

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The tops of Grade Beams and Pile Caps shall be at or below the natural grade and designed and constructed in accordance with ASCE 24-14 Sections 4.5.9 and 4.5.10. Seaward of the CCCL the tops of Grade Beams and Pile Caps must be at or below the FDEP determined design grade, unless designed to resist the increased flood loads associated with setting the grade beam or pile cap above the FDEP design grade.

In Coastal A Zones (CAZ) stem walls supporting a floor system above and backfilled with soil or gravel to the underside of the floor system above shall be permitted in accordance with the provisions of ASCE 24-14 Section 4.5.13.

### SECTION 4 – Free of Obstruction Certification Statement (Registered engineer or architect to sign and seal SECTION 5)

I certify that based upon the development and/or review of structural design, specifications and plans for subject construction that the space below the lowest horizontal structural member shall be free of obstruction or constructed with breakaway walls, open wood lattice or louvers constructed in accordance with FEMA Technical Bulletin 5 guidance, or insect screening intended to collapse under wind and water loads without causing collapse, displacement, or other structural damage to the elevated portion of building or supporting foundation system. Design and construction shall be in accordance with requirements of Florida Building Code Sections 1612, 3109, and R322, ASCE 24-14, ASCE 7, and the Sarasota County Code Article XVI:

If access stairs or ramps are constructed inside a breakaway enclosure an entry door shall be required at the top of the stairs. Stairs and ramps shall be constructed and designed to resist the flood loads up to the design flood. The elevated building and its foundation must be designed to resist loads that are transferred from the stairs or ramps.

The use of enclosures below the lowest floor is restricted to parking of vehicles, access, or storage; lower areas must not be finished or used for any other purpose. Breakaway walls shall have flood openings as specified by ASCE 24 and Sarasota County Code Article XVI. In Zone VE the enclosure area shall be limited to no greater than 299 square feet, or subject to approval by the Floodplain Administrator for multi-unit buildings enclosures of up to 20% of the footprint area of structure may be allowed.

"Breakaway Wall" means any type of wall subject to flooding that is not required to provide structural support to a building or other structure and that is designed and constructed such that, under base flood or lesser flood conditions, it will collapse in such a way that: (1) it allows the free passage of floodwaters, and (2) it does not damage the structure or supporting foundation system. Attendant utilities and equipment shall not be mounted on, pass through, or be located along breakaway walls.

### SECTION 5- Certification

Certifier's Name: TIMOTHY KREBS Title: ARCHITECT  
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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Seal: \_\_\_\_\_

*T. Krebs*

Digitally signed by  
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Date: 2026.01.06  
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