

*Nominations*  
*Committee Meeting*  
*of*  
*October 24, 2023*

*Agenda Item 4*

# Code Advisory Committee

The Code Advisory Committee makes recommendations about building codes to the Building Inspection Commission.

The Code Advisory Committee consists of 17 members who are qualified by training and experience to deliberate and make recommendations on matters pertaining to the development and improvement of the content of the San Francisco Building Code, Mechanical Code, Electrical Code, Plumbing Code, Green Building Code and Housing Code as well as related rules and regulations or proposed ordinances that the Director of the Building Inspection Department determines may have an impact on construction permits. Specific recommendations of this Committee are directed to the Building Inspection Commission for their further action.

## Subcommittees

[Administrative & General Design and Disability Access Subcommittee](#)

[Mechanical Electrical Plumbing Subcommittee](#)

[Green Building Subcommittee](#)

[Structural Subcommittee](#)

[Housing Code Subcommittee](#)

# Board of Examiners

A group of experts that determines if new construction methods or materials comply with safety standards.

The Board of Examiners is a group of experts created under Section 105.1 of the San Francisco Building Code. The purpose of the Board is to hear and determine the requests by the public as to whether new materials, new methods or types of construction comply with the standards of safety established by the San Francisco Construction Codes which include San Francisco Building Code, Plumbing Code, Electrical Code and Mechanical Code. The Board also has the power to determine reasonable interpretation of the provisions of the San Francisco Building Code, and to hear the appeals from the Director's condemnation order involving construction methods, assemblies or materials or where safety is involved.

# Access Appeals Commission

We conduct hearings on DBI's interpretations of disability access regulations and enforcement.

## Purpose

To serve the City and County of San Francisco and the general public by hearing written appeals brought by any person regarding actions taken by the Department of Building Inspection in the enforcement of the requirements for Access to Public Accommodations by Physically Handicapped Persons (Part 5.5, Sections 19955-59 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California), as well as action taken by the Department in the enforcement of the disabled access and adaptability provisions of this code. San Francisco Building Code Section 105.3

## Mission Statement

The Access Appeals Commission (AAC), consisting of five members, conducts hearings to approve or disapprove the Departments interpretations of applicable disability access regulations and actions taken by the Department to enforce said regulations and abate violations. It shall establish reasonable rules and regulations for its own procedures, choose its officers, conduct public meetings, designate an official reporter, and make decisions and recommendations by resolution.



[REDACTED]

Ronnie Thomas  
[REDACTED]

**August 3, 2023**

Sonya Harris  
Secretary, Building Inspection Commission  
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Ste. 500  
San Francisco, CA 94103

**Subject: Application for Board of Examiners - Fire Protection Engineer**

Dear Sonya,

This letter serves as my official interest in applying for the seat of “Fire Protection Engineer” to serve the San Francisco Board of Examiners (BOE). I previously have attended these meetings as a interested public person, and have the utmost respect for each seat on the board. There are few opportunities such as this to actively serve the public in a direct and meaningful manner.

My interest comes from what I have learned from a previous board member, Mr. Armin Wolski. While details of the meetings were not discussed, it was his opportunity to provide the public with his services that appeals to me the most. The issues he helped with, while somewhat few and far between, shaped several projects. It is my hope to serve the public in a similar manner.

My current responsibilities to the National Fire Protection Association and California State Fire Marshall will not hinder my ability to serve the BOE. In fact, these experiences have prepared me for serving the public.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Thomas, PE  
CA Lic # 1985  
**Associate Principal**  
Reax Engineering

## **James R. (Ronnie) Thomas, PE**

Reax Engineering, Inc.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Ronnie Thomas is an Associate Principal at Reax Engineering based in Northern California. His responsibilities span building and fire code consulting and design, smoke control design, fire science research, and forensic investigation. Ronnie’s work combines fire/building codes and related standards with technical aspects of fire science such as combustion, heat transfer, fluid dynamics, thermodynamics, fire dynamics, and fire modeling. He serves as a technical expert to NFPA, UL/ULC and California State Fire Marshall Building Code committees and regularly lectures on smoke control engineering and design at Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

### **Licensure**

Licensed Professional Engineer, CA (FPE 1985), NV (PE 25226), WA (PE 22027135)

### **Education**

MS – Fire Protection Engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
BS – Fire Science, University of Maryland – University College

### **Professional Associations and Appointments**

Member, SFPE (Society of Fire Protection Engineers)  
Past President, NCN-SFPE (Northern California – Nevada Society of Fire Protection Engineers)  
Member, NFPA (National Fire Protection Association)  
Committee Member, NFPA 420

### **Publications, Presentations and Seminars**

Linden, Paul; Ed Arens; Nick Daish, et. Al. (UC San Diego). 2015. *Natural Ventilation for Energy Savings in California Commercial Buildings*. California Energy Commission. Publication Number: CEC-500-2016-039.

“Barriers to implementation of natural ventilation: A fire and life safety perspective,” *Center for the Built Environment*, Berkeley, CA, October 2013.

“Advancements in smoke control modeling: a comparison of methods commonly used in smoke control applications,” *2019 SFPE Annual Conference & Expo*, Phoenix, AZ, October 2019.