GOVERNMENT OF

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

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REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

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WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

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The Regular Public Meeting of the District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment convened via Videoconference, pursuant to notice at 9:42 a.m. EDT, Frederick L. Hill, Chairperson, presiding.

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS PRESENT:

FREDERICK L. HILL, Chairperson LORNA JOHN, Vice Chairperson CHRISHAUN SMITH, Board Member (NCPC)

ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

ANTHONY HOOD, Chairperson JOE IMAMURA, Member

OFFICE OF ZONING STAFF PRESENT:

CLIFFORD MOY, Secretary
PAUL YOUNG, Zoning Data Specialist

D.C. OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL PRESENT:

MARY NAGELHOUT, ESQ.

The transcript constitutes the minutes from the Regular Public Meeting held on September 28, 2022.

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## P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

	P-K-O-C-E-E-D-1-N-G-5
2	9:42 a.m.
3	BZA CHAIR HILL: Good morning, ladies and
4	gentlemen of the Board of Zoning Adjustment. Today's date
5	is 9/28/2022. This public hearing will please come to order.
6	My name is Fred Hill. I'm the chairperson of the
7	District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment. Joining me
8	today is Vice Chair Lorna John, Board Members Chrishaun
9	Smith, and Zoning Commissioner Dr. Imamura, and Chairman
10	Anthony Hood.
11	Today's meeting and hearing agenda are available
12	to you on the Office of Zoning's website. Please be advised
13	that this proceeding is being recorded by a court reporter,
14	and is also webcast live via WebEx and YouTube Live. The
15	video of the webcast will be available on the Office of
16	Zoning's website after today's hearing.
17	Accordingly, everyone who is listening on WebEx
18	or via telephone will be muted during the hearing, also
19	please be advised that we do not take any public testimony
20	at our decision-meeting sessions.
21	If you're experiencing difficulty accessing WebEx
22	or with your cell-in telephone, then please call our OZ
23	hotline number at 202-727-5471.
24	At the conclusion of the decision-meeting session,
25	I shall, in consultation with the Office Zoning, determine

whether a full or summary order may be issued. A full order is required when the decision it contains is adverse to a party, including an affected ANC. A full order may also be needed if the Board's decision differs from the Office of Planning's recommendation.

Although the Board favors the use of summary orders whenever possible, an applicant may not request the Board to issue such an order.

In today's hearing session, everyone who is listening on WebEx or by telephone will be muted during the hearing, and only persons who have signed up to testify or participate will be unmuted at the appropriate time. Please state your name and home address before providing oral testimony or your presentation, oral presentations should be limited to a summary of your most important points. When you're finished speaking, please mute your audio so that your mic is not creating a pattern of background noise.

Once again, our hotline number is 202-727-5471. All persons planning to testify either, in favor or in opposition, should have signed up in advance, they'll be called by name to testify. If this is an appeal, only parties are allowed to testify, by signing up to testify all participants completed the oath affirmation as required by Subtitle Y 408.7.

Requests to enter evidence at the time of an

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virtual hearings, such written testimony as additional supporting documents -- other than live video, which may not be presented as part of the testimony -- may be allowed pursuant to Subtitle Y 103.13, provided that the person making the request to enter an exhibit explain, A, how the proposed is relevant, B, the good cause that justifies allowing the exhibit into the record, including explanation of why the requester did not file the exhibit prior to the hearing, pursuant to Y 206, and how the proposed exhibit The order of would not unreasonably prejudice any parties. procedures for special exceptions and variances are pursuant to Y409.

At the conclusion of each case, an individual who is unable to testify because of technical issues may file a request for relief to file a written version of the planned testimony to the record within 24 hours, following the conclusion of public testimony and hearing.

If additional written testimony is accepted, then parties will be allowed a reasonable time to respond as determined by the Board. The Board will then make its decision at its next meeting session, but no earlier than 48 hours after the hearing. Moreover, the Board may request additional specific information to complete the record, the Board and staff will specify at the end of the hearing exactly what is expected and the date when persons must

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submit to the Office of Zoning. No other information shall be accepted by the Board.

Finally, District of Columbia Administrative Procedures Act requires that a public hearing on each case be held in the open, before the public. However, pursuant to Section 405(b) and 406 of that Act, the Board may, consistent with its rules and procedures, and the Act, enter into closed meetings on a case for purposes of seeking legal counsel on a case, pursuant to D.C. Official Code Section 2-575(b)(4), and/or deliberate on a case, pursuant to D.C. Official Code Section 2-575(b)(13), but only after providing necessary public notice in the case of an emergency closed meeting, after taking a roll call vote.

Mr. Secretary, do we have any preliminary matters?

MR. MOY: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. I do have a very brief announcement, the first one is, for the record, regarding today's hearing docket. We have two applications that have been withdrawn by the Applicant, these are Applications Numbers 20699 of 3801 Macomb Street, LLC, and Case Application Number 20704 of Crystal R. Hammond, also withdrawn by the Applicant.

Other than that, I don't have any announcements regarding general preliminary matters. But, specific preliminary matters, I can present to the Board when I call a specific case. So, that's it for me, Mr. Chairman.

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BZA CHAIR HILL: Okay, thanks, Mr. Moy. 1 my internet is working, there were some issues this morning, 2 if something happens, please let me know -- seems like it had 3 a weird delay. But, sorry I was late, traffic actually, 5 there actually was real traffic, which was weird -- I haven't had to beat traffic in a while. 6 7 And, Mr. Moy, I think the first case 8 Chairman Hood, correct? 9 Yes, sir. MR. MOY: That's correct. BZA CHAIR HILL: Okay, great. All right, and Dr. 10 Imamura, you're welcome to listen, obviously, but we'll see 11 12 you in a minute. If you could call our first decision case, 13 Mr. Moy? 14 MR. MOY: Okay, let's see, so the first decisionmaking case before the Board in its meeting session is Case 15 16 Application Number 20764 of Sukhmohinder Mutneja, M-U-T-N-E-17 This is a self-certified application, pursuant Subtitle F Section 901.2 for a special exception under 18 19 Subtitle E Section 205.5. Property is located in the RF1 zone at 3224 Sherman Avenue Northwest, Square 2845, Lot 809. 20 2.1 This was last heard by the Board at its limited scope hearing on September the 21st, and I think that's all I need to say 22 23 Thank you, sir. 24 BZA CHAIR HILL: Okay, great. Thanks, Mr. Moy. I don't know, there was something -- so, a couple of -- oh,

right, there's the Exhibit 60 about the chimney. So, we deliberated on this pretty extensively, I think, last week, and so there was a few exhibits that the Board was interested in seeing.

I did see the updated plat and I did see the explanation about the sun study, which I think Board members might have some thoughts about. I'm still where I was before, which is that, I was going to vote to approve, and I'm comfortable with the information that's been put forward.

I think that there might be some things that we can do in the future, concerning the sun studies, but I'll let my fellow Board members comment upon that, and I'm glad that the updated plat is there.

There was a letter about, I think it was the neighbor from the north, who has rescinded their authorization of the chimney being raised, which really isn't something that is the Board's -- within the Board's purview, in that, that's something now that would come at permitting.

And, if the design needs to be changed because of that discussion with the neighbor, then they would be back before us. But, you know, I'm going to go ahead and move forward, I'm comfortable with the way the application is before, and then see what happens with the neighbor working out their discussions with the party doing the work.

So, that's my thoughts. Let's see, Mr. Smith, can

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I get your opinion?

MEMBER SMITH: With your opinion, Chairman Hill,

on this particular matter. So, I have nothing further to

add, I completely agree with your position.

BZA CHAIR HILL: Thank you. Chairman Hood?

ZC CHAIR HOOD: I, too, don't have anything to add. I would agree with what's been said, I appreciate the reiteration of the sun study, I'm not sure it's exactly what the Board wants but it's a lot better for me to look and view things, as opposed to what we had previously.

And, also, the plat has been supplied, and as you mentioned about the chimney, maybe another time and issue they can work on that at permitting. But, other than that, I'm ready to move forward. I think we've discussed this in length. Thank you.

BZA CHAIR HILL: Thank you. Vice Chair John?

VICE CHAIR JOHN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have anything much to add because I believe you have all covered all of the comments that I would make, and I appreciate the Applicant's effort to submit the updated plat and revised, or clarify the sun studies. And, I'm also in support of the application.

BZA CHAIR HILL: Okay, great. Thanks, Ms. John. I just, for the Applicant, you know, I guess the sun study that we had been talking about, and I can look to the Office

of Zoning and see if they can help with that, wherein, you 1 know, we had ask for, like, some way that's more easy for the 2 Board to see what is the existing shadowing, what perhaps the 3 matter of right shadowing is, versus what the shadowing is 5 from the proposed project. And, that's, again, not to say that the -- I mean, 6 7 for me, as I mentioned last week -- that the matter of right shadowing doesn't necessarily mean it's always going to 8 9 happen that way, because sometimes that project wouldn't 10 necessarily work without the relief, but, regardless. 11 Okay, so those are my comments on that. I'll go 12 ahead and make a motion to approve Application Number 20764 as captured and read by the Secretary, and ask for a second, 13 14 Ms. John? 15 VICE CHAIR JOHN: Second. 16 B7A CHAIR HILL: Motion has been made and 17 seconded. Mr. Moy, if you could take a roll call, please? 18 When I call your name, if you'll please MR. MOY: 19 respond with your vote on the motion made by Chairman Hill to approve the application. 20 Mr. Smith? 2.1 MEMBER SMITH: Yes. 22 MR. MOY: Vice Chair John? 23 VICE CHAIR JOHN: Yes. 24 MR. MOY: Chairman Hill? 25 BZA CHAIR HILL: Yes.

1	MR. MOY: Zoning Commission Chair Anthony Hood?
2	ZC CHAIR HOOD: Yes.
3	MR. MOY: And, before I state the vote count, Mr.
4	Chairman, we do have an absentee ballot vote from Board
5	member Carl Blake, and his vote is to approve the
6	application.
7	So, with that, I would record vote as five-to-
8	zero-to-zero. And, this is on the motion made by Chairman
9	Hill to approve the application for the relief that was
10	requested, motion to approve was second by Vice Chair John.
11	Also, in support of the motion to approve is Mr. Smith,
12	Zoning Commission Chair Anthony Hood, and Carl Blake. Again,
13	the motion carries on a vote of five-to-zero-to-zero.
14	BZA CHAIR HILL: All right, Chairman Hood, you
15	enjoy this wonderful fall day.
16	ZC CHAIR HOOD: Thank you. Have a good day.
17	VICE CHAIR JOHN: Bye, Chairman Hood.
18	ZC CHAIR HOOD: Have a great day. Thank you.
19	BZA CHAIR HILL: Good morning, Dr. Imamura.
20	COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Chairman.
21	BZA CHAIR HILL: All right, Mr. Moy, you can call
22	our next decision-meeting, when you get an opportunity.
23	MR. MOY: All right, thank you, Mr. Chairman. So,
24	this would be Case Application Number 18701-F, that's F as
25	in Foxtrot, of 1247 ESE, LLC. This is a request for a

Modification of Consequence, an amendment of a condition to Order Number 18701-E, that was issued March 1, 2022, pursuant to Subtitle Y Section 703. Property is located in the RF1 zone at 1247 E Street Southeast, Square 1019, Lot 43.

And, I think that's it. Thank you.

BZA CHAIR HILL: Thank you. Okay, I can give you my thoughts on this, I reviewed the record and, although this is something that -- well, actually, both of the ones that are coming up is something that I might've had some questions about, or further questions about.

I think that the hours that they're trying to change is pretty minimal, I think that, you know, it's a five percent increase, or less than, or a little bit around a five percent increase in the number of hours.

You know, the Office of Planning, I thought their report, and the ANC being in support, was helpful, in terms of not having to bring this before us to talk it through. It is, you know, I mean, I love to say it's a benign operation, a hair salon, as opposed to, like, you know, a nightclub or something like that.

However, it could be a restaurant at some point in time, or something like that, that could maybe have more of a concern in the community, but I still don't think the hours being changed the way they are, are necessarily that dramatic. So, I would be in favor of this application. Mr.

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Smith?

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MEMBER SMITH: Chairman Hill, I by and large agree
with your position on this. Being that this is a, you know,
a non-residential use in a predominantly residential area,
I do agree with you, just on its face it could, you know,
give me a pause, but I do agree with you that the request by
the Applicant for this is, you know, fairly it doesn't
have a large adverse impact from my standpoint, the extension
of the hours are fairly minimum.

You are correct that, yes, while this is a hair salon, which, I think, would be one of the least impactful commercial uses that could occur here, I do believe that, if a more intense use, such as something similar to a restaurant, or another retail use that would be permitted, per the conditions, were to locate here, based on the hours I believe it would be not as impactful as what could occur.

So, with that, I give OP's staff report and their position great weight, and will support the application.

BZA CHAIR HILL: Thank you. Commissioner Imamura?

COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm in agreement with Board member Smith, I think this is

pretty straight-forward. I'm prepared --

BZA CHAIR HILL: Vice Chair John?

VICE CHAIR JOHN: I agree with the comments so far, I would just add that the specific general service use

1	was allowed in one of the modifications, I believe it is
2	18701-E, and so, with that addition, I will go ahead and
3	support the application.
4	BZA CHAIR HILL: Thank you. All right, I'm going
5	to go ahead and make a motion to approve Application Number
6	18701-F, as in Frank, as captioned and read by the Secretary,
7	and ask for a second, Ms. John?
8	VICE CHAIR JOHN: Second.
9	BZA CHAIR HILL: Mr. Moy, the motion has been
10	made, if you could please take a roll call?
11	MR. MOY: Thank you, sir. When I call your name,
12	if you would please respond to the motion made by Chairman
13	Hill to grant a relief to Application Number 18701-F. Zoning
14	Commissioner Dr. Imamura?
15	COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Yes.
16	MR. MOY: Mr. Smith?
17	(No audible response.)
18	MR. MOY: Vice Chair John?
19	(No audible response.)
20	MR. MOY: Chairman Hill?
21	BZA CHAIR HILL: Yes.
22	MR. MOY: We have no other Board members present,
23	staff would record the vote as four-to-zero-to-one. And,
24	this is on the motion the Chairman made to approve the
25	application for the relief requested, the motion to approve

was second by Vice Chair John. Also, in support of the motion to approve are Zoning Commissioner Dr. Imamura, Mr. Smith, and, of course, Vice Chair John and Chairman Hill -- no other Board members. Motion carries, sir, on a vote of four-to-zero-to-one.

BZA CHAIR HILL: Thank you, Mr. Moy. I guess, Mr. Moy, if you could call our next one when you get a chance?

MR. MOY: The last case application before the Board in its meeting session is, Application Number 19358A of Bearden Arts, LLC, this is a request for a Modification of Consequence, pursuant to Subtitle Y Section 703, to Order Number 19358 that was issued on March 21, 2017.

That order sought to change the ratio of residential and non-residential uses in the building, with a reduction in the FAR project, or, rather, the property is located in the NC-14 zone at 1341 H Street Northeast, Square 1029, Lot 159.

And, that's it for me. Thank you, sir.

BZA CHAIR HILL: Great, thank you, Mr. Moy. All right, so, again, this one was one where, you know, had it not been as, I think, somewhat understandable and clean-cut, I might have wanted to talk with people again, because it's a drop in parking. And so, you know, why I'm comfortable with it is, they're still adhering to the amount of parking that is necessary -- the three spots. And, that I would

agree with the analysis that the Office of Planning has put forward, as well as that of the ANC.

There was a, again, I mean, it's helpful that the ANC has taken a look at this, the three conditions would still remain the same that was from the previous order. But, I don't feel it's necessary to bring them back before us in order to have a full hearing on this, so I'm going to go ahead and vote in favor of this application. Mr. Smith, do you have any comments?

MEMBER SMITH: I don't have anything to add, Chairman Hill, I largely agree with your position on this. The original number of parking spaces was 14 because they were including some below-grade parking, so now that'll be cut in half to seven, which still doesn't get down to the minimum of three.

So, I'm fairly comfortable with where this landed, it's in an area of the city that is increasing in density, and we're looking towards not having as much access parking, so I'm fairly comfortable with where this project is moving.

And, I'm happy to see that we have the support of the ANC, given that the number of parking spaces would be reduced and could presumably cause an impact on their neighborhood streets. So, with that, I agree with OP staff analysis of this project, and will support it.

BZA CHAIR HILL: Thank you. Dr. Imamura?

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COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Chairman, I regret the loss in parking spaces but, odd balance, I think, you know, given the circumstances of this particular request, I think it's reasonable, again, straight-forward. Glad that you and Board member Smith mentioned that the three off-street vehicle parking spaces will still -- that requirement still matches, so I will give great weight to ANC as well as OP, and am prepared to vote in favor. BZA CHAIR HILL: Thank you. Vice Chair John? VICE CHAIR JOHN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am also in support and I agree also that, the application will I'm especially pleased still meet the parking requirement. to see that there will be IC units provided. And, with respect to OP's report, I think OP discussed this application a Minor Modification, as opposed to a Modification of Consequence. So, I agree with OP that the relief can be granted, but I would disagree that it's a Minor Modification, and it clearly is a Modification of Consequences, based on the definition in the regulation. that's all I would add. Ms. Nagelhout, does that BZA CHAIR HILL: Okay. change anything, in terms of how we -- that thought that Vice Chair John put forward? MS. NAGELHOUT: I'm sorry, what was that thought, please?

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1	BZA CHAIR HILL: Ms. John thinks that it's
2	(Simultaneous speaking.)
3	VICE CHAIR JOHN: The thought was that OP
4	discussed the application as a Minor Modification.
5	MS. NAGELHOUT: Oh
6	VICE CHAIR JOHN: And not as a Modification of
7	Consequence. They get to the same result, that is, an
8	approval, but I would just like to note that, the Applicant
9	did request a Modification of Consequence, which is what
10	we're approving.
11	MS. NAGELHOUT: That's correct. The great weight
12	requirement goes to the recommendation and, in giving great
13	weight, you can look at how OP did its analysis. But,
14	ultimately, the recommendation here was to approve the
15	request by the Applicant.
16	BZA CHAIR HILL: Okay. All right, then I'm going
17	to go ahead and make a motion to approve Application Number
18	19358A, as in Apple, including the three conditions that were
19	from the previous order, and as for a second, Ms. John?
20	VICE CHAIR JOHN: Second.
21	BZA CHAIR HILL: Mr. Moy, the motion has been made
22	and seconded. If you could please take a roll call?
23	MR. MOY: When I call your name, if you'll please
24	respond to the motion made by Chairman Hill to approve the
25	request for Modification of Consequence. Zoning Commissioner

1	Dr. Imamura?
2	COMMISSIONER IMAMURA: Yes.
3	MR. MOY: Mr. Smith?
4	MEMBER SMITH: Yes.
5	MR. MOY: Vice Chair John?
6	VICE CHAIR JOHN: Yes.
7	MR. MOY: Chairman Hill?
8	BZA CHAIR HILL: Yes.
9	MR. MOY: We have a Board member not present with
10	us today, staff would record the vote as four-to-zero-to-one.
11	And, this is on the motion made by Chairman Hill to approve
12	the application for the request for a Modification of
13	Consequence to Order Number 19358, and the motion to grant
14	is second by Vice Chair John. Also, in support of the motion
15	to grant is Mr. Smith, Dr. Imamura, and, of course, Vice
16	Chair John and Chairman Hill. Again, the motion carries,
17	sir, on a vote of four-to-zero-to-one.
18	BZA CHAIR HILL: Okay, thanks, Mr. Moy.
19	(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the
20	record at 10:07 a.m.)
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## <u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u>

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Meeting

Before: BZA

Date: 09-28-22

Place: Videoconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Court Reporter

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