

Five Questions About the Secure Structure Ordinance

City Hall Campus Emergency Preparedness Committee, 1/5/2026

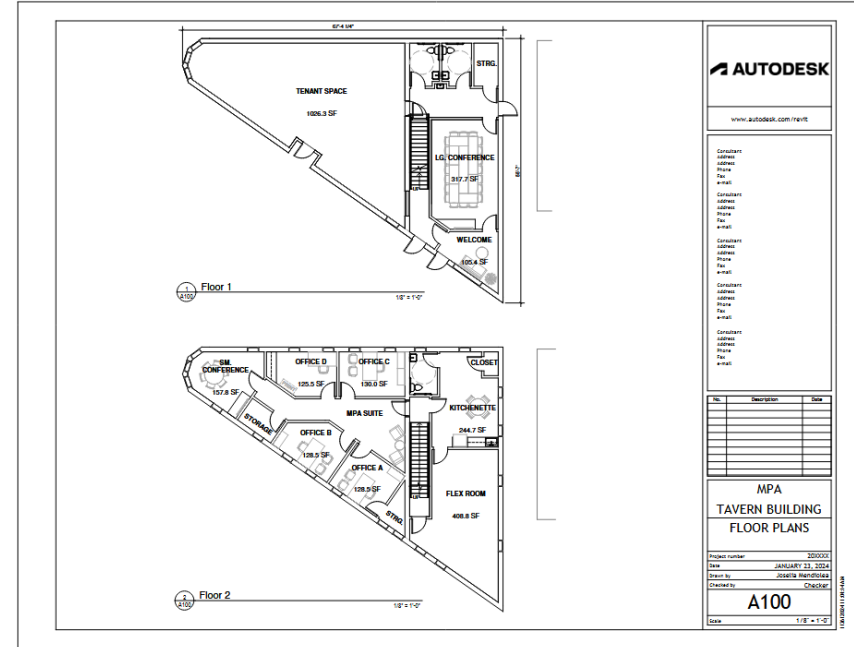
What kinds of buildings count as a secure structure?

- Government Buildings
- Utility and Fuel Storage
- Arenas and Public Spaces
- Places of Worship
- But what about....
 - Apartment Buildings and large office buildings?
 - Public private partnerships?
 - Repurposed spaces?
- Who makes the determination?



Who is responsible for following the ordinance?

- Plans are found in various places
 - City Records (official repository)
 - Permit Records (may have been fixed)
 - BOZA records (cf BZZA-25-00310)
 - Legistar (cf CCFN 240748)
- Huge variance in level of compliance
- Minimal differentiation between secure/nonsecure



From Legistar, CCFN 240748, "Resolution relating to a Certificate of Appropriateness"

When does a plan really need to be secure?

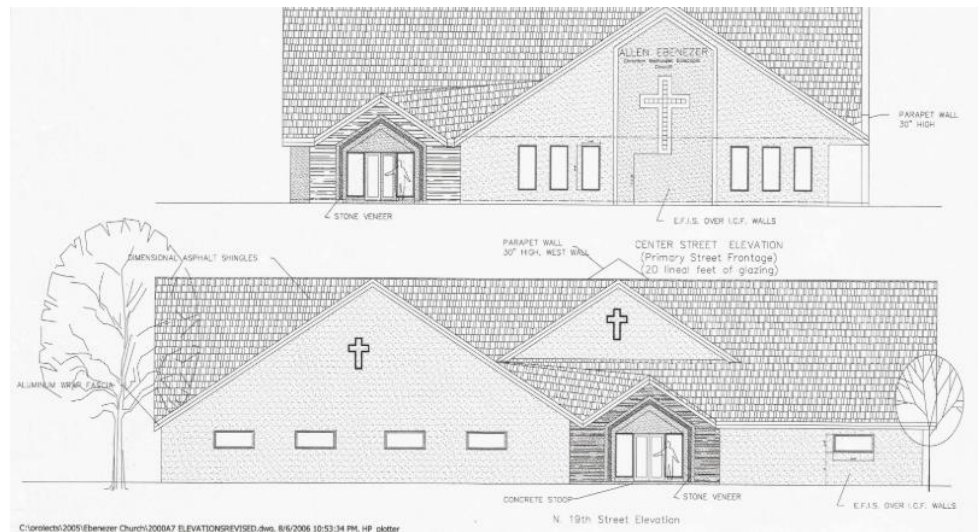


From E-Vault (PTS# 94318, Cafe Area
Rendering in US Bank Building)


- Is a storefront church a secure structure?
- Is a building that USED to be a bank a secure structure?
- Does the usage of a space in a larger building by a secure structure render the entire building secure?
- Can a non-secure space within a secure area be released?
- Do we treat elevations and renders the same as HVAC and Structural diagrams?

Where do we draw the line on security vs. access?

- Various complicating scenarios are common:
 - We can't find the existing owner or plan submitter
 - We can't get the existing owner to sign off
 - Obvious educational use (architecture students etc.)
 - Time-sensitive use requirements (Active contractor)
- What counts as “permission” anyway?
 - A signed physical letter?
 - A digital copy of a letter?
 - An email from the owner's domain?
 - What about single owners?



From E-Vault: Allen Ebenezer CME Church, PTS
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Why are we making
the public jump
through extra
hoops?