

Memorandum

Memorandum No: 23-074

Date: June 16, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Commissioners

From: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Jun 19, 2023 08:58 EDT)

Re: June 6, 2023, Neighbor Presentation – Gary Grayson

On June 6, 2023, the City Commission received a neighbor presentation from Gary Grayson. The topic of the presentation was code enforcement and specifically about issues with the construction of Riverwalk Residences located at 333 N. New River Drive.

Mr. Grayson presented information regarding the proposed site circulation of construction vehicles and noted that he has found that rather than following the plan, vehicles have been staging on New River Drive. He also brought forth code violations related to the state of the construction site.

Construction projects, especially large construction projects, usually present a proposed staging and circulation plan to the Development Services Department. While it is typical that staging and circulation is contained within a construction site there are times when the construction company needs to place equipment such as a crane, bring vehicles into and through public streets, and do work within the right-of-way. When this need arises, a Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) permit is required. An MOT permit may be issued by staff for closures that do not exceed 72 hours but if a right-of-way closure is more than 72 hours a revocable license agreement approved by the City Commission is required. The Riverwalk Residence project has two MOT permits. The first is a City Commission approved MOT for the closure of the sidewalk on the north side of New River Drive from March 11, 2022, through July 11, 2024. A sidewalk detour with pedestrian crosswalks has been installed to allow for safe pedestrian travel. A second MOT permit was issued from June 12, 2023, through June 16, 2023, that included a full road and sidewalk closure to install and restore a water main.

The City's Building Code Enforcement team regularly inspects large construction projects to ensure they are compliant with items such as stormwater protection measures and street obstructions. Additionally, Transportation and Mobility (TAM) staff will inspect and enforce MOT permit requirements.

Code Enforcement cases for 333 N. New River Drive were researched going back to September 2021. During that time there were 24 cases with most being citizen complaints related to vehicle parking, noise, and a construction fence in disrepair. Most cases were inspected, some multiple times, and no violation was found by the code inspector. In some instances, if an issue was found it was quickly corrected by whoever oversaw the site at the time of the inspectors visit.

Building Code Enforcement will continue to regularly monitor the construction site and will keep in mind the issues brought up by Mr. Grayson. He and other neighbors may submit an issue when they believe one exists to 954-828-8000, and Code Enforcement will be dispatched in response.

Please contact Development Services Director Christopher Cooper at ccooper@fortlauderdale.gov or 954-828-5980 if you have any questions.

c: Anthony G. Fajardo, Assistant City Manager
Susan Grant, Assistant City Manager
D'Wayne M. Spence, Interim City Attorney
David R. Soloman, City Clerk
Patrick Reilly, City Auditor
Department Directors
CMO Managers