

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT



**BZA Application No. 20798**  
**Eric and Elizabeth Paisner**  
**117 12th Street, SE (Square 989, Lot 807)**

**HEARING DATE:** November 2, 2022

**DECISION DATE:** November 2, 2022

**SUMMARY ORDER**

**RELIEF REQUESTED.** The application requests the following relief in order to raze an existing shed and construct a new, detached, two-story principal dwelling unit in the RF-1 zone:

- Special Exception from the new alley record lot requirements of Subtitle C § 306.3, pursuant to Subtitle C § 306.4 and Subtitle X § 901.2
- Special Exception from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle E § 5100.1(c), pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2
- Special Exception from the side yard requirements of Subtitle E § 5100.1(d), pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2
- Special Exception from the alley centerline setback requirements of Subtitle E § 5100.1(e), pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified. (Exhibit 25E (Final Revised); Exhibit 4 (Original).)<sup>1</sup>

**PARTIES.** The parties to this case were the Applicant and Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC") 6B, the "affected ANC" pursuant to Subtitle Y §§ 101.8 and 403.5(b) of the Zoning Regulations (Title 11 of the DCMR, Zoning Regulations of 2016, to which all references are made unless otherwise specified).

**NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING.** The Board of Zoning Adjustment (the "Board") referred the application to the appropriate agencies and provided proper and timely notice of the public hearing in accordance with Subtitle Y § 402.1.

**ANC REPORT.** The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on October 11, 2022, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted to support the application. (Exhibit 31.) The ANC report noted two issues for the Board: 1) the Applicant's agreement to voluntarily not utilize the western-facing garage door included in the plans for vehicle access or egress if the accessible width of this alley section is at any point in the future reduced,

<sup>1</sup> The Application was amended to withdraw special exception relief from the pervious surface requirements of Subtitle E § 5100.1(f).

and; 2) the presence of a capped vent pipe in the lot, indicating the potential of an underground storage tank, which the Applicant has committed to inform the neighbors about the confirmation of its presence and any potential mitigation measures. The Board did not adopt conditions related to the ANC's comments but did acknowledge these issues and noted the Applicant had agreed to them.

**OFFICE OF PLANNING (“OP”) REPORT.** OP submitted a report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 26.)

**DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“DDOT”) REPORT.** DDOT submitted a report indicating that it had no objection to the application because it concluded that the relief would not result in any adverse impacts to the District's transportation network. (Exhibit 27.)

**PERSONS IN SUPPORT.** The Board received four letters from neighbors in support of the application. (Exhibits 21-24.)

**PERSONS IN OPPOSITION.** Joanne Hatfield testified in opposition to the application at the Public Hearing.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Pursuant to Subtitle Y § 604.3, the order of the Board may be in summary form where granting an application when there was no party in opposition. As a summary order, it does not constitute binding legal precedent on the Board and shall not be considered by the Board in evaluating future applications.

Based upon the record before the Board, and having given great weight to the appropriate reports and recommendations filed in this case, the Board concludes that the Applicant has met the burden of proof that the requested special exception relief can be granted because:

- It is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Map;
- It will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property; and
- Pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2(c), the relief satisfies the specified conditions for special exception relief.

### **DECISION**

Based on the case record and the testimony at the hearing, the Board concludes that the applicant has satisfied the burden of proof for the requested relief and therefore **APPROVES** the following relief:

- Special Exception from the new alley record lot requirements of Subtitle C § 306.3, pursuant to Subtitle C § 306.4 and Subtitle X § 901.2
- Special Exception from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle E § 5100.1(c), pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2
- Special Exception from the side yard requirements of Subtitle E § 5100.1(d), pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2

- Special Exception from the alley centerline setback requirements of Subtitle E § 5100.1(e), pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2

Subject to the following **CONDITION**:


1. The project shall be constructed in accordance with the plans submitted as Exhibit 25B in the record,<sup>2</sup> as required by Subtitle Y §§ 604.9 and 604.10.

**VOTE: 5-0-0** (Frederick L. Hill, Lorna L. John, Carl H. Blake, Chrishaun S. Smith, and Joseph S. Imamura to APPROVE)

**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:** November 8, 2022

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

---

<sup>2</sup> Self-Certification. The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to Subtitle Y § 300.6. In granting the requested self-certified relief subject to the plans submitted with the Application, the Board makes no finding that the requested relief is either necessary or sufficient to authorize the proposed construction project described in the Application and depicted on the approved plans.

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 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.