

Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://broward-org.zoomgov.com/j/1612065275>

Meeting ID: 1612065275

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairman Kamm called a published virtual meeting of the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

R. Art Kamm, Chairman	John Famularo
Stephen E. Bailey, Vice Chairman	Shalanda Giles-Nelson
Eduard Badiu	Daniel Rourke
Ron Burr	Robert Taylor
Peter Deveaugh	Dennis Ulmer
Steven Feller	

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Burr made a motion, and Mr. Deveaugh seconded the motion to approve the agenda as posted. The motion was carried out through a unanimous vote of 11-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 9, 2025, Board Meeting

Mr. Burr made a motion, and Mr. Badiu seconded the motion to approve the January 9, 2025, minutes as submitted. The motion was carried out through a unanimous vote of 11-0.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT (Except public hearing items on this agenda) - None

Public comments are limited to 3 minutes.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Certifications – Staff Recommended

Mr. Feller made a motion, and Mr. Badiu seconded the motion, to approve the certifications as recommended. The motion was carried out by a unanimous vote of 11-0.

CITY OF CORAL SPRINGS

Torres, Natalia, Fire Inspector

CITY OF DEERFIELD BEACH

Gonzalez, Javier Perez, Sr., Structural Inspector (Temporary 120-Day)
Guendjoian, Armen, Chief Plumbing Inspector

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

Brown, James Martin, Electrical Inspector (Temporary 120-Day)
Miller, Jason W., Fire Marshal
Williams, Katie, Assistant Fire Marshal

TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

O'Linn, Daniel F., Assistant Building Official
O'Linn, Daniel F., Chief Structural Inspector

CITY OF LAUDERHILL

Gregory, Kevin L., Chief Plumbing Inspector

CITY OF HOLLYWOOD

Lozano, Frank, Plumbing Inspector (Provisional)

CITY OF MIRAMAR

Perez, Anthony, Fire Inspector

CITY OF PEMBROKE PINES

Belisle, Jean Pierre Atelyo, Chief Plumbing Inspector

CITY OF PLANTATION

Merritt, Steven K., Assistant Fire Marshall

TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES

Bennett, Jeremie, Chief Structural Inspector

COUNTYWIDE

Ionescu, Severian M., Structural Inspector

Joseph, Tony, Electrical Plans Examiner

Martinez, Giordano Nestor, Structural Plans Examiner

Velasquez, Jose J., Mechanical Inspector

Velasquez, Jose J., Structural Plans Examiner

REGULAR AGENDA

1. First Reading of Proposed Changes to the Florida Building Code, Broward County Administrative Amendments, Chapter 1, 8th (2023) Edition, Sections 104.12.3, Certification of the Electrical Inspector, 104.13.3, Certification of the Mechanical Inspector, and 104.14.3, Certification of the Plumbing Inspector

a. Staff Report

Mr. Rolando Soto, Chief Mechanical Code Compliance Officer, noted that recently, a request was made, and the Board voted to provide two years for an individual in the structural discipline with ten years of experience to obtain a contractor's license. The Board referred the proposal to give the same two-year period to individuals in the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing disciplines to the Certification Standards Review Committee. The Committee met and recommended the proposal today to give the same two-year period to individuals in the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing disciplines. Currently, an individual who has a Journeyman's license can be an inspector.

b. Board Questions

Mr. Deveaugh was opposed to allowing an individual who does not possess any license to be an inspector. He recalled when the contractor license requirement was reduced to Journeyman several years ago in the hope of attracting more individuals to the inspector field, but it was not successful. Moreover, only four years of experience is required to sit for the exam.

c. Board Action

Mr. Feller made a motion, and Mr. Deveaugh seconded the motion to deny the code amendment. The motion was carried out through a unanimous vote of 11-0.

2. **First Reading of Proposed Changes to the Florida Building Code, Broward County Administrative Amendments, Chapter 1, 8th (2023) Edition, Section 104.18, Recertification of Building Departments and Building Code Inspection Enforcement Personnel**

a. Staff Report

Mr. Michael Guerasio, Chief Structural Code Compliance Officer, noted that this matter was also presented to the Certification Standards Review Committee. In the 2024 legislative session, a Senate bill was adopted that exempts individuals who have continuously held a BCAIB license (Building Code Administrators and Inspectors Board) for at least ten years with no disciplinary action imposed on them and would be exempt from continuing education units (CEU's). The bill has an expiration of January 1, 2026. It does not exempt anyone who has held their license for less than ten years for the license renewal cycle. BORA mirrors the State on the renewal cycle and continues to require CEUs. The State requires six hours of specific categories and will continue to be required for those with less than ten years of experience. The proposal before the Board is to add the six hours into Section 104.18.1.3 of Chapter 1. A title is recommended to be added for clarity, as well as some terminology changes, including changing contact hours to continuing educational hours. Language is being added to Section 104.18.1.2 to clarify the section for building departments that are contracted, i.e. CAP Government.

b. Board Questions

With reference to Section 104.18.1.3, Ms. Giles-Nelson suggested "of" be removed from the second line.

c. Board Action

Mr. Feller made a motion, and Ms. Giles-Nelson seconded the motion, to approve the code amendment on first reading with the changes noted during discussion of the item. The motion was carried out through a unanimous vote of 11-0.

3. **Proposal to Change Board Meeting Start Time from 7:00 P.M. to 11:30 A.M.**

a. Staff Report

Dr. Ana Barbosa, Administrative Director, noted this item is in response to the request to change the meeting start time. She highlighted reasons noted in the agenda memorandum of February 13, 2025.

b. Board Questions

Mr. Bailey was concerned about the potential for Board members having to leave prior to the meeting being adjourned and the legal impact. Unless the meeting time would be limited, 11:30 AM does not work.

Mr. Ulmer pointed out that members of the Board are appointed public officials. He noted that he was appointed as the consumer advocate and, therefore, represents the people. He believed that citizens desire evening meetings. It has nothing to do with the convenience of the Board members.

Mr. Burr agreed with Mr. Ulmer. The purpose of the Board is to work with the community.

Dr. Barbosa noted that Mr. Lavrich is opposed to the change. She went on to note his reasoning.

Ms. Giles-Nelson commented that she is available whether it be during the day or evening, and pointed out that there are some governmental meetings that take place during the day.

c. Board Action

Mr. Feller made a motion, and Mr. Bailey seconded the motion, to deny the change. The motion was carried out through a unanimous vote of 11-0.

4. Director's Report

Dr. Barbosa indicated that she had surveyed the Board about having one in-person meeting. There were seven in favor and four opposed.

Dr. Barbosa noted that the average cost for a Board meeting agenda booklet is \$176. She wanted to gauge the interest in Board members being provided a tablet where the meeting information would be uploaded.

5. Attorney's Report

Mr. Charles Kramer noted that Mr. Butler has filed a fifth action concerning the Board of Rules and Appeals. He provided status reports. Also, an appeal and complaint to the 17th Circuit Court for injunctive relief have been filed. He will likely instruct Dr. Barbosa to decline to respond to the appeal because of the potential for conflicting adjudication.

6. Committee Reports - None

7. General Board Member Discussion

Mr. Ulmer referred to issues Dr. Barbosa noted last month concerning the building where the BORA offices are located and asked about the current working conditions. Dr. Barbosa indicated that there are constant issues with the building. It is minimal space that is costly and not adequate. In further response to Mr. Ulmer, Dr. Barbosa indicated that she could be authorized to investigate securing new space in the Plantation general area. It could be included in the 2027-2028 budget cycle.

Mr. Ulmer made a motion, and Mr. Feller seconded the motion, authorizing the Administrative Director to look into alternative office space for the BORA offices. The motion was carried out through a unanimous vote of 11-0.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.



Chairman