

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



Application No. 19739 of Ben Safran and Margot Locker, as amended¹, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle X, Chapter 9, for special exceptions under Subtitle E § 5201 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 404.1, and under Subtitle E § 5007 from the accessory building rear yard setback requirements of Subtitle E § 5004.1, to construct a two-story rear addition to the existing principal dwelling unit and to construct a two-story accessory structure in the RF-2 Zone at premises 1828 15th Street, N.W. (Square 191, Lot 58.)

HEARING DATES: May 9, 2018 and June 13, 2018
DECISION DATE: July 25, 2018

SUMMARY ORDER

SELF-CERTIFICATION

The zoning relief requested in this case was self-certified, pursuant to 11 DCMR Subtitle Y § 300.6. (Exhibits 5 (original Zoning Self-Certification); 44 (Updated Zoning Self-Certification); 47 (Updated Zoning Self-Certification); and 61 (Revised Self-Certification Form).) 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") 2B and to owners of property located within 200 feet of the site. The site of this application is located within the jurisdiction of ANC 2B, 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 April 11, 2018, at which a quorum was present, the ANC voted 6-0-0 to support the application. (Exhibit 36.)

¹ The Applicant amended the application in Exhibit 47 to add a variance from Subtitle U § 301.1(c), but later revised the plans and withdrew the request for variance relief, and also withdrew the request for a special exception from Subtitle U § 301.1(e). (Exhibit 61.) The relief requested is as captioned above.

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The Office of Planning (“OP”) submitted a timely report dated April 27, 2018, recommending approval of the special exception relief in the application, and recommending that the Applicant obtain a written statement from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (“FEMS”) ensuring adequate access to the accessory building and dwelling unit. (Exhibit 40.) The Applicant revised the application, adding variance relief from Subtitle U § 301.1(c)(4) after the OP report was filed. On June 12, 2018, OP filed a supplemental report recommending approval of the variance relief as well. (Exhibit 59.) However, the Applicant revised the plans and this variance relief, and special exception relief under Subtitle U § 301.1(e), were both withdrawn. (See Exhibit 61.)

An email was submitted to the record from FEMS, dated May 18, 2018, stating that the proposed “structure does not hamper fire department access for emergency response.” (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 37.)

Eleven letters of support were submitted into the record. (Exhibits 25-32, 51, 52, and 54.)

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 E § 5201 from the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle E § 404.1, and under Subtitle E § 5007 from the accessory building rear yard setback requirements of Subtitle E § 5004.1, to construct a two-story rear addition to the existing principal dwelling unit and to construct a two-story accessory structure in the RF-2 Zone. 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, Subtitle E §§ 5201, 404.1, 5007, and 5004.1, 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.

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 66 – UPDATED ARCHITECTURAL PLANS AND ELEVATIONS, AND EXHIBIT 67 – FLOOR PLANS.**


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VOTE: 5-0-0 (Frederick L. Hill, Carlton E. Hart, Lesylleé M. White, Lorna L. John, and Peter G. May 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

FINAL DATE OF ORDER: August 2, 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.

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.