

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



Application of District Properties.com Inc., pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3103.2, for variances from the lot area and width requirements under § 401, and the side yard requirements under § 405, to allow the construction of a new two-story, one-family dwelling on a vacant lot in the R-5-A District at premises 4275 6th Street S.E. (Square 6207, Lot 48).

HEARING DATES: July 14, 2015¹ and September 22, 2015
DECISION DATE: September 22, 2015

SUMMARY ORDER

SELF-CERTIFIED

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3113.2. (Exhibit 16.)

The Board of Zoning Adjustment ("Board" or "BZA") 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") 8D and to owners of property located within 200 feet of the site. The site of this application is located within the jurisdiction of ANC 8D, which is automatically a party to this application. A letter was submitted from the ANC which stated that it had voted (5:2) to support the application. However, while acknowledging the ANC letter, the Board noted that the ANC's letter did not meet all the requirements of 11 DCMR § 3115.1 for it to receive great weight. The ANC did not appear at the hearing to give testimony.

The Office of Planning ("OP") submitted a timely report recommending approval of the application with two conditions. (Exhibit 19.) OP in its report indicated that the Applicant agreed to amend the site plan, per the recommended conditions.

¹ On July 14, 2015, the public hearing in this case was continued before any testimony was taken in order for the Applicant to comply with the posting requirements and have additional time for outreach to the neighbors and the ANC.

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The District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) submitted a timely report indicating that it had no objection to the application. (Exhibit 18.)

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 pursuant to § 3103.2 for an area variance from the lot area and width requirements under § 401, and the side yard requirements under § 405, to allow the construction of a new two-story, one-family dwelling on a vacant lot in the R-5-A District. The only parties to the case were the ANC and the Applicant. No parties appeared at the public hearing in opposition to the application. Accordingly, a decision by the Board to grant this application would not be adverse to any party.

Based upon the record before the Board, and having given great weight to the OP report filed in this case, the Board concludes that in seeking variances from 11 DCMR §§ 401 and 405, the Applicant has met the burden of proof under 11 DCMR § 3103.2, 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 § 3100.5, the Board has determined to waive the requirement of 11 DCMR § 3125.5, that the order of the Board be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law. The waiver will not prejudice the rights of any party and is appropriate in this case.

It is therefore **ORDERED** that the application is hereby **GRANTED SUBJECT TO THE APPROVED PLANS AT EXHIBIT 6, AS MODIFIED BY THE FIRST FLOOR PLAN AT EXHIBIT 25,² AND WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

1. The Applicant shall make improvements to the landscaping and privacy screening for the property, including replacement of the stockade fencing (north and south) with metal fencing and evergreen shrubbery up to 42 inches tall planted along the fencing.
2. The Applicant shall plant a fast growing shade tree in the rear yard to reduce the heat effect to the home, consistent with the District’s Urban Forestry tree guidelines.

VOTE: **5-0-0** (Lloyd J. Jordan, Marnique Y. Heath, Frederick L. Hill, Jeffrey L. Hinkle, and Peter G. May to APPROVE.)

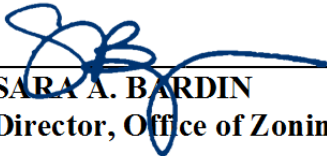
² During deliberations on September 22nd, the Board requested revised plans based on the Applicant’s testimony that he would provide a rear window on the first floor. Prior to the Order being issued, the Applicant submitted revised first floor plans that although they did not provide a rear window, the Board accepted them as appropriately modifying the approved plans because they provided additional light into the kitchen which met the intent of the Board’s original requirement. The Board voted 3:0:2 on October 6, 2015 to accept the revised first floor plans at Exhibit 25.

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

A majority of the Board members approved the issuance of this order.

ATTESTED BY:



SARA A. BARDIN
Director, Office of Zoning

FINAL DATE OF ORDER: October 7, 2015

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3125.9, NO ORDER OF THE BOARD SHALL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL TEN (10) DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES FINAL PURSUANT TO § 3125.6.

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 PURPOSE OF SECURING A BUILDING PERMIT, OR THE APPLICANT FILES A REQUEST FOR A TIME EXTENSION PURSUANT TO § 3130.6 PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND THE REQUEST IS GRANTED. PURSUANT TO § 3129.9, NO OTHER ACTION, INCLUDING THE FILING OR GRANTING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MODIFICATION PURSUANT TO §§ 3129.2 OR 3129.7, SHALL TOLL OR EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD.

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. AN APPLICANT SHALL CARRY OUT THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, OR ALTERATION ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AS THE SAME MAY BE AMENDED AND/OR MODIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3205, THE PERSON WHO OWNS, CONTROLS, OCCUPIES, MAINTAINS, OR USES THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, OR ANY PART THERETO, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS IN THIS ORDER, AS THE SAME MAY BE AMENDED AND/OR MODIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS IN THIS ORDER, IN WHOLE OR IN PART SHALL BE GROUNDS FOR THE REVOCATION OF ANY BUILDING PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ORDER.

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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, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, FAMILIAL STATUS, FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES, MATRICULATION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION, GENETIC INFORMATION, DISABILITY, SOURCE OF INCOME, OR PLACE OF RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS. SEXUAL HARASSMENT IS A FORM OF SEX DISCRIMINATION WHICH IS PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. IN ADDITION, HARASSMENT BASED ON ANY OF THE ABOVE PROTECTED CATEGORIES IS PROHIBITED BY THE ACT. DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THE ACT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. VIOLATORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.