

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



**Application No. 19249 of Jennifer Wisdom**, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3103.2, for variances from the limit on number of story requirements under § 400.1, the lot occupancy requirements under § 403.2, the rear yard requirements under § 404.1, and the off-street parking requirements under § 2101.1, to construct a new one-family dwelling on an unimproved lot in the R-4 District at premises 1850 5th Street, N.W. (Square 3093, Lot 46).

**HEARING DATE:** May 24, 2016<sup>1</sup>

**DECISION DATE:** May 24, 2016

**SUMMARY ORDER**

**SELF-CERTIFIED**

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR § 3113.2. (Exhibit 5.) 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") 1B and to owners of property within 200 feet of the site. The site of this application is located within the jurisdiction of ANC 1B, which is automatically a party to this application. The ANC submitted a report recommending approval of the application, dated May 10, 2016. The ANC's report indicated that at a duly noticed and scheduled public meeting on May 5, 2016, at which a quorum was in attendance, the ANC voted 12-0-0 in support of the application. (Exhibit 36.)

The Office of Planning ("OP") submitted a timely report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 31.)

The District Department of Transportation filed a report expressing no objection to the application. (Exhibit 32.)

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<sup>1</sup> This case was postponed from May 10, 2016 to May 24, 2016 at the Applicant's request. (Exhibit 33.)

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The record in this case contained two petitions in support signed by 10 neighbors. (Exhibits 14 and 15.) There were two letters of support from two neighbors (Exhibits 29 and 30), and a letter in support from the LeDroit Park Civic Association (Exhibit 16).

Finally, the record contained a letter in opposition from a nearby resident (Exhibit 35) raising concerns about construction affecting alley access. However, at the hearing, the Board noted that the neighbor's concerns which focused on construction impacts are outside of the Board's jurisdiction.

As directed by 11 DCMR § 3119.2, the Board has required the Applicant to satisfy the burden of proving the elements that are necessary to establish the case, pursuant to § 3103.2, for variances from § 400.1 - the limit on number of story requirements, § 403.2 - the lot occupancy requirements, § 404.1 - the rear yard requirements, and § 2101.1 - the off-street parking requirements. The only parties to the application were the Applicant and ANC 1B which supported the application. 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 averse to any party.

Based upon the record before the Board and having given great weight to the ANC and OP reports filed in this case, the Board concludes that in seeking variances from §§ 400.1, 403.2, 404.1, and 2101.1, the Applicant has met the burden of proving under 11 DCMR § 3103.2, that there exists an exceptional or extraordinary situation or condition related to the property that creates a practical difficulty for the owner 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 § 3100.5, the Board has determined to waive the requirement of 11 DCMR § 3125.5, that the order of the Board be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law. The waiver will not prejudice the rights of any party, and is appropriate in this case. It is therefore **ORDERED** that the application is hereby **GRANTED, AND PURSUANT TO § 3125.8, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVED REVISED PLANS AT EXHIBIT 7.**

**VOTE: 5-0-0** (Anita Butani D'Souza, Frederick L Hill, Marnique Y. Heath, Jeffrey L. Hinkle, and Anthony J. Hood to APPROVE.).

**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

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**FINAL DATE OF ORDER:** May 31, 2016

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3125.9, NO ORDER OF THE BOARD SHALL TAKE EFFECT UNTIL TEN (10) DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES FINAL PURSUANT TO § 3125.6.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3130, 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 § 3130.6 AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD AND THAT SUCH REQUEST IS GRANTED. NO OTHER ACTION, INCLUDING THE FILING OR GRANTING OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MODIFICATION PURSUANT TO §§ 3129.2 OR 3129.7, SHALL EXTEND THE TIME PERIOD.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR § 3125, 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.