

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



Application No. 19387 of Graham Smith and Alexis Diao, as amended¹ pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 9, for special exceptions under the rooftop/upper floor addition requirements of Subtitle E § 206.2, and the height requirements of Subtitle E § 303.3, to permit the renovation of a flat in the RF-1 Zone at premises 3616 11th Street, N.W. (Square 2829, Lot 169).

HEARING DATE: December 14, 2016

DECISION DATE: December 21, 2016

SUMMARY ORDER

SELF-CERTIFICATION

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 300.6. (Exhibit 6 – original, Exhibit 66 - revised.) In granting the certified relief, the Board of Zoning Adjustment ("Board" or "BZA") made no finding that the relief is either necessary or sufficient. Instead, the Board expects the Zoning Administrator to undertake a thorough and independent review of the building permit and certificate of occupancy applications filed for this project and to deny any application for which additional or different zoning relief is needed.

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") 1A and to owners of property located within 200 feet of the site. The site of this application is located within the jurisdiction of ANC 1A, which is automatically a party to this application. The ANC submitted a report recommending approval of the application. The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on November 9, 2016, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted 6-3-0 to support the application. (Exhibit 56.)

¹At the hearing of December 14, 2016, the Applicant amended the application by removing the special exception relief from Subtitle U §§ 320.2 and 320.2(a) related to conversion, and changing it to a special exception under Subtitle E § 206.2 to permit the modification of an existing roof top architectural element and § 303.3 to permit a dwelling 40 feet in height, and by removing from the original request the variance from the 900 square feet per dwelling unit requirements of Subtitle U § 320.2(d), pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 10. (See Applicant's supplemental statement and revised self-certification at Exhibit 66.) The caption has been amended accordingly.

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The Office of Planning (“OP”) submitted a timely report dated December 2, 2016, recommending denial of the originally requested variance relief, but approval of the special exception relief originally requested under Subtitle U § 320.2. (Exhibit 61.) OP did not file a supplemental report addressing the amended relief.

The District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) submitted a timely report indicating that it had no objection to the grant of the application. (Exhibit 60.)

At the end of the public hearing, the Board requested a post-hearing filing by the Applicant to include a revised self-certification form and updated plans with architectural refinements. The requested information was provided by the Applicant. (See Exhibit 66.)

Twenty-three letters were filed in support of the application. (Exhibits 32-54.)

Two residents from Columbia Heights testified in support of the application. One person testified in opposition to the application.

Special Exception Relief

As directed by 11 DCMR Subtitle X § 901.3, the Board has required the Applicant to satisfy the burden of proving the elements that are necessary to establish the case pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2, for special exceptions under the rooftop/upper floor addition requirements of Subtitle E § 206.2, and the height requirements of Subtitle E § 303.3, to permit the renovation of a flat in the RF-1 Zone. No parties appeared at the public hearing in opposition to this 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 and ANC reports, the Board concludes that the Applicant has met the burden of proof, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X § 901.2, and Subtitle E §§ 206.2 and 303.3, that the requested relief can be granted as being in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Map. The Board further concludes that granting the requested relief will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property in accordance with the Zoning Regulations and Map.

Pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 101.9, the Board has determined to waive the requirement of 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 604.3, 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 this application is hereby **GRANTED AND, PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 604.10, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVED PLANS AT EXHIBIT 66.**

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VOTE: 3-0-2 (Frederick L. Hill, Carlton E. Hart, and Michael G. Turnbull (by absentee ballot) to APPROVE; Anita Butani D’Souza not participating; one Board seat vacant).

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: December 28, 2016

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 604.11, NO ORDER OF THE BOARD SHALL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL TEN (10) DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES FINAL PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 604.7.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 702.1, 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 SUBTITLE Y § 705 PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND THE REQUEST IS GRANTED. PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 703.14, NO OTHER ACTION, INCLUDING THE FILING OR GRANTING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MODIFICATION PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y §§ 703 OR 704, SHALL TOLL OR EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE Y § 604, 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.

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

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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.