
BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENTS SPECIAL EXCEPTION & AREA VARIANCE APPLICATION

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

**Farzaam Esmaeilian & Sonia Ahmed
220 Ascot Place, NE; Square 3557, Lot 0069**

I. INTRODUCTION AND NATURE OF RELIEF SOUGHT

Farzaam Esmaeilian & Sonia Ahmed (the "applicants") are the owners and occupants of 220 Ascot Place NE, Washington, D.C 20002 (Square 3557, Lot 0069) who hereby apply for an area special exception & area variance, pursuant to Subtitle X, Chapter 10, and Subtitle E, Chapter 52, to build a rear deck from the first floor.

The Subject Property is a single-family dwelling with a gross living area of 1140 sq. ft. To the east and west are attached single-family dwellings. Abutting the subject property to the north is Ascot Place and abutting the Subject Property to the south is a public alley which is used for vehicular access to the rear of the Property as well as other properties abutting the alley.

This variance qualifies under X-45 Subtitle X, Chapter 10, because the addition will not have a substantially adverse effect on the use or enjoyment of any abutting or adjacent dwelling or property.

901.2 (a) Subtitle X – General Procedures

Will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps

The special exceptions requested are in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps. The exceptions will entail minor modifications to an existing row house to enable the resident owners to rebuild a new deck that was deemed hazardous as the structure was severely corroded and rusting. The current owners discovered the corrosion and rust when noticing small pieces of rust falling on to the concrete as well as certain legs of the deck contained various holes with rust surrounding the openings. After removing a piece of plywood that was placed on top of the deck floor, there was no metal flooring and beneath it, was corrosion. This led the owners to great concern as this was a clear hazard to the surrounding neighbors. It was clear that repairing the deck would require the outdated deck to be removed as repairing was not possible.

The proposed special exception and area variance to extend the existing corresponding rear deck of a single-family dwelling beyond the corresponding allowable lot occupancy to create a 10 ft. deck with a minimum requirement yard size of 20 ft, thus creating a deviation of 10 ft. The proposed 50% lot occupancy to a single-family dwelling would increase lot occupancy by 50%. Thus, allowing the general intent of this single-family dwelling to remain as a single-family dwelling. The dwelling will remain a single-family house, in full conformity with both the Generalized Policy Map and the Future Land Use Map.

901.2 (b) Subtitle X – General Procedures

Will not tend to affect adversely, the use of neighboring property in accordance with the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Maps

By pursuant of a deck special exception and area variance of up to 10 ft. would not adversely affect the use of any neighboring property. There are two single-family dwellings adjacent to 220 Ascot Place NE, both sharing a wall with the property. Neither property will have any light or views to be

obstructed. The approval of special exception and area variance will align the existing corresponding rear deck to multiple existing neighboring rear deck of up to 10 ft. to create a harmonious architectural rhythm. The proposed deck special exception and area variance of 10 ft. would be constructed in the same architectural style as existing structure and the neighboring houses, thus blending in and not adversely affecting the character of the neighborhood or present an eyesore. The proposed deck will not extend beyond the lot footprint and will not inhibit on the use of any neighboring properties. Multiple neighbors in the Ascot PL and abutting street to the north, Bryant St, have contacted and shown favorable support for the 10 ft deck. You will also find letters of recommendation from neighbors in support.

1002.1 Subtitle X – General Procedures

Standard for granting a variance, as stated in Subtitle X § 1000.1 differs with respect to use and area variances

(a) After removing the preexisting original metal deck, due to our serious concerns of safety, there is no access to the back lot except through the basement door. This has currently created hardship and practical difficulties on the owners as there is no deck access from the main floor to access the back-alley way and has created a non-harmonious design with the remainder of the neighborhood.

1003 Subtitle X – General Procedures

Application Requirements

An application for a special exception and area variance shall meet the requirements of Subtitle x §300. Along with this application, we have included the following items:

- (a) Photos of the existing house and surroundings;
- (b) Plan and elevation drawings of proposed 10 ft. deck
- (c) Official Plat from the DC Office of the Surveyor

5201.3 Demonstrate that the addition or accessory structure shall not have a substantially adverse effect on the use or enjoyment of any abutting or adjacent dwelling or property

(a) The proposed variance to extend the existing corresponding rear deck of a single-family dwelling beyond the corresponding allowable lot occupancy will have no affect on the light and air of neighboring properties as stating in Subtitle E-31. With the remove of the original metal deck that contained an awning and cover, additional light and air will be available to the neighboring properties.

(b) The privacy of use and enjoyment of neighboring properties shall not be unduly compromised as we are not encroaching on any neighboring properties. The deck layout will be open, resembling neighboring decks.

(c) The addition of the deck structure, together with the original building, as viewed from the street, alley, and other public way, will not substantially visually intrude upon the character, scale, and pattern of houses along the subject street frontage as the deck layout will be open, resembling neighboring decks.

(d) In demonstrating compliance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of section 5201.3, the applicants application contains graphical representations such as plans, photographs, and elevation drawings sufficient to represent the relationship of the proposed addition or accessory structure to adjacent buildings and views from public ways

II. **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, this application meets the requirement for special exception and area variance approval by the Board, and the Applicants respectfully request that the Board Grant the requested relief.

If you require any further clarification or have any questions regarding the application, we are available at any time to discuss them with you.

Farzaam Esmaeilian & Sonia Ahmed