Development Services

From Concept to Construction







APPEAL SUMMARY

Status:	Decision F	Rendered
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Appeal ID: 18785 Project Address: 9800 SE Powell Blvd Hearing Date: 12/19/18 Appellant Name: Joseph Purkey Case No.: B-010 **Appellant Phone:** 5033081028 x102 Appeal Type: Building Plans Examiner/Inspector: Brett Hulstrom, Steven Freeh Project Type: commercial Stories: 2 Occupancy: S-1 & B Construction Type: II-B

Building/Business Name: Powell Bus Garage Replacement Fire Sprinklers: Yes - Full

Project

Appeal Involves: Erection of a new structure LUR or Permit Application No.: 18-254687-CO

Plan Submitted Option: pdf [File 1] [File 2] [File 3] Proposed use: Transit Bus maintenance and operations

[File 4]

APPEAL INFORMATION SHEET

Appeal item 1

Code Section 1009.3

Requires 712.1.12 Unenclosed stairs created in accordance to 1009.3 shall be permitted.

> 1009.3, Exception 1. In other than Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies, exit access stairways that serve, or atmospherically communicate between, only two stories are not required to be enclosed.

Proposed Design

Stairs between the lower level work area and the main floor maintenance area (ST-5 & ST-6) are unenclosed. Stairs between the main floor maintenance area and the second floor (ST-2 & ST-3) are unenclosed. There is a minimum straight-line dimension of over 140' between the ST-5 & ST-6 floor openings and the ST-2 & ST-3 floor openings. ST-2 & ST-3 are also separated from ST-5 & ST-6 by a thermal envelope, which provides atmospheric separation. ST-2 & ST-3 are in conditioned space, while ST-5 & ST-6 are in semi-conditioned space.

Reason for alternative This is a request for a code interpretation, suggested by our plans examiner. We believe this design meets the code minimum design. Starting at Section 712, Vertical Openings, 712.1.8 Two-Story Openings does not apply because the floor openings in question are one of the applications listed in Section 712 (712.1.12 Unenclosed Stairs and Ramps). 712.1.12 states that unenclosed stairs are permitted in accordance to 1009.3. 1009.3, Exception 1 states that exit access stairways that serve, or atmospherically communicate between, only two stories are not required to be enclosed. The proposed design has the ceiling height of the ground floor space slightly higher than the second floor ceiling, thus virtually eliminating the risk of a stack effect into the second floor spaces. The horizontal distance, as well as the immense volume of the space open to ST-5 & ST-6, further adds to the reduction in risk of atmospheric communication between the lower level work area and the second floor. These facts support our opinion that the floor openings effectively

communicate between only two stories and are not required to be enclosed, per 1009.3, Exception 1 and that the proposed design provides a level of life safety and fire protection equivalent to Code requirements.

APPEAL DECISION

Determination of communicating spaces: Granted as proposed. The board finds that the stair configuration as proposed does not present a significant risk of stack effect.

The Administrative Appeal Board finds that the information submitted by the appellant demonstrates that the approved modifications or alternate methods are consistent with the intent of the code; do not lessen health, safety, accessibility, life, fire safety or structural requirements; and that special conditions unique to this project make strict application of those code sections impractical.

Pursuant to City Code Chapter 24.10, you may appeal this decision to the Building Code Board of Appeal within 180 calendar days of the date this decision is published. For information on the appeals process and costs, including forms, appeal fee, payment methods and fee waivers, go to www.portlandoregon.gov/bds/appealsinfo, call (503) 823-7300 or come in to the Development Services Center.







