

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



Application No. 17579 of Keith Catanzano, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3103.2, for a variance from the lot occupancy requirements under section 403, to allow the construction of an accessory structure serving a single-family row dwelling in the R-4 District at premises 1235 Independence Avenue, S.E. (Square 1015, Lot 144).

Note: The Board amended this self-certified application at the public hearing changing the originally sought special exception relief under section 223, to variance relief from the lot occupancy requirements under section 403.

HEARING DATE: March 20, 2007
DECISION DATE: March 20, 2007 (Bench Decision)

SUMMARY ORDER

SELF-CERTIFIED

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3113.2.

The Board provided proper and timely notice of the public hearing on this application, by publication in the D.C. Register, and by mail to Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B, the Office of Planning (OP) and to owners of property within 200 feet of the site. The site of the application is located within the jurisdiction of ANC 6B. The ANC submitted a letter in support of the application. The ANC letter supported the publicly noticed relief for a special exception. However, in public testimony it was revealed that at the ANC meeting, the ANC also discussed the relief for the area variance. The OP submitted a report in opposition to the application. The Capitol Hill Restoration Society submitted a letter in support of the application.

As directed by 11 DCMR § 3119.2, the Board required the applicant to satisfy the burden of proving the elements that are necessary to establish the case for a variance pursuant to 11 DCMR §§ 3103.2 and 403. The Board agreed with the OP that the application should be heard under the area variance test and not under the special exception provisions of section 223. The Board disagreed with OP's conclusion that the Application does not meet the test for a variance. The Board, in brief, found that the Applicant proved the

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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.17579
EXHIBIT NO.2

practical difficulty test. The Board based its conclusion, in part, on the dwelling's absence of a basement level that creates a unique circumstance specific to this property compared to neighboring properties.

Based upon the record before the Board and having given great weight to the OP and ANC reports filed in this case, the Board concludes that the applicant has met the burden of proving under 11 DCMR §§ 3103.2 and 403, that there exists an exceptional or extraordinary situation or condition related to the property that creates a practical difficulty for the owner in complying with the Zoning Regulations, and that the relief can be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially impairing the intent, purpose, and integrity of the zone plan as embodied in the Zoning Regulations and Map.

Pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3101.6, the Board has determined to waive the requirement of 11 DCMR § 3125.3, that the order of the Board be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law. It is therefore **ORDERED** that this application (pursuant to Exhibit 10 – Architectural Plans) be **GRANTED**.

VOTE: 3-0-2 (Curtis L. Etherly, Jr., Michael G. Turnbull and John A. Mann II to Approve, Geoffrey H. Griffis and Ruthanne G. Miller not present, not voting).

BY ORDER OF THE D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

Each concurring Board member has approved the issuance of this order.

ATTESTED BY: 

JERRILY R. KRESS, FAIA
Director, Office of Zoning

FINAL DATE OF ORDER: MAR 21 2007

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3125.6, THIS ORDER WILL BECOME FINAL UPON ITS FILING IN THE RECORD AND SERVICE UPON THE PARTIES. UNDER 11 DCMR § 3125.9, THIS ORDER WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE TEN DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES FINAL.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3130, THIS ORDER SHALL NOT BE VALID FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER IT BECOMES EFFECTIVE UNLESS, WITHIN SUCH TWO-YEAR PERIOD, THE APPLICANT FILES PLANS FOR THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECURING A BUILDING PERMIT.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3125 APPROVAL OF AN APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE APPROVAL OF THE PLANS SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING OR STRUCTURE (OR ADDITION THERETO) OR THE RENOVATION OR ALTERATION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING OR STRUCTURE, UNLESS THE BOARD ORDERS OTHERWISE. AN APPLICANT SHALL CARRY OUT THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, OR ALTERATION ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

THE APPLICANT IS REQUIRED TO COMPLY FULLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1977, D.C. LAW 2-38, AS AMENDED, AND THIS ORDER IS CONDITIONED UPON FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THOSE PROVISIONS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE D.C. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF 1977, AS AMENDED, D.C. OFFICIAL CODE § 2-1401.01 ET SEQ., (ACT) THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED: RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, AGE, MARITAL STATUS, PERSONAL APPEARANCE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, FAMILIAL STATUS, FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, MATRICULATION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, DISABILITY, SOURCE OF INCOME, OR PLACE OF RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS. SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS A FORM OF SEX DISCRIMINATION WHICH IS ALSO PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. IN ADDITION, HARASSMENT BASED ON ANY OF THE ABOVE PROTECTED CATEGORIES IS ALSO PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THE ACT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. VIOLATORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION. THE FAILURE OR REFUSAL OF THE APPLICANT TO COMPLY SHALL FURNISH GROUNDS FOR THE DENIAL OR, IF ISSUED, REVOCATION OF ANY BUILDING PERMITS OR CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ORDER. RSN

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



BZA APPLICATION NO. 17579

As Director of the Office of Zoning, I hereby certify and attest that on _____, a copy of the order entered on that date in this matter was mailed first class, postage prepaid or delivered via inter-agency mail, to each party and public agency who appeared and participated in the public hearing concerning the matter, and who is listed below:

Keith Catanzano
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Washington, D.C. 20003

Chairperson
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B
921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Commissioner 6B05
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B
921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Tommy Wells, City Councilmember
Ward Six
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Bill Crews, Zoning Administrator
Building and Land Regulation Administration
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
941 N. Capitol Street, N.E.
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BZA APPLICATION NOS. 17579
PAGE NO. 2

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rsn

ATTESTED BY:


JERRILY R. KRESS, FAIA
Director, Office of Zoning 