

Eric B Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>

URGENT: Imminent Fire Hazard / Blocked Egress - 5634 Noel Drive (R-3 Violation)

2 messages

Eric B Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org> Fri, Jan 23, 2026 at 5:57 PM

To: FIRE-FPIrwindale@fire.lacounty.gov, sreimers@templecity.us, bcook@templecity.us

Cc: pkuo@templecityca.gov, Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>

Bcc: Eric B Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>

To the Fire Marshal and City Manager:

I am formally reporting a **Life-Safety Emergency** at 5634 Noel Drive (Unpermitted R-3 Density).

The Hazard: The sole emergency access driveway has been physically restricted to **7 feet, 11 inches** (Photos attached). This violates the **10-foot minimum width** required for Fire Apparatus Access in R-3 zones.

The Failure: On Friday, Jan 23, Code Enforcement Officer Viet Tran acknowledged the driveway was re-paved in 2018 (Permit on file) but claimed the City 'does not regulate' the width reduction. This is legally incorrect. The 2018 modification required compliance with current Fire Code.

Immediate Action Required:

1. I request an immediate **Fire Life Safety Inspection** to verify the obstruction.
2. I request the City confirm that the 2018 driveway permit did *not* authorize reducing the width below 10 feet.

I am a tenant trapped in the rear unit. If a fire occurs, I have no escape.

Eric Jones

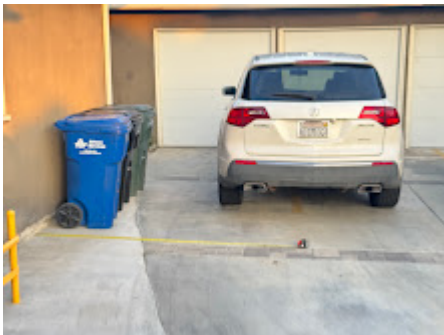
Nuha Sayegh (co-tenant)

626-348-3019 📞

ATTACHED EVIDENCE:

- **Exhibit A:** Close-up measurement showing actual width is **7' 11"** (Code requires 10').
- **Exhibit B:** Wide angle showing the restricted width relative to a standard vehicle.
- **Exhibit C:** Visual proof that a parked vehicle obstructs emergency personnel access.
- **Exhibit D:** View of the sole egress path from the street.

4 attachments



EXHIBIT_B_Driveway_Width_Context.JPG
1680K



EXHIBIT_A_Width_Measurement_95_Inches.JPG
3318K



EXHIBIT_C_Blocked_Fire_Access.JPG
5723K



EXHIBIT_D_Sole_Egress_Path.JPG
8220K

Eric B Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org> Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 3:23 PM
To: FIRE-FPIrwindale@fire.lacounty.gov, sreimers@templecity.us, bcook@templecity.us
Cc: pkuo@templecityca.gov, Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>, Nathan.Harrison@fire.lacounty.gov

Inspector Harrison,

I just left you a voicemail responding to your call regarding 5634 Noel Drive, but the system cut me off before I could finish.

I need to clarify the critical safety discrepancy you might include in the questions you referenced in your voicemail:

The City has a "2018 Paving Permit." The City (Viet Tran) is using this to claim the

driveway is "grandfathered." This conflates paving with obstruction.

The Violation: While the asphalt was repaved in 2018, a physical block wall was constructed that narrows the fire access width to 7 feet, 11 inches (see attached Exhibit A).

The Question: Does a paving permit authorize the maintenance of a structural barrier that physically prevents Fire Apparatus access (minimum 10 feet) to a multi-unit dwelling?


The Hazard: This is a "Fatal Funnel." If a fire occurs at the street/front unit, the tenants in the rear are trapped with no secondary egress.

Formal Request for Action: We are requesting a Site Safety Inspection to verify the 7'11" width. We need a Fire Department determination on whether this physical obstruction constitutes an immediate hazard requiring a Red Tag, regardless of the zoning history.

Please let me know when you can come out to measure.

Regards,

Eric Jones

(626) 348-3019 

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