



Monroe County Building Department

501 N. Morton St Rm 220-B

Bloomington, IN 47404

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission,

This letter is explain the position of the Monroe County Building Department regarding Variance 15-10-XX. For a proposed Chapter 34 Change of occupancy occurring at 631 North College Ave, Bloomington. The code sections that we have followed to come to the conclusion that emergency escape and rescue openings are required have been reproduced below, so that the section references are easily followed.

Section 3412.6.11, Means of egress capacity and number: Evaluate the means of egress capacity and number of exits available to the building occupants. **In applying this section, the means of egress are required to conform to the following sections of this code:** 1003.7, 1004, 1005, 1014.2, 1014.3, 1015.2, 1021, 1024.1, 1027.2, 1027.5, 1028.2, 1028.3, 1028.4, **and 1029**. The number of exits credited is the number that is available to each occupant of the area being evaluated. Existing fire escapes shall be accepted as a component in a means of egress when conforming to Section 3406. *(Indiana Amendment to this section does not pertain to this issue.)*

Section 1029.1, Emergency Escape and Rescue, General: **In addition to the means of egress required by this chapter, provisions shall be made for emergency escape and rescue openings in Group R-2 occupancies in accordance with tables 1021.2(1) and 1021.2(2) and Group R-3 occupancies. Basements and sleeping rooms below the fourth story above the grade plane shall have at least one exterior emergency escape and rescue opening in accordance with this section.** Where basements contain one or more sleeping rooms, emergency escape and rescue openings shall be required in each sleeping room, but shall not be required in adjoining areas of the basement. **Such openings shall open directly to a public way or to a yard or court that opens to a public way.** *(There are no amendments to this section, HOWEVER, there are three Exceptions. Exceptions 1 and 3 cannot apply to this building, Exception 2, May apply: Emergency escape and rescue openings are not required from basements or sleeping rooms that have an exit door or exit access door that opens directly into a public way or to a yard, court or exterior exit balcony that opens to a public way.)*