

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



Application No. 19730 of Sons of Italy Foundation, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 9 for a special exception under the non-profit use provisions of Subtitle U § 203.1(n), and pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 10, for an area variance from the gross floor area requirements of Subtitle U § 203.1(n)(2), to continue a non-profit office use in the RF-3 District at premises 219 E Street N.E. (Square 755, Lot 32).

HEARING DATES: April 11, 2018 and May 2, 2018¹
DECISION DATE: May 2, 2018

SUMMARY ORDER

SELF-CERTIFICATION

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 300.6. (Exhibit 6.) 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") 6C and to owners of property located within 200 feet of the site. The site of this application is located within the jurisdiction of ANC 6C, which is automatically a party to this application. The ANC submitted a report and a representative of the ANC testified at the hearing, recommending approval of the application with two conditions which were agreed to by the Applicant (Exhibit 52), and adopted by the BZA in this order. The ANC's report indicated that at a regularly scheduled, properly noticed public meeting on April 11, 2018, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted 6-0-0 to support the application. (Exhibit 56.)

¹ The hearing was postponed from April 11, 2018 to May 2, 2018 at the Applicant's unopposed request. (See Exhibits 30 and 41.)

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The Office of Planning (“OP”) submitted a timely report recommending approval of the application. (Exhibit 53.) The Architect of the Capitol submitted a report dated April 23, 2018 indicating that it has no objections to the application with the conditions requested by the ANC. (Exhibit 55.) The District Department of Transportation (“DDOT”) submitted a timely report indicating that it had no objection to the grant of the application. (Exhibit 50.)

The Capitol Hill Restoration Society and The Heritage Foundation both filed letters in support of the application. (Exhibits 15 and 51 respectively.) Fifteen letters of support also were submitted by neighbors. (Exhibits 31-38, 42-45, and 47-49.)

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 gross floor area requirements of Subtitle U § 203.1(n)(2), to continue a non-profit office use in the RF-3 Zone. The only parties to the case were the ANC and the Applicant. No parties appeared at the public hearing in opposition to the application. Accordingly, a decision by the Board to grant this application would not be adverse 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 an area variance from 11 DCMR Subtitle U § 203.1(n)(2), 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 a special exception under the non-profit use provisions of Subtitle U § 203.1(n). The only parties to the case were the ANC and the Applicant. 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.

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 U § 203.1(n), 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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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 13 – ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND ELEVATIONS - AND WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

1. The Applicant shall allow a maximum of five employees on site.
2. The Applicant shall be prohibited from holding events onsite for outside guests.

VOTE: 4-0-1 (Carlton E. Hart, Lesylleé M. White, Lorna L. John, and Peter A. Shapiro to APPROVE; Frederick L. Hill, not present, not voting).

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: May 4, 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

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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.

PURSUANT TO 11 DCMR SUBTITLE A § 303, THE PERSON WHO OWNS, CONTROLS, OCCUPIES, MAINTAINS, OR USES THE SUBJECT PROPERTY, OR ANY PART THERETO, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS IN THIS ORDER, AS THE SAME MAY BE AMENDED AND/OR MODIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THE CONDITIONS IN THIS ORDER, IN WHOLE OR IN PART SHALL BE GROUNDS FOR THE REVOCATION OF ANY BUILDING PERMIT OR CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED PURSUANT TO THIS ORDER.

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.