Development Services

40/50 YEAR RECERTIFICATION





RECERTIFICATION BACKGROUND

• On June 24, 2021, a Surfside, Florida Condominium building collapsed at approximately 1:30 a.m.

• As a result of this tragedy, many questions have arisen regarding the recertification process and municipal government oversight.

• The City of Coral Gables requires the highest standards for design, review, construction, and inspection of all properties.

RECERTIFICATION BACKGROUND (CONTINUED)

- On August 5, 1974, a building located at 1201 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, collapsed killing seven persons and injuring another sixteen.
- Mr. Schwartz publicly proposed a new requirement that every building more than 25-years old be required to undergo a structural inspection, to include structural testing, in order to recertify the building's Certificate of Occupancy.
- The Miami-Dade Board of Commissioners (BCC) considered the proposal on March 18, 1975 and deferred adoption to allow interested parties to provide input on the proposed legislation.

RECERTIFICATION BACKGROUND (CONTINUED)

• On May 21, 1975, the BCC adopted and passed Ordinance No. 75-34, amending the South Florida Building Code by adding sub-section 104.9 and requiring that all buildings, except single family residences, duplexes and minor structures, 40-years old or older be recertified as to their structural safety. Subsequent recertifications are required at 10 year intervals.

RECERTIFICATION BACKGROUND (CONTINUED)

• In 2000, the State of Florida adopted a Uniform Building Code for the state, known as the Florida Building Code, incorporating most of the South Florida Building Code. However, Section 104.9 of the South Florida Building Code (the 40/50-year recertification requirement) was not adopted as a mandatory requirement of the state's code.

• The Miami-Dade County requirement is currently codified in Section 8-11 Existing Buildings, subsection (f) Recertification of buildings and components, of the Code of Miami-Dade County.

• Broward County incorporated these requirements into their Code in 2006.

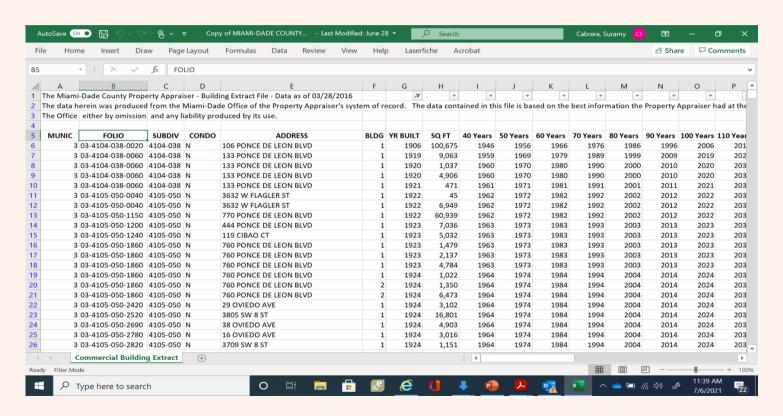
CURRENT RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

• Coral Gables maintains a list, received from the Property Appraiser's office, with the year built for all structures in the City.

• The City's Building Department reviews the list and notifies property owners, as required by County Ordinance, that they need to recertify their properties.

 Properties not responding within the Ordinance deadlines, are forwarded to the Construction Regulation Board for further enforcement.

RECERTIFICATION PROCESS LIST EXAMPLE:



CURRENT RECERTIFICATION PROCESS

CONTINUED

- When tips are received regarding possible issues, the Chief Building Inspector visits the site and performs a visual inspection and reports back. Depending on the findings, appropriate action is taken-including posting the building as "unsafe", if necessary.
- If a building for which a report has been submitted, is pending recertification, the report is reviewed to verify that it poses no immediate risk or life safety concern with continued occupancy.
- It is crucial that all structures are properly maintained on an ongoing basis.
- Residents and tenants are encouraged to alert the city immediately if they believe a building poses a danger and is unsafe. Issues should be reported to DevelopmentServices@coralgables.com; emails will be reviewed within 24-hours or next business day.

RECERTIFICATION STATUS

- Notices were sent on February 8, 2021 for buildings requiring certification in 2021.
- In 2021, 83 buildings were up for recertification; 48 have been recertified and 35 are pending.
- All City owned buildings have had their 40/50-year recertification inspection, some have undergone or are undergoing renovations.

PENDING STRUCTURES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS:

Year	Recertified	Pending
2013	87	0
2014	109	1
2015	158	1
2016	165	0
2017	110	1
2018	89	2
2019	106	2
2020	89	7

RECERTIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recertifications should begin at 30-years versus the current 40-years and continue every 10-years.
- Buildings due for recertification should be alerted one year prior to provide sufficient time for inspections to take place and for building management to allocate resources should repairs be necessary.
- When a building is found in need of repairs, the notice to the Association/owner should be posted in the building in a highly visible public area to promote full transparency. These letters should provide residents and guests with the contact of the person/company conducting the inspection so that questions and concerns can be addressed accordingly.
- Qualifications of those authorized to recertify buildings should be strengthened to require a Structural Engineer for threshold buildings.

MAINTAINING A STRONG BUILDING CODE

• The City of Coral Gables prides itself on its rigorous construction review and inspection process. We have remained steadfast in the need for Certification of Structural Plan Engineers.

• In 2020, the city spoke on-the-record in opposition to proposed changes to Articles I and II of Chapter 8 of the Miami-Dade County Code. Most specifically, this proposal was an amendment to the requirements for Certification of Structural Plans Examiners.

• The City of Coral Gables will continue to advocate for maintaining and raising the standards of construction at the County level.



Thank You

