GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

BZA Application No. 21501
Gohar Sedighi and Michael Donovan
3900 Alton Place, NW (Square 1779, Lot 814)

HEARING DATE: Applicant waived the right to a public hearing
DECISION DATE: September 30, 2026 (Expedited Review Calendar)

SUMMARY ORDER

RELIEF REQUESTED. The application requests the following relief in order to construct a second-story addition and a third story addition, to an existing detached, two-story plus basement, principal dwelling unit in the R-1B zone:

- Special exception from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle D § 207.1, pursuant to Subtitle D § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2 *(25 ft. minimum required; 20.49 ft. existing – 2nd floor; 20.49 proposed – 2nd and 3rd floors)*
- Special exception from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle D § 210.1, pursuant to Subtitle D § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2 *(40% max permitted; 41% existing; 45.78% proposed)*

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified. (Exhibit 4.)

PARTIES. The parties to this case were the Applicant and Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("**ANC**") 3E, 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).

EXPEDITED REVIEW. Pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 401, this application was tentatively placed on the Board of Zoning Adjustment (the "**Board**" or "**BZA**") expedited review calendar for decision as a result of the Applicant's waiver of its right to a hearing. No objections to expedited review consideration were made by any person or entity entitled to do so under Subtitle Y §§ 401.7 and 401.8.

NOTICE OF THE APPLICATION AND PUBLIC HEARING. 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.

Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 21501
EXHIBIT NO. 23

ANC REPORT. The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on September 10, 2026, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted to support the application. (Exhibit 19.) The ANC report raised no issues or concerns.

OFFICE OF PLANNING ("OP") REPORT. OP submitted a report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 20.)

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

PERSONS IN SUPPORT. The Board received one letter from a neighbor in support of the application. (Exhibit 18.)

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 from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle D § 207.1, pursuant to Subtitle D § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2 *(25 ft. minimum required; 20.49 ft. existing – 2nd floor; 20.49 proposed – 2nd and 3rd floors)*
- Special exception from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle D § 210.1, pursuant to Subtitle D § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2 *(40% max permitted; 41% existing; 45.78% proposed)*

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the application is **GRANTED** consistent with the plans shown in Exhibit 6 of the record, as required under Subtitle Y §§ 604.9 and 604.10.

VOTE: **4-0-1** (Melissa Lindsjo, Joseph S. Imamura, Paul Goldstein, and Robyn Jackson Wells to APPROVE; Michelle Pourciau not present, not participating)

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 6, 2026

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 § 703.10, 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.