From: **Debra Knight** Debra.Knight@tdi.texas.gov
Subject: FW: Request for Administrative Review and Oversight Guidance – Prior Submission re: Walmart Supercenter #131 (Mount Pleasant, TX)
Date: December 30, 2025 at 2:40 PM
To: Kyle Moring
Cc: lmcrae@mpcity.org, mpfd@mpcity.org, Kelley Stalder Kelley.Stalder@tdi.texas.gov, Christopher Rusche Christopher.Rusche@tdi.texas.gov, Chuck Allen Chuck.Allen@tdi.texas.gov

DK

Thank you for your detailed correspondence and for providing the supporting documentation regarding Walmart Supercenter Store #131 in Mount Pleasant, Texas. I appreciate the time and effort you have taken to compile and present your concerns related to fire and life-safety conditions at this public occupancy.

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) reviews all complaints to determine how we may most appropriately assist within the statutory framework established by Texas Government Code Chapter 417. That framework is intended to promote public safety while recognizing that effective fire and life-safety oversight is a shared responsibility among state and local authorities, building owners, and the communities they serve. Our collective goal is always the same: identifying hazards and supporting their timely correction to reduce risk to occupants and responders. SFMO has specific statutory authority and defined limitations regarding inspections and enforcement. While SFMO serves as the statewide Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) for certain occupancies and circumstances, §417.008 and §417.0081 recognize that when a municipality has adopted a fire code and designated a local fire official, that local authority is the primary AHJ for code enforcement, inspections, and corrective actions within its jurisdiction.

In jurisdictions such as the City of Mount Pleasant—where a local fire code is adopted and a local fire department or fire marshal is designated—SFMO's role is generally coordination, and technical assistance, rather than direct intervention or supervisory oversight of local enforcement decisions.

Your materials were forwarded to the City of Mount Pleasant as the appropriate AHJ. SFMO does not assign an enforcement tracking number when a complaint is referred to a local jurisdiction, as the inspection, investigation, and any resulting enforcement actions fall under the authority and records of the local fire official.

Regarding your request for state-level oversight, Chapter 417 does not provide SFMO with authority to administratively review, override, or compel local fire code enforcement actions where a municipality has adopted and is enforcing its own fire code.

If concerns continue, you may find it helpful to seek written inspection findings or status updates directly from the City of Mount Pleasant Fire Department or Fire Marshal's Office, or to engage municipal administrative or elected leadership. SFMO remains willing to stay informed and to assist in a supportive, consultative capacity, recognizing that progress often results from continued communication and cooperation among all parties.

I appreciate your continued engagement on this matter and your commitment to the

collective goal of protecting life and property. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have additional information to share or if further coordination may be helpful.

Debra Knight
Texas State Fire Marshal
Department of Insurance
Mobile 512.567.8482
Email Debra.Knight@tdi.texas.gov

Stay connected with the State Fire Marshal's Office
Twitter | Facebook | LinkedIn | YouTube | Subscribe

From: Kyle Moring <_____ _____>
Sent: Tuesday, December 30, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Debra Knight <Debra.Knight@tdi.texas.gov>
Subject: Request for Administrative Review and Oversight Guidance – Prior Submission re: Walmart Supercenter #131 (Mount Pleasant, TX)

ATTENTION: **This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown or unexpected emails.**

Fire Marshal Knight,

I am writing to respectfully request an administrative review and guidance regarding a fire and life-safety complaint packet I submitted to the State Fire Marshal's Office on December 21, 2025 concerning:

Walmart Supercenter Store #131

2311 South Jefferson Avenue

Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455

On December 21, 2025, I submitted an email and an attached evidence binder requesting SFMO review/assistance due to recurring and documented life-safety concerns at this public occupancy facility, including chronic means

due to recurring and documented life-safety concerns at this public occupancy facility, including chronic means-of-egress obstructions, sprinkler system performance/maintenance deficiencies, fire alarm integrity issues, hazardous materials and firearms/ammunition storage marking/protection concerns, and recurring ceiling system deficiencies documented over multiple years. I also provided a formal escalation letter summarizing the concerns and supporting exhibits.

On December 22, 2025, SFMO (Lt. Christopher Rusche) acknowledged receipt and advised that the City of Mount Pleasant is the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) and that my concerns were forwarded to the City.

That same morning, I replied to clarify that these issues have already been raised with the City of Mount Pleasant on multiple occasions, which is why I sought state-level review and oversight rather than another referral to the same local authority. I also requested confirmation of (1) the date of forwarding, (2) the recipient(s) and email address(es), (3) any SFMO tracking/reference number, and (4) what mechanism exists for SFMO to re-engage or provide oversight if the City's response is not timely or does not address the documented life-safety issues.

As of the date of this email, I have not received a substantive response to those oversight questions beyond the initial referral notice. Given the public occupancy nature of the facility and the multi-source documentation contained in the binder, I am respectfully requesting administrative/supervisory review to determine what state-level oversight, coordination, or procedural pathway exists in situations where (a) the local AHJ has already been notified multiple times and (b) the documented hazards appear to recur without effective corrective action.

For convenience, I am reattaching:

- My 12/21/2025 transmittal email
- The SFMO escalation letter (summary + requested focus areas)
- The Store #131 evidence binder
- The 12/22/2025 SFMO acknowledgment and my 12/22/2025 follow-up reiterating the oversight request

Respectfully, I am requesting:

- Written confirmation of whether SFMO assigned any internal reference or tracking number to this submission
- Confirmation of the date the concerns were forwarded to the City of Mount Pleasant and the specific recipient(s) (name/title/email)
- Guidance on whether SFMO can conduct an administrative review of the handling of the referral and/or provide oversight coordination when local enforcement response is not timely or is ineffective
- Any recommended next steps for ensuring these documented life-safety concerns are independently evaluated and corrected

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate any guidance your office can provide regarding the appropriate state-level mechanism in this situation.

The supporting materials are provided as a single, bookmarked PDF evidence binder for ease of review:

Respectfully submitted in good faith,

/s/ Kyle Douglas Moring

Kyle Douglas Moring, M.S., LPC-Associate

Former Asset Protection Investigator – Walmart Store #131

Designated Representative of Current Walmart Store #131 Employees

OSHA §11(c) / FSMA Whistleblower Complainant

