

In September 2017, it was brought to the city's attention that 1010 West Church had changed its use from a storage warehouse to an event venue and since that time, the city has had several meetings with the property owner to encourage the space becomes compliant and improvements are made to ensure the lives and safety of guests attending events there.

In order for the building to change its use from a storage warehouse to an event venue, certain improvements need to be made to ensure the life and safety of guests which may include:

- Fire sprinklers
- Panic hardware (required for occupancies of more than 50 people)
- Emergency illumination and signage
- Modification to exit doors to ensure they open outward and to a clear path of travel for exiting the building in an emergency
- Removal of flammable materials that have been used to alter the appearance of the building's interior

The city recognized that many events are planned months in advance and since September had been working in good faith with the property owner to hold events with fire watch. In February, the Orlando Fire Department notified the owner that fire watch would no longer be allowed after March 25, 2018 and that the owner should not schedule any additional events in this building until all life safety systems are in place.

Unfortunately, the owner continued to schedule new events at the venue, putting the lives of guests at risk. Despite repeated warnings reminding the property owner to cease hosting events in the space, the owner and tenant continued to allow events to occur. Condemnation of the building was our last resort, but was our only option due to the continued disregard by the property owner and tenant of the orders by the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal to discontinue occupancy.

The city believes 1010 West Church is a unique gathering space that adds vibrancy to Parramore by bringing new guests and visitors into an underutilized area. We are hopeful that the owner brings the property into compliance.

It is the city's responsibility to ensure the state of Florida Building and City of Orlando codes are enforced to protect the lives and ensure the safety of guests who visit the 1010 West Church venue and unfortunately, until the life safety improvements are made, the city cannot allow additional events to occur in the space.

Cassandra Anne Lafser, Press Secretary  
Office of the Mayor  
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