



CITY OF VENICE
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BUILDING & CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 13, 2008

To: Martin Black, AICP, ICMA-CM, City Manager

From: Hans D. Behrens, CBO, Building and Code Enforcement Director

Re.: 127 East Tampa Avenue, Unit 1- Tavern on Venice Island

Your request was as follows:

- ◆ Please provide me with a narrative outlining your role, responsibilities and perspectives on the renovation completed since the prior use of the premises as Norma Jean's.

My answer is as follows:

- ◆ Based on a request by my Code Enforcement inspectors I visited the premises on November 8, 2007 at approximately 1:30PM. Upon my request the Municipal Fire Inspector Jack Stevenson participated in this inspection, and I found him waiting at the described location. We toured the former restaurant-bar and I found a major clean-up in progress. Even upon very close observation I could not detect any structural work being done that required any permit. The walls to the best of my recollection were painted a light color. There were some tools on the floor and the owner was repairing and beautifying an old bar. There was paint all over the floor and in general I could not detect any new HVAC, Plumbing or electrical work in progress. I know through conversation with Code Enforcement Inspector John Patek that he had previously been denied access even when he had called for backup by the Venice P.D.
- ◆ After my inspection I advised Mr. Michael Vellucci that he could continue his cleaning and painting, but that he would need a permit for any structural changes and for any plumbing, HVAC or electrical work he would have to hire contractors licensed in the individual disciplines.
- ◆ I further advised Mr. Vellucci that under the conditions at that time he could not exceed a maximum occupancy load of 49 persons. I also offered assistance to guide him on questions regarding code issues as I would do with any citizen doing business within our municipality.
- ◆ Mr. Vellucci did except my offer and had some code discussions on November 15, 2007 at 9:00AM at my office. He stated to me that he was in the process of hiring an Architect or Engineer and would be submitting plans for a possible enlargement and/or renovation in the near future. He obtained the necessary business permit from Roger Clark of the Zoning Department and subsequently opened the business.
- ◆ On February 13, 2008 a permit application was finally submitted and as of this date no action has been taken to reclassify the Mercantile Occupancy with a 49 person allowed load to an Assembly Occupancy with a projected load of 203 persons. (Any change from

the permitted 49 persons to a higher occupant load would constitute a violation of the codes and the Laws of the State of Florida.

- ◆ I consulted with City Engineer Nancy Woodley and Fire Inspector Jack Stevenson to have Mr. Vellucci and his Engineer Mr. Amjad Sitti meet with us and discuss the proposed plans and convey our response to their submittal.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding the matter.