. Snyder stated the inspectors are performing a lot of inspections. Mr. Snyder again encouraged other council members to attend an Elevator Association meeting to gain some visibility with them.

**Labor:** Represented by Vice Chair Abel Arabitg. Mr. Arabitg stated the industry has a lot of work including modifications. He said that technicians relocating to Florida has been helpful, but more are needed.

**Local Government:** Represented by Dale Deleacaes. Not present.

**Manufacturing:** Represented by Douglas Kai. Mr. Kai stated the industry is experiencing shortages with labor and with quality of labor in the field and in management. Mr. Kai stated they would like more technology advances, specifically with historical inspection access. He stated they want access to more data and want to be able to pull data in bulk for a specific piece of equipment.

**Elevator Service Companies:** Represented by David Alekna. Mr. Alekna responded to Mr. Kai's comment and said that the State provides all the inspection data, it may not be the most user friendly, but the data is available. Mr. Alekna agreed there are shortages in labor and there is a need for better employee training. He said there is plenty of opportunity for work as building owners are becoming more aware of the inspection requirements for their elevators.

**Building Owners and Managers:** Represented by Steve LaRocca. Mr. LaRocca stated they have been pushing information out to building owners to get them more informed about their elevators and forcing them to be more involved in the process. Mr. Snyder said for a long time, building owners thought the elevator was the problem of the service company and they didn't need to deal with it, but they are realizing that it is their problem too. Mr. LaRocca agreed.

## **Old Business**

### **Rule 61C-5.001**

Chief Phillips stated the rule has been adopted and the effective date for enforcement is January 30, 2024.

### **Governor Replacement permitting and testing per A17.1 – 2016 edition**

Council agreed that this issue is no longer relevant because of the adoption of the A17.1 2019 edition of the code.

### **Alterations based on 8.6 test requirements**

Chief Phillips stated the Bureau is still working on development of a repair permit that is separate from the alteration permit.

After discussion, no action was taken.

### **EC H900 Controllers**

Chair Snyder stated the onsite documentation is critical especially when it comes to controllers that may or may not have door lock monitoring. Chair Snyder further stated the inspectors must be looking for it and write violations if it is not.

After discussion, no action was taken.

### **Accessibility Code**

Mr. Alekna stated the accessibility code requires new installs to have 3D protection on the door's edge. He further stated he believes it is a safety issue for older elevators to be allowed to continue using the safety boot.

After discussion, council will propose recommendations for the accessibility code under the Florida Building Code.

## **New Business**

### **Florida Statute Chapter 399 Language Recommendations**

Chief Phillips stated he put together language proposals for council to review and possibly provide comments or recommend changes.

Council discussed 399.035 stretcher size and agreed that it should be addressed in the Florida Building Code and not Chapter 399 FL Statutes.

After discussion, no action was taken.

Council discussed 399.035 support rails and agreed that each cab must have at least one support rail that measures 42 inches in length. Council further agreed the cab can have additional support rails that may be shorter in length.

MOTION: Douglas Kai made a motion to accept the language as discussed provided by NEII.  
SECOND: David Alekna seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council reviewed proposed language for Chapter 399.01 work experience and apprenticeship requirements.

After discussion, council will address at a future meeting.

### **Code Adoption for 2026**

Chair Snyder stated the council members will review the newest editions of code and provide a list of codes they want to have discussion on.

### **Industry Bulletins**

#### **Generator Testing with Licensed Technicians**

Chief Phillips presented a bulletin that will be communicated to the industry detailing which personnel (mechanic, technician, generator personnel, etc.) must be present for each type of testing.

## Safety Recall

Chief Phillips stated this bulletin was included in one of the newsletters to the industry. The bulletin states that if there is a safety recall found to be damaged or failing, it is mandatory that it is replaced.

## Jumpers – Dos and Don'ts

Chief Phillips stated this bulletin serves a reminder because jumpers are used in testing of door lock monitoring.

Council discussed the impact of industry bulletins on safety and agreed the bulletins are having the desired effect.

## FBC 3010.1.3

Council discussed whether there is a need for an elevator designation outside of the state serial number such as A, B, C. The issue will be discussed at another upcoming advisory council meeting.

## **Open Discussion**

Council discussed flood resistant designs and the effectiveness of industry bulletins.

After brief discussion, no action was taken.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

The Council discussed the date of the next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for June 11, 2024, in Tallahassee.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:38 am.