

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT



BZA Application No. 20737
Dr. Charles Samenow
1736 Swann Street, NW (Square 152, Lot 56)

HEARING DATE: June 15, 2022

DECISION DATE: June 15, 2022

SUMMARY ORDER

RELIEF REQUESTED. The application requests the following relief in order to construct a two-story rear addition, to an existing, attached, two-story with basement, principal dwelling in the RA-2 zone:

- Special Exception from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle F § 304.1, pursuant to Subtitle F § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2
- Special Exception from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle F § 305.1, pursuant to Subtitle F § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified. (Exhibit 21B (Final Revised); Exhibit 4 (Original).)¹

PARTIES. The parties to this case were the Applicant and Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC") 2B, 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).

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 REPORT. The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on May 11, 2022, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted to support the application. (Exhibit 20.) The ANC noted its support was contingent on the applicant working with neighbors to jointly prepare a plan for construction staging to avoid blocking the rear alley and adjacent properties throughout the buildout. The Applicant testified at the Public Hearing about the plans for construction and agreed to work with the neighbors.

OFFICE OF PLANNING ("OP") REPORT. OP submitted a report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 23.)

¹ The application was amended to add special exception relief from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle F § 305.1.

DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (“DDOT”) REPORT. DDOT submitted a report indicating that it had no objection to the application because it concluded that the relief would not result in any adverse impacts to the District’s transportation network. (Exhibit 24.)

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 and therefore **APPROVES** the following relief:

- Special Exception from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle F § 304.1, pursuant to Subtitle F § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2
- Special Exception from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle F § 305.1, pursuant to Subtitle F § 5201 and Subtitle X § 901.2

Subject to the following **CONDITION**:

1. The project shall be constructed in accordance with the plans submitted as Exhibit 21A in the record,² as required by Subtitle Y §§ 604.9 and 604.10.

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Frederick L. Hill, Carl H. Blake, Chrishaun S. Smith, and Joseph S. Imamura to APPROVE; Lorna L. John not present, not participating)

² Self-Certification. The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to Subtitle Y § 300.6. In granting the requested self-certified relief subject to the plans submitted with the Application, the Board makes no finding that the requested relief is either necessary or sufficient to authorize the proposed construction project described in the Application and depicted on the approved plans. 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 such application that would require additional or different zoning relief from what is granted by this Order.

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: June 21, 2022

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

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ACT. DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION OF THE ACT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
VIOLATORS WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.