

# 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-FPIwindale@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)

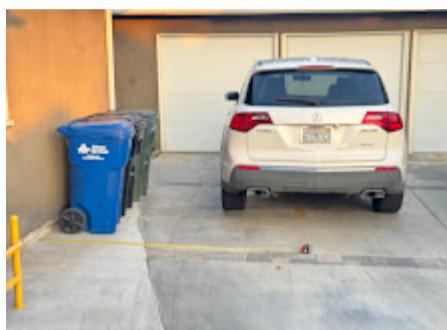
626-348-3019 

**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.

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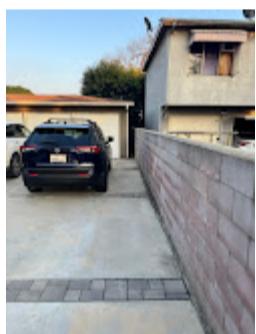
#### 4 attachments



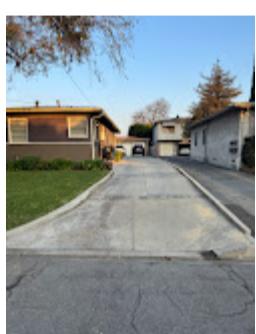
**EXHIBIT\_B\_Driveway\_Width\_Context.JPG**  
1680K



**EXHIBIT\_A\_Width\_Measurement\_95\_Inches.JPG**  
3318K



**EXHIBIT\_C\_Blocked\_Fire\_Access.JPG**  
5723K



**EXHIBIT\_D\_Sole\_Egress\_Path.JPG**  
8220K

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**Eric B Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>** Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 3:23 PM  
To: FIRE-FPIwindale@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   
[Quoted text hidden]