

VIRGINIA:

BEFORE THE
STATE BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

IN RE: Appeal of Monica and Michael Davis
Appeal No. 21-02

DECISION OF THE REVIEW BOARD

I. Procedural Background

The State Building Code Technical Review Board (Review Board) is a Governor-appointed board established to rule on disputes arising from application of regulations of the Department of Housing and Community Development. See §§ 36-108 and 36-114 of the Code of Virginia. The Review Board's proceedings are governed by the Virginia Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq. of the Code of Virginia).

II. Case History

On March 27, 2020, the County of Augusta Department of Community Development (County Building Official), the agency responsible for the enforcement of Part 1 of the 2012 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (Virginia Construction Code or VCC), issued the Certificate of Occupancy to Monica and Michael Davis (Davis), for a single-family dwelling located at 1002 Round Hill School Road, in Augusta County.

Shortly after moving into their new home, Davis contacted the County Building Official requesting he come inspect a variety of issues and concerns they had with their home, attached garage, and detached garage.

In June and July of 2020, the County Building Official visited the Davis property several times investigating the issues brought forth by Davis. During one or more of these inspections, the County Building Official found several violations. On July 16, 2020, the County Building

Official issued a letter to Hendricks and Son General Contractor, LLC citing seventeen (17) code violations.

In September of 2020, Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers visited the Davis home to evaluate the residence with attached garage and detached garage related to the cited violations in the July 16, 2020 letter from the County Building Official. Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers drafted a letter dated November 3, 2020, which was received by Augusta County on November 9, 2020. The Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers letter was reviewed and accepted by the County Building Official.

Davis filed a timely appeal to the Augusta County Board of Building Code Appeals (local appeals board) for the acceptance and approval of the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers letter. Davis further appealed to the local appeals board to consider the proposal report from Engineer Solutions and require the builder to approach the cited violations with the suggested analysis process set forth in that report. The local appeals board upheld the decisions of the County Building Official finding that the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers report was a valid engineering report for the Davis' structure. On February 1, 2021, Davis further appealed to the Review Board.

A virtual Review Board hearing was held May 21, 2021. Appearing at the Review Board hearing for Augusta County was G. W. Wiseman. Monica and Michael Davis attended the hearing on their behalf.

III. Findings of the Review Board

- A. Whether to uphold the decision of the County Building Official and the local appeals board that the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers report is a valid report for the Davis structure.

Davis argued that Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers were unable to provide an accurate report as many of the violations cited in the letter from the County Building Official dated July

16, 2020. were in locations that were covered with drywall. Davis further argued that because the drywall was not removed, the cited violations had not been properly investigated; therefore, the report could not satisfy the issues as indicated in the County Building Official's letter dated March 31, 2021. Davis further argued that without proper investigation the report could not provide the required engineer evaluation and design necessary for the repairs pursuant to the letter from the building official dated July 16, 2020. Davis also argued that the Engineer Solutions report provided a "clear-cut flawless" report as it was performed in conjunction with the removal of drywall for proper investigation, and provided the design for repair as required in the letter from the County Building Official dated July 16, 2020. Davis argued each individual violation cited in the letter from the County Building Official dated July 16, 2020.

The County argued that the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers report was a valid report for the letter from the County Building Official dated July 16, 2020. The County further argued that the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers report fully resolved items #8 and #12 of the letter from the building official dated July 16, 2020. The County argued that the remaining items from the letter from the County Building Official dated July 16, 2020 could be resolved if the repairs were done in accordance with the instructions in the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers report which the building official approved by approval of the report.

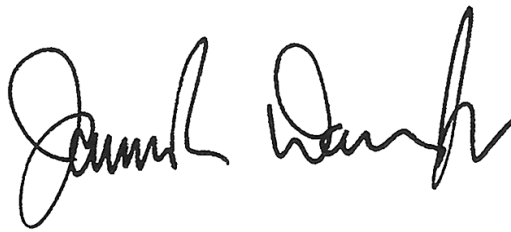
The Review Board agrees with the County and local appeals board that the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers report is a valid report, but does not resolve any of the issues outlined in the July 16, 2020 letter from the County Building Official. The Review Board further finds that the Engineering Solutions report is also a valid report.

IV. Final Order

The appeal having been given due regard, and for the reasons set out herein, the Review Board orders as follows:

A. Whether to uphold the decision of the County Building Official and the local appeals board that the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers report is a valid report for the Davis structure.

The decision by the County Building Official and local appeals board that the Schnitzhofer Structural Engineers report is a valid report is upheld noting that the Engineering Solutions report, provided by the Davis', is also a valid report.



Chair, State Building Code Technical Review Board

Date entered ____September 17, 2021____

As provided by Rule 2A:2 of the Supreme Court of Virginia, you have thirty (30) days from the date of service (the date you actually received this decision or the date it was mailed to you, whichever occurred first) within which to appeal this decision by filing a Notice of Appeal with W. Travis Luter, Sr., Secretary of the Review Board. In the event that this decision is served on you by mail, three (3) days are added to that period.