

THE BORA QUARTERLY

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

WELCOME BACK!

We hope that your department had a productive summer as we are all adjusting during these new times. Our agency is doing our best to provide the highest quality service in this new virtual environment.

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 Energy Code Compliance Officer

Timothy de Carion x9853

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

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.



2020 BROWARD COUNTY FIRE INSPECTOR EXAM REGISTRATION

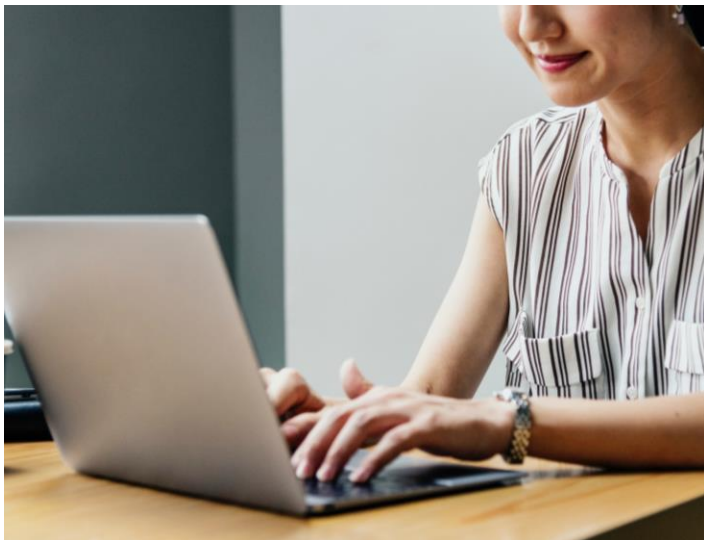
Register for the two remaining 2020 Fire Inspector Exams:

- September 18, 2020
- November 20, 2020

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).

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

If a first time test taker fails their first attempt, they will have to pay a \$60.00 fee must be by money order or credit card, along with an original completed application that is due one week prior to 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.

Be sure to contact a **Broward BORA CCCO** to verify that the course can be used toward your required CEUs and visit the following site to see what classes are scheduled:

- The Fire Inspector's Association of Broward County (**FIABC**)

FIRE INSPECTORS ASSOCIATION OF BROWARD COUNTY ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Tuesday, August 4, 2020 the Fire Inspectors Association of Broward County (**FIABC**) recognized 1st Vice President, Danny Almaguer, and Secretary, Beth Martins, for their years of service.

Danny Almaguer is the Assistant Division Chief with the Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue. He joined the FIABC in May 2014 in the role of Treasurer. He was then elected as 1st Vice President in 2017. He served the association by maintaining the FIABC Facebook page, finding food vendors for events, and much more!

Beth Martins is a Lieutenant with the Plantation Fire Rescue. She joined the FIABC in May 2005 in the role of Secretary. She was the conduit between the association and the State, charged with the CEU approval process, took association minutes and more! She served under multiple Presidents and dedicated herself to improving fire safety in Broward County. After finishing her 15th year, the Fire Inspectors Association of Broward County (FIABC), renamed the educator award to “The Beth Martins Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award.

With these Chief Almaguer and Lieutenant Martins moving on, two new volunteers will fill their seats. Fire Inspector Adam Cerny with the Sunrise Fire Rescue will assume the role of the 1st Vice President and Fire Plans Examiner Rebecca Geimer with the Tamarac Fire Rescue takes the seat of Secretary. We are confident these two individuals will do great things.

The Fire Inspectors Association of Broward County (FIABC) represents community risk reduction personnel, provides training to their membership and hosts annual recognition awards and events. This association does not run itself and has dedicated individuals on the board of directors.

For more information about the FIABC contact Tommy Demopoulos (tommy.demopoulos@tamarac.org) or Bryan Parks (bparks@broward.org). To join visit the Fire Inspectors Association [website](#).

(Original article and photographs by Tommy Demopoulos, Assistant Fire Marshal, City of Tamarac Fire Department.)





STRUCTURAL INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION CLARIFICATION FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

At the July 9, 2020 meeting of the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals a request for certification of an applicant to be appointed as a Structural Inspector was discussed.

The Board Chair, Daniel Lavrich, P.E., S.I., SECB, F.ASCE, F.SEI, found issues that he believes should be clarified and explained. Please see the discussion points from his document:

1. Based upon Section 113.12, it would seem clear that BORA **does not** have the authority to **waive or modify** the requirements of the Code relating to certification requirements, only **interpret** them.
2. There seemed to be an opinion by some persons at the meeting that the Board of Rules and Appeals could waive or modify the certification requirements that are clearly stated in the Code because they “felt” that the applicant was a “good person” or that the applicant had “good references” or that the applicant “seemed to be qualified,” although the applicant did not meet the specific requirements that are clearly stated in the Code. Such attributes may be considered by employers regarding hiring of employees; however, the issues regarding **certification** as to meeting certain minimum standards are quite different.
3. I believe that the Code requirements were written to set certain “**minimum**” standards and requirements for **certification** and to ensure that these standards and requirements are met. These standards and requirements were discussed and modified recently by the Broward County Certification Committee and the results of that Committee’s action are embodied in the Code as it is currently written.
4. If there is a desire to change or modify the requirements as set forth in the Code, then there should be a move along proper channels to change the Code, otherwise I believe that the Board of Rules and Appeals has the responsibility to enforce the Code requirements as written.

Our staff recommends that you read the official document in its entirety. Please find the document on the Broward BORA [website](#).

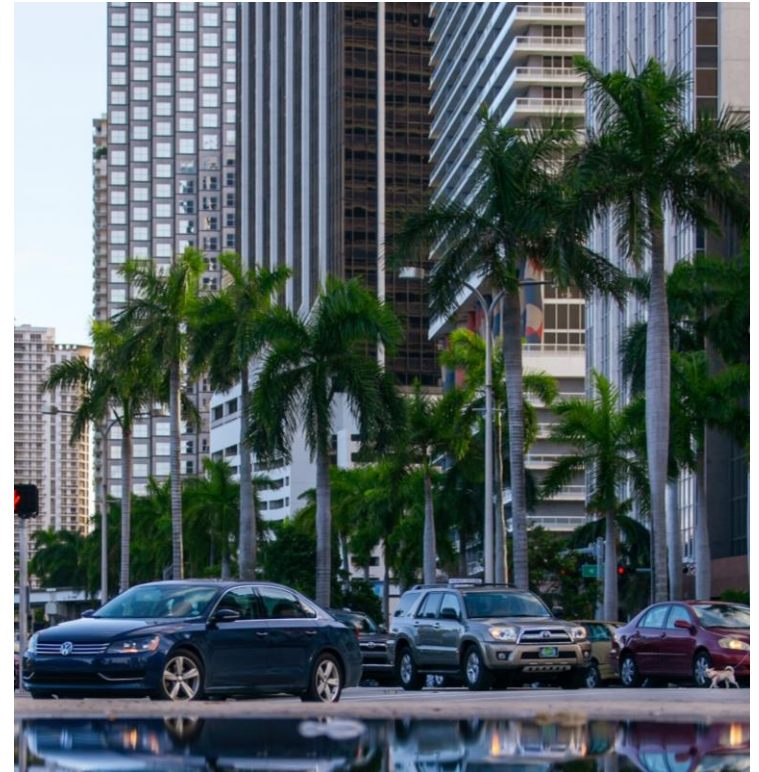
BUILDING SAFETY INSPECTION PROGRAM FOLLOW-UP

During the summer months, municipal building departments throughout Broward County began to notify property owners whose buildings are subject to the Building Safety Inspection Program.

If you did 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 be advised that the 40 Year Inspection does not require the building to be brought up to current code.)**

- Building Safety Inspection Program **Handout**

Please keep in mind property inspection completed by a licensed professional engineer or a registered architect. For more information about the Building Safety Inspection Program, contact mguerasio@broward.org or kcastronovo@broward.org.



TIMOTHY DE CARION JOINS BROWARD BORA!

The Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals staff is growing! Timothy de Carion is our agency's first Energy Code Compliance Officer. In this new position, Mr. de Carion will help to ensure that that Energy Conservation volume of the Florida Building Code is being followed throughout Broward County.

Mr. de Carion has been with us since the beginning of August after serving as a Chief Mechanical Inspector for the Town of Davie.

He can be reached by email at tdecarion@broward.org.



PROVIDING CODE BOOKS FOR BROWARD COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES

As part of the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, the Board of Rules and Appeals along with the Broward County Commission authorized funds to cover the purchase of a set of the new 7th Edition (2020) Florida Building Code to be distributed to the building departments throughout Broward County. The Complete Sets include the following code books:

- Building
- Residential
- Test Protocols for High Velocity Hurricane Zone
- Plumbing
- Mechanical
- Fuel Gas
- Energy Conservation
- Existing Building
- Accessibility

BORA APPEAL DECISION

At the July 9, 2020 Board Meeting, the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals heard an appeal. This appeal was related to NEC 701.12(B)(3), which requires a reliable second fuel source type when an emergency generator is used in a health care facility. In the case of this appeal the appellant proposed fuel source was the local piped natural gas utility.

The Building Official rejected this design and will not allow the exception of the code to be used because he believes that the use of the gas utility is not reliable fuel source. The appellant asked the Board to overturn the Building Official’s decision based on the exception to NEC 701.12(B)(3):

“Exception: Where acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction, the use of other than on site fuels shall be permitted where there is a low probability of a simultaneous failure of both the off-site fuel delivery system and power from the outside electrical utility company.”

After hearing the staff report, the statements of the appellant, the response from the city and the board member discussion, a motion was made and seconded to deny the appeal. The motion passed by unanimous vote of 12-0.

For more information feel free to contact Kenneth Castronovo (kcastronovo@broward.org) or Bryan Parks (bparks@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

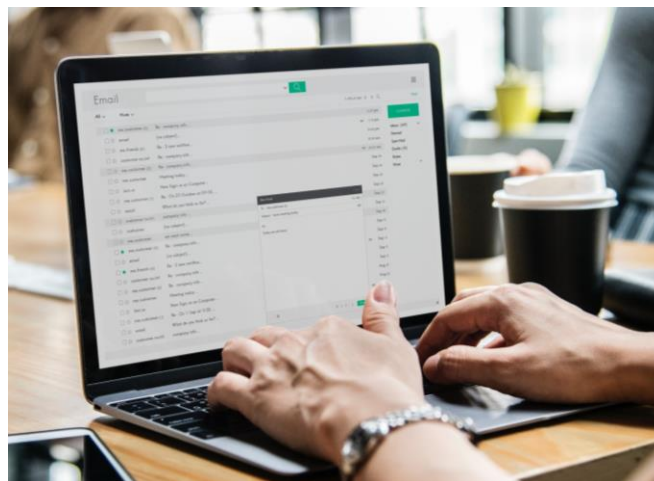
Mr. Robert A. Kamm, P.E.
Mechanical Engineer

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](#) for more information.

If you would like to contact a Board member, send an email to 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.