

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



Application No. 20289 of 400 Seward Square LLC, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 10, for an area variance from the lot area requirements of Subtitle E § 201.7, to permit an addition of 3 units to the existing 14-unit apartment building in the RF-3 Zone at premises 400 Seward Square S.E. (Square 819, Lot 28).

HEARING DATES: October 21, 2020, October 28, 2020, and November 4, 2020¹
DECISION DATE: November 4, 2020

SUMMARY ORDER

Relief Requested. The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 300.6. (Exhibit 4.)

Notice of the Application and Public Hearing. The Board of Zoning Adjustment ("Board" or "BZA") referred the application to the appropriate agencies and provided proper and timely notice of the public hearing in accordance with Subtitle Y § 402.1.²

Parties. The parties to this case were the Applicant and Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC") 6B.

ANC Report. The ANC's report dated October 17, 2020, indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on October 13, 2020, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted to support the application. (Exhibit 38.)

OP Report. The Office of Planning submitted a report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 33.)

DDOT Report. The District Department of Transportation submitted a report indicating that it had no objection to the application. (Exhibit 14.)

¹ This application was originally scheduled for public hearing on October 21, 2020, but was postponed to October 28, 2020 then rescheduled for a virtual public hearing on November 4, 2020 to allow for clarification of the relief required for the self-certified application. The relief is appropriate as presented by the Applicant and captioned above.

² The Board waived the requirements of Subtitle Y § 402.1(a) because notice was provided in the *DC Register* less than 40 days. However, all other forms of notice were provided, and no prejudice resulted to any party.

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Persons in Support. One letter was submitted in support of the application. (Exhibit 34.)

Persons in Opposition. One letter from the Capitol Hill Restoration Society was filed in opposition to the application (Exhibit 37.)

Variance Relief

The Applicant seeks relief under Subtitle X § 1002.1 for an area variance from the lot area requirements of Subtitle E § 201.7, to permit an addition of three (3) units to the existing 14-unit apartment building in the RF-3 Zone.

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 under 11 DCMR Subtitle X § 1002.1, that there exists an exceptional or extraordinary situation or condition related to the property that creates a practical difficulty, in the case of an area variance, or an undue hardship, in the case of a use variance, in complying with the Zoning Regulations, and that the relief can be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially impairing the intent, purpose, and integrity of the zone plan as embodied in the Zoning Regulations and Map.

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 PLANS³ AT EXHIBIT 6 – ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND ELEVATIONS.**

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Frederick L. Hill, Lorna L. John, Chrishaun S. Smith, and Anthony J. Hood to APPROVE; 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

³ In granting the certified relief, the Board 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.

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FINAL DATE OF ORDER: November 18, 2020

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.