

Owner / Applicant Information

Marc Slaton  
Johnson Elementary School  
4235 E. STATE ROAD 256  
  
SCOTTSBURG IN 47170  
Phone 8127528921  
Email MSLATON@SCSD2.K12.IN.US

Submitter Information

Joshua Stigdon  
Houston, Thompson and Lewis, PC  
49 E. Wardell St.  
  
Scottsburg IN  
  
Phone 8127525920  
Email jstigdon@htllawyers.com

Project Information

School Safety - Pinch Guards  
4235 E. State Road 256

Scottsburg IN 47170

County SCOTT

Project Type New ☐ Addition ☐ Alteration ☒ Existing ☐ Change of Occupancy ☐

Project Status ☒ U F=Filed U or Null=Unfiled

IDHS Issued Correction order? ☒ No Has Violation been Issued? ☒ yes

Violation Issued by: SFM

Local Building Official

Phone:  Email:

Local Fire Official

Phone:  Email:

Variance Details

Code Name: Other Code (Not in the list provided)  
2014 Edition IFC Sec. 703.2

Conditions: Inspector, Gary House, has alleged that use of "pinch guards" on fire rated doors in non-sprinkled areas of our school buildings violates Sec. 703.2 of the 2014 Edition of the International Fire Code. Specifically, the inspector alleges that the "pinch guards" are in violation due to preventing the fire rated door from latching.

DEMONSTRATION THAT PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE ARE PROTECTED:

1=Non-compliance with the rule will not be adverse to the public health, safety or w

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2= Applicant will undertake alternative actions in lieu of compliance with the rule to ensure that granting of the variance will not be adverse to public health, safety, or welfare. Explain why alternative actions would be adequate (be specific).

Facts: The School District has instituted a lock down procedure that is one of the quickest in the State. Due to the sensitivity of our safety plan and obvious desire to not publicly explain it, this description is a brief overview pertinent to our variance request. Using certain technology and the inexpensive "pinch guards," school officials are quickly able to lock down and secure each classroom in seconds, without requiring a student or teacher enter a hallway to lock a door and be exposed to a potential terrorist threat, by pulling the "pinch guards" from the doors and the door becoming closed and locked. The use of the "pinch guards" also further the educational purpose of our School by allowing the frequent (and required) coming and going of students, teachers, and administrators from classrooms without the need for instructional time being interrupted to unlock and then re-lock a classroom door. Unfortunately, our Society has come to a point that student safety within our schools is a major concern and one our District addresses with the utmost priority and detail. As a part of our variance request, we are proposing amendments to each of our campuses disaster management plans to include the unlocking and removal of the pinch guards from the classroom doors before exiting the building in case of a fire. While we understand the importance of the Fire Code and use of the fire-rated doors, we feel that this variance is an appropriate middle ground to further the purpose of the Fire Code while at the same time allowing our school officials and safety experts to protect society's most valuable asset, our children, from a school shooting.

DEMONSTRATION OF UNDUE HARDSHIP OR HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT STRUCTURE:

☐ Imposition of the rule would result in an undue hardship (unusual difficulty) because of physical limitations of the construction site or its utility services.

☐ Imposition of the rule would result in an undue hardship (unusual difficulty) because of major operational problems in the use of the building or structure.

☒ Y Imposition of the rule would result in an undue hardship (unusual difficulty) because of excessive costs of additional or altered construction elements.

☐ Imposition of the rule would prevent the preservation of an architecturally or a historically significant part of the building or structure

Facts: The variance is only being sought related to buildings within our district that are not fully sprinklered. While in a perfect world, we would retrofit all of our buildings for sprinklers, we are unfortunately able to afford such a massive and expensive undertaking. We believe this variance is the best and most efficient use of tax payer dollars to appease the Fire Code while at the same time, protecting our students and staff.