

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Board of Zoning Adjustment**



**Application No. 19929 of 614 Otis LLC**, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 9, for a special exception under the residential conversion requirements of Subtitle U § 320.2,<sup>1</sup> to construct a rear addition and convert an existing, attached principal dwelling unit into a three-unit apartment house in the RF-1 Zone at premises 614 Otis Place N.W. (Square 3035, Lot 63).

**HEARING DATES:** March 20, and May 22, 2019  
**DECISION DATE:** May 22, 2019

**SUMMARY ORDER**

**SELF-CERTIFICATION**

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 300.6. (Exhibit 7.) 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's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on January 9, 2019, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted 12-0-0 to support the application, having concluded that the proposal will not have a significant negative impact on area parking or the architectural character of the surrounding neighborhood. (Exhibit 21.)

The Office of Planning ("OP") submitted a timely report recommending approval of the residential conversion (Subtitle U § 320.2) and the waiver required for extension past 10 feet (Subtitle U § 320.2(e)). However, OP recommended denial of the waiver to remove the rooftop architectural element (Subtitle U § 320.2(h)). (Exhibit 38.) In the OP Supplemental Report and through testimony at the hearing, OP recommended that no rooftop deck be located on the rear portion of

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<sup>1</sup> The application also includes a request for waiver of the requirements under Subtitle U §§ 320.2(e) and (h). The Board granted the requested waivers, as permitted by Subtitle U § 320.2(l).

441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Suite 200/210-S, Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: (202) 727-6311

Facsimile: (202) 727-6072

E-Mail: [dcoz@dc.gov](mailto:dcoz@dc.gov)

Web Site: [www.dcoz.dc.gov](http://www.dcoz.dc.gov)

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the addition to maintain the privacy of use and enjoyment of neighboring properties. Also OP continued to not support the incorporation of a taller mansard roof with a horizontal window element, noting that the subject property is located among a small group of intact row dwellings along Otis Place and that the proposed design would be inconsistent with the existing pattern of dwellings along the south side of the street. (Exhibit 50.) OP did not recommend conditions.

The Board is required to give “great weight” to the recommendation of the Office of Planning. (D.C. Official Code § 6-623.04 (2001)). Great weight means acknowledgement of the issues and concerns of the Office of Planning. The Board disagrees with the OP's assessment of the negative impacts on the nearby and adjacent properties in terms of visual intrusion. The Board finds that there are already windows overlooking nearby properties and that adding the rooftop deck is not significantly different than having windows. The Board finds that the proposal has overwhelming support in the community. The adjacent neighbor to the west at 616 Otis Place expressed support by submitting a letter and testifying at the hearing, and the Applicant has contacted many neighbors and received 19 signatures in support of the proposal. (Exhibit 46.) Regarding the rooftop deck, the Board finds that the visual impacts are lessened because the rooftop deck element is set back, and the proposal, as designed, will not create negative impacts in terms of architectural compatibility with other structures in the area.

The District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) submitted a timely report indicating that it had no objection to the application. (Exhibit 39.)

One petition containing 19 signatures was filed in support of the application, and one letter in support was filed by the adjacent neighbor at 616 Otis Place. (Exhibits 46 and 19 respectively.) Three neighbors filed comments in opposition to the application. (Exhibits 18 and 41.)

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 a special exception under the residential conversion requirements of Subtitle U § 320.2, to construct a rear addition and convert an existing, attached principal dwelling unit into a three-unit apartment house 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 that the requested relief can be granted as being in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Map and that granting the requested relief will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property in accordance with the Zoning Regulations and Map. The Board further concludes that any other specified conditions for special exception relief have been met, pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2(c).

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Pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 604.3, the order of the Board may be in summary form and need not be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law where granting an application when there was no party in opposition.

It is therefore **ORDERED** that this application is hereby **GRANTED AND, PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 604.10, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVED PLANS AT EXHIBIT 44 – UPDATED ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND ELEVATIONS.**

**VOTE: 4-0-1** (Carlton E. Hart, Peter A. Shapiro, Lesylleé M. White, and Lorna L. John to APPROVE; Frederick L. Hill abstaining).

**BY ORDER OF THE D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT**  
A majority of the Board members approved the issuance of this order.

**ATTESTED BY:**

  
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**SARA A. BARDIN**  
**Director, Office of Zoning**

**FINAL DATE OF ORDER:** May 29, 2019

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 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.