

# THE BORA QUARTERLY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS

## HELLO THERE!

The last quarter was one for the record books!

COVID-19 is causing the whole world to change. The Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals is figuring out new ways to adapt as the world changes, while still providing our high-quality service to you.

Make sure that you stay connected with us to stay informed.



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### STAY INFORMED!

The BORA Quarterly was introduced in June 2018 as a way for our agency to keep members of the public informed about what our agency is doing to contribute to positive and effective change throughout Broward County.

[Subscribe](#) to The BORA Quarterly and stay informed!

#### CONNECT WITH US ONLINE!

 [@BrowardBORA](#)

 [Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals](#)

### BORA AGENDAS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Both the [Board Meeting Agendas](#) and [Committee Meeting Agendas](#) are available on the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals website.

## BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS

1 N. University Drive, Suite 3500B, Plantation, FL 33324  
Phone: 954-765-4500 | Fax: 954-765-4504

#### Board Director

Jim DiPietro ..... x9892

#### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

##### Administrative Coordinator

Ruth Boselli ..... x9889

##### Administrative Specialist

Brianna Curry ..... x9885

##### Administrative Specialist

Jonda Joseph ..... x9891

##### Administrative Specialist

Maria "Pat" Kong ..... x9883

#### CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICERS

##### Chief Electrical Code Compliance Officer

Kenneth Castronovo ..... x9888

##### Chief Fire Code Compliance Officer

Bryan Parks ..... x9884

##### Chief Mechanical Code Compliance Officer

Rolando Soto ..... x9893

##### Chief Plumbing Code Compliance Officer

Otto Vinas ..... x9894

##### Chief Structural Code Compliance Officer

Michael Guerasio ..... x9886

##### Chief Structural Code Compliance Officer

Ted Fowler ..... x9887

### BROWARD BORA STAFF DIRECTORY

### BROWARD BORA COVID-19 OFFICE PROTOCOL

The Board of Rules and Appeals resumed its usual 7:30a – 4:30p (Monday-Friday) office hours with a reduced office presence of employees who rotate in and out. The Broward County Government has building safety procedures in effect to reduce COVID-19 incidences in the County offices.

If a guest wishes to visit the Broward BORA office, a security guard will contact the office and a Broward BORA staff member will proceed to meet the individual at the security desk. If it is necessary, the individual will be escorted upstairs to conduct business.



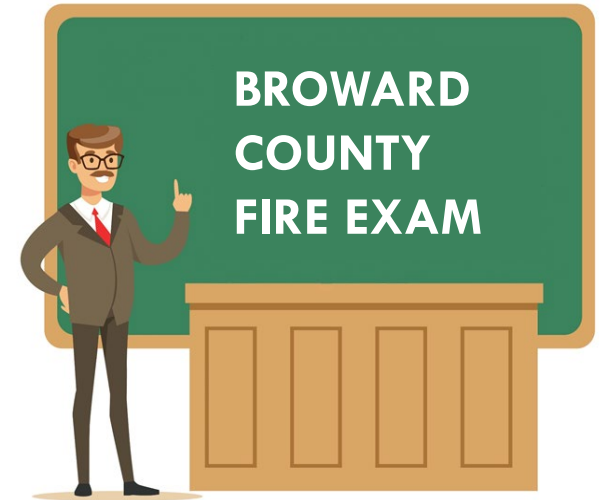
## UPDATED BROWARD COUNTY FIRE EXAM PROTOCOL

The Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals will pay for first-time test takers to take the Broward County Fire Exam.

- The Broward County Fire Exam is an open book test. The following test reference materials will be provided at the time of the exam:
  - Florida Fire Prevention Code Sixth Edition
  - Based on NFPA I, NFPA 101, FS 633 & FAC 69A-Rules (NOTE: FS 633 & FAC 69A can be obtained at State of Florida, Florida Department of State [website](#) for the latest version.)
  - Broward County Amendments ([Broward Local Fire Code](#))
- No electronic devices are permitted in the test room.
- A driver’s license will be required as proof of identification for admission to testing room.
- A maximum of 12 people can register for each exam.

To qualify for the exam, submit the completed and signed [application](#) and policy statement by mail to the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals (1 N. University Drive, Suite 3500B, Plantation, FL 33324) or by email to Jonda Joseph ([jondajoseph@broward.org](mailto:jondajoseph@broward.org)).

If a first-time test taker fails the exam, there is no limit for times the exam can be taken. The retakes must be paid for by the test taker. A \$60.00 fee must be paid by money order before the exam **OR** by money order/credit card on the day of the exam.



## EARN CEUs VIRTUALLY!

COVID-19 has challenged the ways that we can gather safely. Code officials are still expected to earn the required Continuing Education Units (CEUs) during the 2020-2021 code cycle. There are virtual opportunities available so that you don’t have to fall behind in gaining CEUs.

Visit the following sites to see what classes are being held and contact a [Broward BORA CCCO](#) to verify that the course can be used toward your required CEUs.

- The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers ([ASHRAE](#))
- Florida Fire Sprinkler Association ([FFSA](#))
- National Fire Protection Association ([NFPA](#))

## 2020 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

The 2020 Hurricane Season has arrived, and we need to be prepared, the following represents a partial list of preventative measures and procedures to follow prior to and after a windstorm event to reduce physical damage to your property:

- When a hurricane watch is posted by the National Weather Service, the owner or contractor shall be responsible to secure loose construction debris and materials where construction is occurring against the effects of hurricane force winds.
- The following actions shall be implemented in the event construction materials cannot be permanently installed in a timely manner:
  - a) Band together the construction materials and fasten them to the top of the structure in such a manner so as not to present a threat of their becoming airborne during severe weather.
  - b) Remove the construction materials from the top of the structure and fasten down to the ground.
  - c) Remove the construction materials from the job site.
  - d) Store the construction materials inside an enclosed structure.
- From June 1 to November 30 of each calendar year (the National Weather Service designated hurricane season), building materials shall be loaded on a roof no earlier than 20 working days prior to the permanent installation of those materials.
- No building or other structure or assembly or part thereof, which was damaged or collapsed; out of plumb or line shall be repaired or altered, or otherwise returned to its original position, without inspection and approval by the Building Official.
- Storm Shutter Placement during Hurricane Season. After the termination of such periods of time that had been designated by the National Weather Service as being a hurricane watch or warning, hurricane protective devices installed on occupied buildings which impede required egress or required light and ventilation shall be removed within fifteen (15) days.

*(Article content provided by FBC BCA Chapter 1)*



## FORMAL INTERPRETATION #25: REQUIRED SIGNATURES ON THE BROWARD COUNTY UNIFORM BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION

The Board of Rules and Appeals approved *Formal Interpretation #25: Required Signatures on the Broward County Uniform Building Permit Application* which states that only one signature is required on permit applications.

This Formal Interpretation is based on the Florida Building Code and Florida Statute. For detailed information, please see the Formal Interpretations page on the Broward BORA [website](#).

If you have questions about Formal Interpretation #25 or if you require assistance with implementing it in your municipality, feel free to contact a [Broward BORA CCCO](#) for support.



## UPCOMING BROWARD BORA BOARD MEETINGS

The Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals staff is planning a Board Meeting for Thursday, July 9, 2020. The board meeting will more than likely be held virtually to comply with the Broward County Government’s building safety procedures in effect to reduce COVID-19 incidences. Building and Fire Code Officials will be notified when arrangements have been finalized.

If you would like to be included in our agency’s agenda notification email group, please contact our office by phone (954-765-4500) or email your request to Ruth Boselli ([rboselli@broward.org](mailto:rboselli@broward.org)).

Please visit the Broward BORA website for the following resources:

- BORA Board Meeting [Calendar](#)
- BORA Board Meeting [Agendas](#)
- BORA Board Meeting [Minutes](#)



## BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS COMPLIMENTARY BOOK LOAN PROGRAM

Don't forget about the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals Complimentary Book Loan Program. There are books available for studying for the following state license exams:

- Building Plans Examiner
- Electrical Plans Examiner
- Mechanical Plans Examiner
- Plumbing Plans Examiner
- Building Code Administrator
- Commercial Building Inspector
- Commercial Electrical Inspector
- Commercial Mechanical Inspector
- Commercial Plumbing Inspector
- Florida Roofing Inspector

The books will take about two weeks to order. Please follow the steps below:

### BOOK LOAN PROCESS

- Send your completed [application](#), with your City or County Building Official's signature, by email to Brianna Curry ([bcurry@broward.org](mailto:bcurry@broward.org)) or Maria Kong ([mkong@broward.org](mailto:mkong@broward.org)).
- Books can be picked up at our office in Government Center West (1 North University Dr., Suite 3500 B Plantation, FL 33324) between the hours of 8:00 AM to 4:15 PM, Monday through Friday.
- The six-month loan period starts when the books are picked up from the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals' office.
- Individuals can return borrowed books by the end of the six-month loan period or utilize the onetime 3-month extension.
- Remember, the books are loaned to other code officials after they are returned. Please show consideration by not writing/highlighting in the books and returning materials on time.

We are happy to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Board of Rules and Appeals Book Loan Program, please contact us, at 954-765-4500 or [rulesboard@broward.org](mailto:rulesboard@broward.org).



## 2020 BUILDING SAFETY INSPECTION PROGRAM

In the upcoming months, municipal building departments throughout Broward County will notify property owners whose buildings are subject to the Building Safety Inspection Program, beginning the process of having the property inspection completed by a licensed professional engineer or a registered architect. ***Please be advised that the 40-Year Inspection does not require the building to be brought up to current code.***

Building Safety Inspection Program - [Handout](#)

The following structures are included in the Building Safety Inspection Program:

- Properties built with more than 3,500 square feet built in 1980.
- Properties built over 3,500 square feet (50 -year buildings) in 1970.

The following structures are exempt from the Building Safety Inspection Program:

- U. S. Government Buildings
- State of Florida Buildings
- Buildings built on Indian Reservations
- School buildings under the jurisdiction of the Broward County School Board
- One and two-family dwellings
- Minor structures defined as buildings
- Structures in any occupancy group with gross floor area less than 3,500 square feet



### REMEMBER ...

If you do not receive a notification and your property is 40 years or older, please contact the building department in the municipality where your property is located. You will still be held accountable for completing the inspection whether the municipality contacts you or not.

Please keep in mind that the property inspection must be completed by a licensed professional engineer or a registered architect. For more information about the Building Safety Inspection Program, contact [mguerasio@broward.org](mailto:mguerasio@broward.org) or [kcastronovo@broward.org](mailto:kcastronovo@broward.org).

## VOTING MEMBERS

**Mr. Daniel Lavrich, P.E., S.I., SECB,**  
F.ASCE, F.SEI – Chair  
Structural Engineer

**Mr. Stephen E. Bailey, P.E. – Vice Chair**  
Electrical Engineer

**Mr. Sergio Pellecer**  
Fire Service Professional

**Mr. John Famularo**  
Roofing Contractor

**Mrs. Shalanda Giles Nelson**  
General Contractor

**Mr. Daniel Rourke**  
Master Plumber

**Mr. Gregg D’Attile**  
Mechanical Contractor

**VACANT**  
Representative Disabled Community

**Mr. Ron Burr**  
Swimming Pool Contractor

**Mr. John Sims**  
Master Electrician

**Mr. Dennis A. Ulmer**  
Consumer Advocate

**Mr. Abbas H. Zackria, CSI**  
Architect

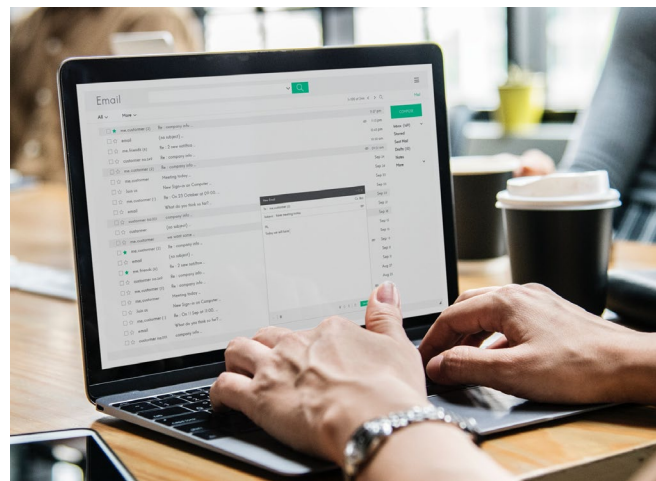
**Mr. Robert A. Kamm, P.E.**  
Mechanical Engineer

## MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

The Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals is made up of amazing people! Our Board members are appointed by the Broward County League of Cities and the Broward County Commission.

Visit our [website](#) to learn who they are and what their specialties are.

If you would like to contact a Board member, send an email to [rulesboard@broward.org](mailto:rulesboard@broward.org) and leave your questions and/or comments. Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate board member.



## ALTERNATE MEMBERS

**Mr. Jeff Falkanger**  
Architect

**Mr. Steven Feller, P.E.**  
Mechanical Engineer

**Mr. Alberto Fernandez**  
General Contractor

**Mr. Robert Taylor**  
Fire Service Professional

**Mr. Gary Elzweig, P.E.**  
Structural Engineer

**Mr. David Rice, P.E.**  
Electrical Engineer

**Mr. James Terry**  
Master Plumber

**Mr. David Tringo**  
Master Electrician

**Mr. William Flett**  
Roofing Contractor

### Broward County Code of Ordinances, ARTICLE IX. - BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION, Section 9.02

“Building Code and the Board of Rules and Appeals” mandates that BORA members shall be appointed as follows:

- Seven (7) members and six (6) alternates shall be appointed by the Broward County League of Cities.
- Six (6) members and three (3) alternates shall be appointed by the County Commission.