

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

Application of District Line Development, LLC for a Special Exception

228 Hamilton Street NW (Sq. 3326, Lot 0082)

**STATEMENT OF THE APPLICANT**

District Line Development, LLC, the “Applicant,” now seeks a special exception to add four units to an existing four unit apartment house located at 228 Hamilton Street NW (Sq. 3326, Lot 0082) (the “Property”), in the RA-1 zone, pursuant to 11 DCMR, Subtitle U, Section 421.

**I. BACKGROUND**

The Property is zoned to the RA-1 zoning district and is currently improved with a semi-detached two-story multifamily apartment house with four units. The Property is comprised of one lot located on the south side of Hamilton Street NW between 3rd Street NW and 2nd Street NW. The Property has a total land area of 5,617 square feet. The existing two-story apartment house is semi-detached and has 3,084 square feet of gross floor area. The Property is not located within a historic district.

**II. NATURE OF RELIEF REQUESTED**

The Applicant proposes to add four units in an expanded cellar and new third story on the existing building on the Property. Therefore, the Applicant seeks a special exception to add four units to the existing apartment house pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle U, Section 421. The project will comply with all other applicable zoning requirements.

**A. Special Exception Relief for New Residential Developments in the RA-1 Zone Pursuant to Subtitle U, Section 421.1**

All new residential developments<sup>1</sup> in the RA-1 zone, except those comprising all one-family detached and semi-detached dwellings, shall be reviewed by the Board of Zoning Adjustment (the “BZA”) as special exceptions under Subtitle X, in accordance with the standards and requirements in Subtitle U, Section 421.1.

**B. Special Exception Standards Pursuant to Subtitle X, Chapter 9**

Pursuant to Subtitle X, Chapter 9, the special exception relief requested must meet the standards set forth in Section 901.2, which states that the BZA may grant a special exception when the relief requested:

- (a) Will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps;**
- (b) Will not tend to affect adversely, the use of neighboring property in accordance with the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps; and**
- (c) Will meet such special conditions as may be specified in this title.**

This Application meets the above standards. First, the relief requested is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps. The purpose of the RA-1 zone is to “[p]ermit flexibility of design by permitting all types of urban residential development if they conform to the height, density, and area requirements established for these districts.” *See* 11 DCMR Subtitle F, Section 101.3(a). The RA-1 zone allows for low- to moderate-density development, including detached dwellings, rowhouses, and low-rise apartments. *Id.*, Section 101.4. The proposed project will meet all development standards in the RA-1 zone.

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<sup>1</sup> The Applicant does not propose a “new residential development,” but rather proposes to add four units to an existing apartment house building. However, the Zoning Administrator has interpreted the BZA’s Order in Case Number 20226 to require that a special exception is now required for this project.

The proposed cellar addition, third story addition, and four new dwelling units will not substantially intrude on the character, scale, and pattern of houses along the street and alley. A mix of small and large multifamily residential buildings are common in this neighborhood. The Property is surrounded by apartment houses and large apartment buildings and is located across Hamilton Street NW from the Washington Latin Public Charter School.

Further, the project will not adversely affect the use of neighboring properties as no change to the existing footprint of the existing building is proposed. Shadow studies included in the Applicant's architectural plans illustrate that the third story addition will have minimal impact on the light, air, privacy, enjoyment, character, scale, and pattern of neighboring properties. All neighboring properties on Hamilton Street are improved with similar apartment houses of varying sizes. For all of these reasons, the Application satisfies the general standards and criteria for a special exception.

Subtitle U, Section 421 of the Zoning Regulations sets forth additional standards for the BZA to consider in determining whether to approve new residential developments in the RA-1 zone. Sections 421 requires that the application be referred to relevant D.C. agencies to analyze the project's impact on schools, public streets, recreation, and other services. Given this project only involves four new residential units, impacts on schools and public infrastructure will be minimal and outweighed by the addition of new residential units to address low housing supply in the City. Section 421 also requires that the BZA refer the application to the Office of Planning to review the site plan, arrangement of buildings and structures, and provisions of light, air, parking, recreation, landscaping, and grading as they relate to the surrounding neighborhood, and the relationship of the proposed project to public plans and projects. Overall, the Applicant is proposing minimal changes to the existing site and these changes will not have a significant impact

on the surrounding neighborhood. A landscape plan is included with the Applicant's architectural plans filed herein.

Finally, the Applicant will be maintaining four parking spaces on the Property even though none are required pursuant to Subtitle C, Section 704. Further, the Applicant will be adding six bicycle parking spaces in addition to the three that currently exist.

### **III. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Applicant will engage with ANC 4D, neighbors, and the community as this project moves forward.

### **IV. WITNESSES**

The following witnesses will appear on behalf of the Applicant at the BZA hearing on this Application:

1. Matthew Medvene, District Line Development, LLC

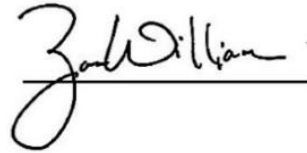
Mr. Medvene is supervising the proposed construction for this project and will testify as to construction, design, and community engagement and outreach.

2. Ryan Petyak, Architect, Studio 3877

Mr. Petyak is the architect for this project and will testify as to design and architecture matters related to the project.

**V. CONCLUSION**

For all of the reasons discussed above, the Applicant respectfully requests that the BZA approve this application for a special exception.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Zach Williams", is written over a horizontal line.

Zachary G. Williams, Esq.  
Venable LLP  
Authorized Agent for the Applicant