
RE: 1407 S Carrollton HDLC violations

From: Debra Howell [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 1:22 PM
To: Dennis P. Murphy <Dennis.Murphy@nola.gov>
Cc: Susan Johnson [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: 1407 S Carrollton HDLC violations

Good afternoon, Dennis.

I have just heard from Susan Johnson about the withdrawal of the 1407 S Carrollton application for retention of the rooftop compressor and the visible conduit and junction box on the entry canopy, because the developer has agreed to rectify those two violations.

But I have still have questions and concerns about what HDLC is planning on doing about the additional violation (and massive eyesore) of the electrical service boxes currently installed in the front yard, and within the required 3 ft setback area? These were moved from the original location on the left (north) wall of the building. I have attached pdfs of the current situation, as well as a photo from google street view showing the original location of the previously existing electrical service panels.

From earlier correspondence between you and Susan Johnson, I see that on October 24, after Susan had asked about the electrical service violation, you responded "This is still being determined. If the electrical equipment was required to be positioned there as per Entergy, and the applicant agrees to take some additional measures to screen the equipment, then it will likely be staff level approval only."

I also reviewed the claims made by the developers posted as correspondence on Onestop (also attached).

One claim was that *"placing the service on the left front side of the building was not possible because of clearance issues. The fence is too close to the building, and electrical code requires 36 inches of clearance in front of panelboards, with the door able to swing a full 90 degrees. Neither requirement could be met at that location."*

—However, that is the same location as the previously existing service, and the survey shows there are 3 feet between the building and the fence—so (a) what changed to make this location no longer functional, and (b) why can't it be made functional again, perhaps by using different equipment?

Another claim was that *“Entergy engineer Ralph James informed them that the service could not be installed at the back of the building due to Entergy's standards. According to him, Entergy requires all service metering devices to be located at the front of the property. Ralph took these concerns back to his supervisor and asked if there was any way to allow installation at the back of the building. The response was that **this would only be acceptable if we brought the installation fully up to Entergy's standards**. We also asked Entergy if it would be acceptable to build a free-standing service off the building, and they confirmed that this location was acceptable.”*

Firstly, I would like to point out that just because a location is “acceptable to Entergy” should have no bearing on the fact that it's completely unacceptable to anyone and everyone else, and is certainly not acceptable in a historic district under any circumstances. Rumor has it that the developers may try to “screen” the eyesore by painting it red! As ridiculous as that sounds, that would seem to fit within the garish new aesthetic of their business.

Secondly, shouldn't they be required to bring the installation “fully up to Entergy's standards,” regardless of its location, but certainly when it affects this location in a historic district in such a significant manner? And if the back of the building would be an acceptable location **“if the developer brought the installation up to Entergy's standards,”** why aren't they being required to do this?

Finally, why is the HDLC accepting, at face value, the developer's claim that “Entergy made them do it?” If this were true, why don't we see freestanding electrical service equipment in front yards of buildings in other historic districts? And is it common for Entergy to demand that an eyesore be created in a historic district in order to provide electrical service to a building?

Thank you for any further information you can provide regarding these questions and concerns.

Debra Howell
Zoning and Land Use Committee Chair
Central Carrollton Association
