



October 22, 2014

City of Portland  
Inspections Division  
C/O: Jeanie Bourke  
Plan Reviewer/ Code Enforcement  
389 Congress Street  
Portland, Maine 04101

RE: 638 Congress Street  
Permit #2014-02290

Dear Jeanie,

As requested, this letter is to provide you with a brief summary of the structural components of the proposed architectural elements of our project at 638 Congress Street (The Lafayette).

This seven story building is of masonry type exterior wall construction with a wood framed storefront system at the congress street commercial spaces. During Historic Preservation approval, it was determined that the most appealing way to add the intended features and interest to this street scape was by the projected elements you see submitted.

During our investigation of the existing construction it was determined by our structural engineer that the most efficient and cost effective way to support these elements was to integrate them into the existing wall system & building structure. Given the shallow member requirements the structural engineer has designed this system to be a cantilevered double 2x8 system extending into the existing tenant space entry soffits within each space. This allows proper bearing and support within the wall to allow a visually unsupported element at the exterior. Within the soffit and wall system new support hangers, anchors and braces will be installed to meet all necessary structural requirements as set forth by code.

Given this peculiar structural system and integration into the existing façade this element would meet the requirements of section 705.2 'Projections' of the 2009 IBC. Section 705.4 allows for the construction materials of projections to match those of the type of construction while section 1406 limits the use of combustible wall coverings, these projections would be wrapped completely with a flat seam metal roofing product. Our proposed architectural element extends four feet beyond our building façade and therefore four feet beyond the property and into the city right of way. This encroachment is limited by section 3202 to four feet for elements eight to fifteen feet above grade.



Given our proposal and the associated code requirements we feel we meet all of the applicable requests set forth. It is also our understanding that the City of Portland would require a Revocable License for elements within the cities right of way which the building owner would accept upon presentation.

Should you have any additional questions, comments or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matt Provencal', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matt Provencal, Assoc. AIA  
Architectural Designer  
Mark Mueller Architects