

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



**Application No. 19655 of Benjamin Flowers**, as amended,<sup>1</sup> pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 9, for special exceptions under Subtitle G § 1200 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle G § 404.1 and from the side yard requirements of Subtitle G § 406.2, and under Subtitle G § 1201 from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle G § 405.2, and pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 10, for a variance from the nonconforming structure requirements of Subtitle C § 202.2, to construct a two-story rear addition to an existing one-family dwelling in the MU-4 Zone at premises 508 7th Street S.E. (Square 903, Lot 23).

**HEARING DATES:** December 20, 2017 and January 31, 2018  
**DECISION DATE:** January 31, 2018

**SUMMARY ORDER**

**SELF-CERTIFICATION**

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 300.6. (Exhibit 45 (Revised); Exhibit 13 (Original).) 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") 6B and to owners of property located within 200 feet of the site. The site of this application is located within the jurisdiction of ANC 6B, which is automatically a party to this application. The ANC submitted a report recommending approval of the application. The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on December 12, 2017, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted 10-0-0 to support the application. (Exhibit 37.)

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<sup>1</sup> The Applicant originally requested relief for nonconforming structure under Subtitle C § 202.2 as a special exception, (Exhibit 13,) but amended the application to request area variance relief from this provision based on an interpretation from the Office of Attorney General at the public hearing on December 20, 2017. The caption has been revised accordingly.

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Though the ANC's written report was in reference to the originally-requested relief, the Applicant submitted confirmation from the ANC's Planning and Zoning Committee Chair acknowledging the amendment of the application and indicating that a further presentation before the ANC is not necessary. (Exhibit 44.)

The Office of Planning ("OP") submitted a timely report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 35.) OP also submitted a supplemental report recommending approval of the amended application. (Exhibit 43.) The District Department of Transportation ("DDOT") submitted a timely report indicating that it had no objection to the application. (Exhibit 32.)

Both adjacent property owners submitted letters of support to the record. (Exhibits 33 and 34.)

Variance Relief

As directed by 11 DCMR Subtitle X § 1002.2, the Board required the Applicant to satisfy the burden of proving the elements that are necessary to establish the case pursuant to Subtitle X § 1002.1 for an area variance from the nonconforming structure requirements of Subtitle C § 202.2, to construct a two-story rear addition to an existing one-family dwelling in the MU-4 Zone.

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 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 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.

Special Exception Relief

As directed by 11 DCMR Subtitle X § 901.3, the Board has required the Applicant to satisfy the burden of proving the elements that are necessary to establish the case pursuant to Subtitle X § 901.2, for special exceptions under Subtitle G § 1200 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle G § 404.1 and from the side yard requirements of Subtitle G § 406.2, and under Subtitle G § 1201 from the rear yard requirements of Subtitle G § 405.2.

Based upon the record before the Board and having given great weight to the OP and ANC reports, the Board concludes that the Applicant has met the burden of proof, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X § 901.2, and Subtitle G §§ 1200, 404.1, 406.2 and 1201, that the requested relief can be granted as being in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and Map. The Board further concludes that granting the requested relief will not tend to affect adversely the use of neighboring property in accordance with the Zoning Regulations and Map.

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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 adverse to any party. Pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 101.9, the Board has determined to waive the requirement of 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 604.3, 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 this application is hereby **GRANTED AND, PURSUANT TO SUBTITLE Y § 604.10, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVED PLANS AT EXHIBIT 16, WITH SHEET C-2 AS REVISED BY EXHIBIT 41.**

**VOTE:** 4-0-1 (Frederick L. Hill, Carlton E. Hart, Lesylleé M. White and Peter G. May, 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:**

  
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**SARA A. BARDIN**  
Director, Office of Zoning

**FINAL DATE OF ORDER:** February 1, 2018

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.

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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.