

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT**



**BZA Application No. 21366
Jonathon Haigh Thornton
307 15th Street, NE (Square 4564, Lot 21)**

HEARING DATE: November 5, 2025
DECISION DATE: November 5, 2025

SUMMARY ORDER

RELIEF REQUESTED. The application requests the following relief in order to construct a two-story accessory building (garage and second-story office) in the rear yard and to construct a two-story with basement rear addition to an existing, attached, two-story with basement principal dwelling in the RF-1 zone:

- Special Exception under the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 207.5, pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2 (*10 ft. max permitted; 0 ft. existing; 26 ft., 2 in. proposed*)
- Special Exception from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 210.1, pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201.1 and Subtitle X § 901.2 (*60% max permitted; 32.7% existing; 69.8% proposed*)
- Special Exception from the accessory building area requirements of Subtitle E § 5003.1, pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201.2 and Subtitle X § 901.2 (*450 sq. ft. max permitted; 474.5 sq. ft. proposed*)

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified. (Exhibit 27.)¹

PARTIES. The parties to this case were the Applicant and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions ("ANC") 6A and 7D, the "affected ANCs" 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 6A REPORT. The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on October 9, 2025, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted to defer to

¹ The application was amended to add special exception relief from the accessory building area requirements of Subtitle E § 5003.1 in Exhibit 27.

ANC 7D on any issues of concern or support for the application. (Exhibit 42.) The ANC report raised no issues or concerns.

ANC 7D REPORT. The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on October 14, 2025, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted to support the application. (Exhibit 45.) The ANC report raised no issues or concerns.

OFFICE OF PLANNING ("OP") REPORT. OP submitted a report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 38.)

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ("DDOT") REPORT. DDOT did not submit a report to the record.

PERSONS IN SUPPORT. The Board received 11 letters from neighbors in support of the application. (Exhibits 18-24, 31, 32, 36, 40.)

PERSONS IN OPPOSITION. The Board received one letter from the Capitol Hill Restoration Society (CHRS) in opposition to the application. (Exhibit 35.)

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:

- Special Exception under the rear addition requirements of Subtitle E § 207.5, pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2 (*10 ft. max permitted; 0 ft. existing; 26 ft., 2 in. proposed*)
- Special Exception from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 210.1, pursuant to Subtitle E § 5201.1 and Subtitle X § 901.2 (*60% max permitted; 32.7% existing; 69.8% proposed*)

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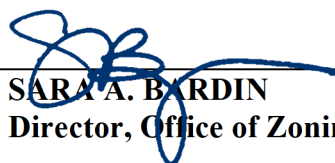
Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the application is **GRANTED** consistent with the plans shown in Exhibit 28 of the record, as required under Subtitle Y §§ 604.9 and 604.10,

VOTE: 3-0-2 (Frederick L. Hill, Carl H. Blake, and Robert E. Miller to APPROVE; Chrishaun S. Smith not present, 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: November 12, 2025

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, UNLESS, WITHIN SUCH TWO-YEAR PERIOD, AN APPLICATION FOR A BUILDING PERMIT FOR THE ERECTION OR ALTERATION APPROVED IS FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURING A BUILDING PERMIT, OR A REQUEST FOR A TIME EXTENSION PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 705 IS FILED 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 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.