

Mindy Madden

From: Museum Manager <museum.manager@wmmi.org>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Mindy Madden
Cc: Mindy Madden; Craig Dossey
Subject: Request for extension and/or appeal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the El Paso County technology network. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Please call IT Customer Support at 520-6355 if you are unsure of the integrity of this message.

El Paso County
Planning and Community Development
Attn: Code Enforcement Supervisor
2880 International Circle, Ste. 110
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

To whom it may concern,

The Western Museum of Mining & Industry (WMMI) has been in existence for 50 years in El Paso County, 40 years at our current location (225 North Gate Blvd.). Our zoning was created/determined by the County years ago when the system was initiated. Our mission/purpose and activities have been consistent for decades; for example, holding events for the community.

Since receiving (what we consider an inappropriate/unwarranted) notice of violation, we ceased “outsider” events after September 29, 2019. As a “for impact” or “non-profit” organization that means our mission has been impaired and our revenue reduced. In response to the violation notice, WMMI began the variance process using precious time and resources of our small organization, realizing along the way, that a variance is designed for developers or companies changing the operations, neither of which fits our situation.

At this point, we formally request a waiver and / or extension. Since our property has become an enclave in the City of Colorado Springs, they are interested in annexing the WMMI campus. We have been working with the Mayor and the Office of Economic Development who are excited to bring the gem of WMMI into the City as a long standing educational resource for the community and a unique attraction for tourists. Therefore, we believe it would be unwise for the County or WMMI to invest more time, money or energy into a variance. Those resources could and would be better utilized to serve our community.

Thank you for your consideration of our situation. We are available to answer questions and discuss “win+win” solutions.

Kind regards,

Grant Dewey
Executive Director

PS: YES, we were impacted by Covid. WMMI was closed for over two months losing significant income.

Grant Dewey
Executive Director
Western Museum of Mining & Industry
(719) 487.3283
www.wmmi.org