AGENDA

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 - 4:30 PM MCALLEN DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 311 NORTH 15TH STREET EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM

Web: https://zoom.us/join or phone: (346) 248-7799 Meeting ID: <u>672 423 1883</u>

At any time during the course of this meeting, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals may retire to Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.071(2) to confer with its legal counsel on any subject matter on this agenda in which the duty of the attorney to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Further, at any time during the course of this meeting, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals may retire to Executive Session to deliberate on any subject slated for discussion at this meeting, as may be permitted under one or more of the exceptions to the Open Meetings Act set forth in Title 5, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Texas Government Code.

CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Erick Diaz

1. MINUTES:

a) Minutes for the meeting held on September 1, 2021.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

a) Request of Jose Zavala for the following special exception and variance to the City of McAllen Zoning Ordinance to allow: 1) an encroachment of 30 feet into the 30 feet front yard setback for an existing carport measuring 23.92 feet by 23.70 feet, 2) an encroachment of 4.25 feet into the 5 feet north side yard setback for an existing carport measuring 23.92 feet by 23.70 feet, and 3) an encroachment of 5 feet into the 30 feet front yard setback for an existing garage at Lot 16, Block 2, Langridge Addition, Hidalgo County, Texas; 912 North 28th Street. (ZBA2021-0040)

3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) 1017 Orange Avenue
- b) 6112 North 27th Street
- c) 3601 Vendome Drive
- d) 1925 Baylor Avenue
- e) 915 South 22nd Street

ADJOURNMENT:

IF ANY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR A DISABILITY ARE REQUIRED, PLEASE NOTIFY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT (681-1250) 72 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING DATE. WITH REGARD TO ANY ITEM, THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MAY TAKE VARIOUS ACTIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RESCHEDULING AN ITEM IN ITS ENTIRETY FOR PARTICULAR ACTION AT A FUTURE DATE.

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF HIDALGO CITY OF MCALLEN

The McAllen Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals convened in a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 4:31 p.m. in the City Commission Meeting Room with the following present:

| Present: | John Millin Sylvia Hinojosa Jose Gutierrez Ann Tafel Hugo Avila Rogelio Rodriguez Rebecca Millan | Vice-Chairperson Member Member Alternate Alternate Alternate Alternate |
|----------------|--|---|
| Absent: | Erick Diaz Juan F. Jimenez | Chairperson Member |
| Staff Present: | Austin Stevenson Omar Sotelo Liliana Garza Porfirio Hernandez Jacob Salazar Carmen White | Assistant City Attorney Senior Planner Planner II Planning Technician II Planning Technician Secretary |

CALL TO ORDER –Vice-Chairperson John Millin

1. MINUTES:

a) Minutes for the meeting held on August 18, 2021.

The minutes for the meeting held on August 18, 2021 were approved. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Sylvia Hinojosa. Ms. Ann Tafel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with five members present and voting.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

a) Request of Juan Rivera, Jr. on behalf of Tiburcia A. Rivera for the following variances to the City of McAllen Zoning Ordinance to allow: 1) an encroachment of 15 ft. into the 25 ft. rear yard setback for a proposed covered porch measuring 20 ft. by 15 ft., and 2) an encroachment of 15 ft. into the 25 ft. rear yard setback for a proposed pool measuring 18 by 15 ft. at Lot 1, Vine Ridge Estates Subdivision, Hidalgo County, Texas; 3608 Upas Avenue. (ZBA2021-0037)

Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals September 1, 2021 Page 2

Ms. Garza stated the applicant was requesting a variance to a double fronting lot for a proposed covered porch and swimming pool.

The subject property was located on the north side of Upas Avenue, approximately 240 ft. east of Ware Road. The property is sits on a cul-de-sac and has a width of 55 ft. and an average depth of 153.8 ft. with a lot size of 7,596 sq. ft. The property and adjacent zoning is R-1 (single family residential) District to the north, east, and south and C-3L (light commercial) District to the west. Surrounding land use include single-family residential house and vacant land.

The Vine Ridge Estates Subdivision was recorded on March 12, 2019. The plat specifies that double fronting lots along Vine Ave. (Lots 1-11) have a 25 ft. rear yard setback. An application for a variance request for encroachment for a proposed covered porch and swimming pool was submitted to the Planning Department on July 22, 2021.

Variance request #1 was to allow an encroachment of 15 ft. into the 25 ft. rear yard setback for a proposed covered porch that measures 20 ft. by 15 ft. the plat for the subdivision specifies a 25 ft. rear yard setback for double fronting lots along Vine Avenue (lots 1-11). Standard yard setback in R-1 Districts is 10 ft. The property owner has built a masonry wall along the rear of the lots along Vine Avenue. There is a 10 ft. Utility Easement at the rear and west side of the lot that will not be impacted by the proposed covered porch.

Variance request #2 was to allow an encroachment of 15 ft. into the 25 ft. rear yard setback for a proposed swimming pool that measures 18 ft. by 15 ft. the plat for the subdivision specifies a 25 ft. rear yard setback for double fronting lots along Vine Avenue (lots 1-11). Standard yard setback in R-1 Districts is 10 ft. The property owner has built a masonry wall along the rear of the lots along Vine Avenue. There is a 10 ft. Utility Easement at the rear and west side of the lot that will not be impacted by the proposed swimming pool.

The Montebello Subdivision Unit No. 3 to the east has lots whose rear side is along Vine Avenue and as per the plat; the rear setback is 10 ft. The lots whose rear is along Vine Avenue on the north side from the subdivision "Window Rock Estates Subdivision," also have a 10 ft. rear setback as per plat. There is also a 40 ft. width parcel of land on the north of Vine Avenue from the rear property line of the lots to the ROW dedicated for green area. Vine Ridge Estates Subdivision was granted a variance to the paving requirement from 52 ft. to 40 ft. for Vine Avenue; therefore, there is still 20 ft. of ROW from the rear property line to the curb of street.

Staff had not received any phone calls or concerns in regards to the variances requests.

Staff recommended disapproval of the variance request. If the Board chooses to approve the request, the approval should be limited to the proposed location shown on the site plan.

Ms. Garza mentioned the subdivision received a variance for the pavement of the street of Vine Avenue instead of 52 feet, 40 feet so they still have 20 feet from the property line

Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals September 1, 2021 Page 3

to the curb of Vine Avenue that is 20 feet of green area. They also have a masonry wall.

Board member Sylvia Hinojosa asked staff if there were any problems with utilities. Ms. Garza stated there was a 10 foot utility easement but was not encroaching into the 10 feet.

Mr. Juan Rivera, the applicant stated he was requesting the covered porch that may be a little storage area all together. He stated that in future he would like to build a swimming pool.

Vice-Chairperson Millin stated looking at the pool area on the site plan it appeared that it would be adjacent to the house and that it needed to be some distance from the house. Mr. Rivera stated he could withdraw the pool request. He thought since he was requesting a variance for the covered porch he could include it as well. Vice-Chairperson Millin suggested to the applicant should he build a pool to check with a reputable pool company to make sure of the distance between the pool and the house for the future.

Vice-Chairperson John Millin asked if there was anyone present or on Zoom in favor of the variance request. There was no one else in favor of the variance request.

Vice-Chairperson John Millin asked if there was anyone present or on Zoom in opposition of the variance request. There was no one in opposition of the variance request.

Board member Ann Tafel mentioned the first variance was for the covered porch. She stated the applicant had mentioned in his presentation about a storage space. Ms. Tafel indicated there would have to be another variance. Approving the way it was would not cover any kind of storage.

Mr. Austin Stevenson, Legal stated it was limited to the footprint of the site plan. Therefore, the footprint would allow them to build within that space.

Legal counsel stated the applicant had withdrew variance request #2 and no action was required.

Vice-Chairperson Millin wanted some clarification if the Board made it conditional that it would be approved limited to the footprint of the encroachment as presented in the site plan and that would limited their use to a covered porch. Legal counsel stated it was not a conditional variance. It was with the understanding based on the information one had provided to us. They could build anything they want in that space within the footprint.

Following discussion, Ms. Sylvia Hinojosa **moved** to approve variance request #1 limited to the footprint of the encroachment as presented on the site plan. Mr. Jose Gutierrez seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the variance request with five members present and voting.

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b) Request of Iden I. Trevino on behalf of Sonia Salkinder for the following variance to the City of McAllen Zoning Ordinance to not provide the 8 ft. masonry wall required where a commercial use has a side or rear property line in common with a single family use or zone at a 2.07 acre tract, more or less, being all the east 5.31 acres out of lot 17, Ebony Height Citrus Grove Unit No. 1 Subdivision, Hidalgo County, Texas; 8909 N 10th Street. (ZBA2021-0038)

Per the applicant, this item had been withdrawn.

3. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

a) 912 North 28th Street

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeal, Vice-Chairperson John Millin **moved** to adjourn the meeting.

Vice-Chairperson John Millin

Carmen White, Secretary

Memo

TO: Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals

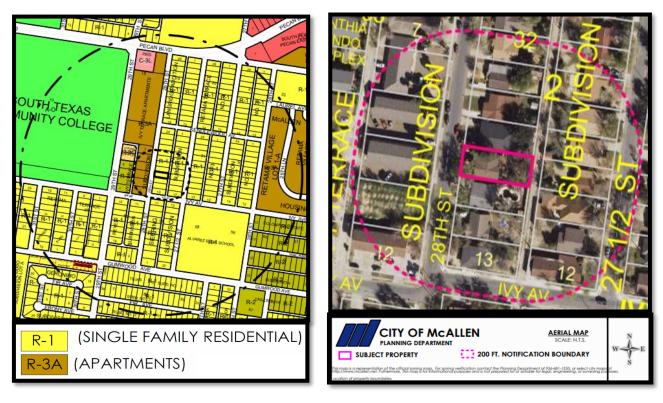
FROM: Planning Staff

DATE: September 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Request of Jose Zavala for the following special exception and variance to the City of McAllen Zoning Ordinance to allow: 1) an encroachment of 30 feet into the 30 feet front yard setback for an existing carport measuring 23.92 feet by 23.70 feet, 2) an encroachment of 4.25 feet into the 5 feet north side yard setback for an existing carport measuring 23.92 feet by 23.70 feet, and 3) an encroachment of 5 feet into the 30 feet front yard setback for an existing garage at Lot 16, Block 2, Langridge Addition, Hidalgo County, Texas; 912 North 28th Street. (ZBA2021-0040)

REASON FOR APPEAL:

The applicant is requesting the special exception to shelter his vehicles from inclement weather and potential damage from trees adjacent to the property. He also states in the application that the carport helps with a medical condition of a family member. The applicant states the carport was built in 2021 by a contractor who did not obtain a building permit for the construction. The variance request is to resolve a garage encroachment that existed on the property prior to the applicant purchasing the house.



PROPERTY LOCATION AND VICINITY:

The subject property is located along the east side of North 28th street, north of Ivy Avenue. The subject property has 52 feet of frontage along North 28th Street and a depth of 130 feet for a total area of 6,760 square feet. The property is zoned R-1 (single-family residential) District. The adjacent zoning is R-1 (single-family residential) District to the north, east, south and R-3A (multifamily residential apartment) District to the west. Surrounding land uses are single-family residences and the Ivy Terrace apartment complex.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Langridge Addition was recorded on March 28,1967. According to Hidalgo County Appraisal District records a residential home was built on the property in 1978 and acquired by the applicant on September 1, 2005.

On June 21, 2017 the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals approved a variance request to allow a front yard setback of 2.58 feet instead of 30 feet for a carport measuring 22 feet by 24 feet, for Lot 3, Block 2, Langridge Addition. On August 02, 2017 the Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals alternatively approved a front yard setback of 12 feet instead of 30 feet for a carport measuring 20 feet by 24 feet and a side yard setback along the south side property line of 5 feet instead of 7 feet for a carport measuring 19 feet by 20 feet, for Lot 23, Block 2, Langridge Addition.

A stop work order was issued by Buildings Permits and Inspections Department staff on August 04, 2021. The applicant submitted an application for a building permit on August 04, 2021 to construct the existing carport on the subject property. An application for special exception and variance requests was submitted to the Planning Department on August 18, 2021.

ANALYSIS:

This request is for an existing metal carport that encroaches into the front yard and north side yard setbacks. The front yard setbacks are important in establishing the character of a single family neighborhood by providing landscaping to enhance the residence and curb appeal of the street view. Buildings are not permitted to be located within the front yard setbacks.

The existing carport is open on all sides and allows for visibility during egress and ingress into the street. The applicant indicates that rain gutters will be installed in order to avoid rainfall runoff from flowing into the side yard.

The variance request is to allow an encroachment of 5 feet into the 30 feet front yard setback for an existing garage. The Hidalgo County Appraisal District records show that the garage construction has existed since 1978. The garage is used as storage space for household items.

RECOMMENDATION:

Special exception requests #1 and #2: Staff recommends disapproval of the special exception requests however, if the Board chooses to approve the requests, approval should be limited to the encroachments shown on the submitted site plan.

Variance request #3: Staff recommends approval since this structural area appears to have been part of the original construction.

| Image: City of McAllen 311 North 15th Street McAllen, TX 78501 P. O. Box 220 McAllen, TX 78505-0220 McAllen, TX 78505-0220 Openanting Department (956) 681-1250 Appeal TO ZONING BOARD OF (956) 681-1279 (fax) |
|--|
| Legal Description $(ANGAINGE ADD, TION (OT 16 BLIC2)$ Subdivision Name Street Address 912 N $28H$ sF Number of lots 1 Gross acres Existing Zoning R_1 Existing Land Use $Siyle Fomily Home Reason for Appeal (please use other side if necessary) \frac{2}{5} \in AIStimp Carport24X^23 EF, exist Gover se encreachement from to furchose\frac{2}{5} $300.00 non-refundable filing fee +A $50.00 Recording Fee for Special Exception (carport)Given Survey and Metes and Bounds (if the legal description of the tract is a portion of a lot) is required$ |
| Name Dasis 2AVAM Phone 956-703-262/ Address 912 N. LBH st E-mail City Mcallen State TX Zip 2850/ |
| Name SAME Phone Address E-mail City State Zip |
| To the best of your knowledge are there any deed restrictions, restrictive covenants, etc. which would prevent the utilization of the property in the manner indicated? Yes INO I certify that I am the actual owner of the property described above and this application is being submitted with my consent (include corporate name if applicable) OR I am authorized by the actual owner to submit this application and have attached written evidence of such authorization. Signature Date 8-13-21 Print Name OSE 24VAM AONNER Authorized Agent |
| Accepted by Payment received by Date Rev 09/20 AUG 1 8 2021 |
| |

City of McAllen *Planning Department* REASON FOR APPEAL & BOARD ACTION

*A variance will not be granted to relieve a self-created or personal hardship, nor shall it be based solely on economic gain or loss. In order to make a finding of hardship and grant the variance, the Zoning Board of Adjustment will consider any combination of the following: (*Please use an additional page if necessary to complete responses*)

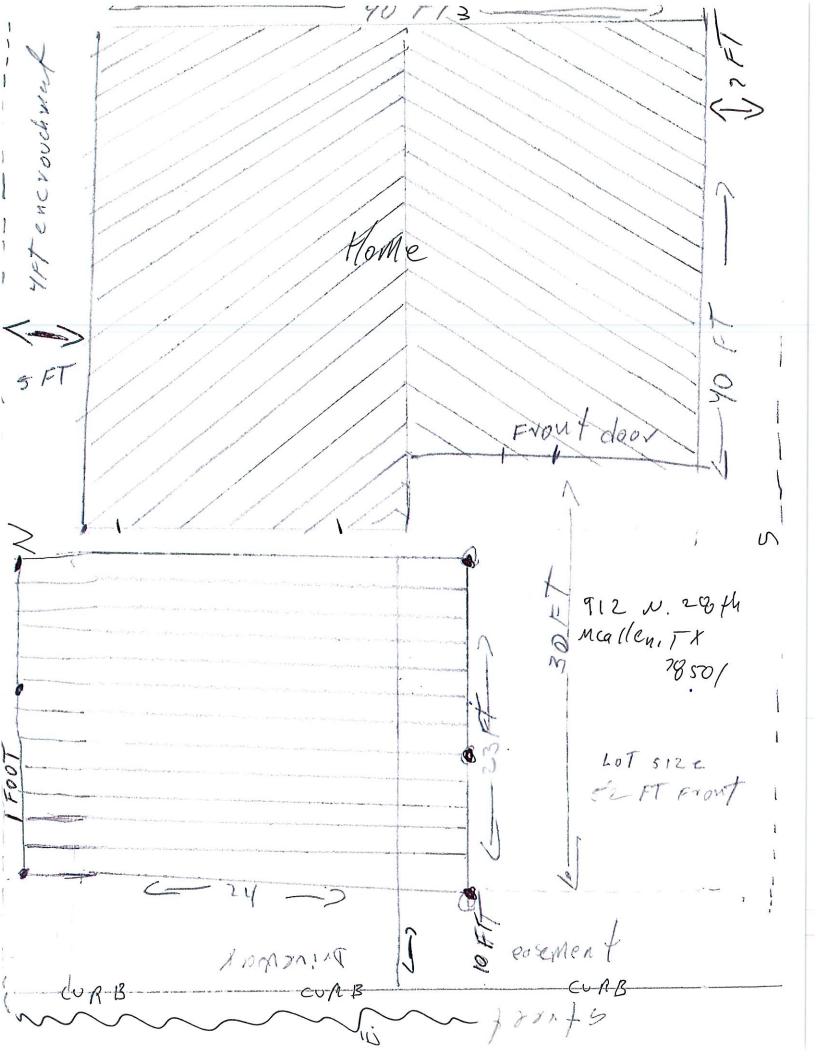
Information provided here by the applicant does not guarantee that the Board will grant a variance. *Applicant should include all information they determine is relevant, but it is not required to provide responses to all sections listed below.

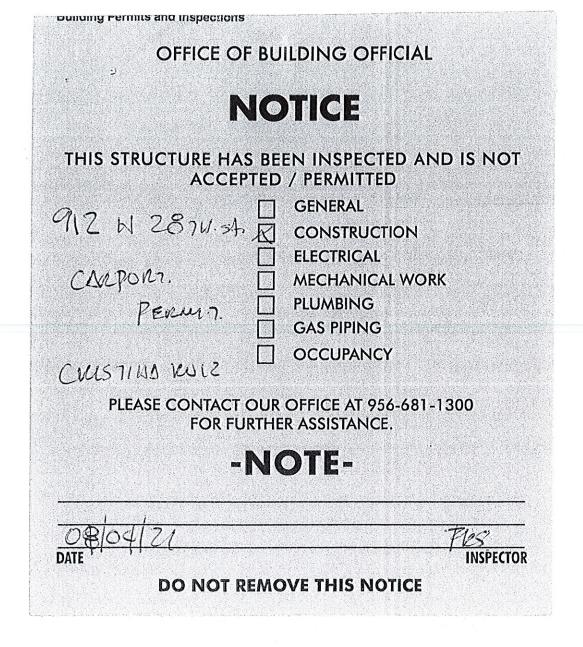
 Describe the special circumstance or condition affecting the land involved such that the strict application of the provisions required would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land:

Reason for Appeal Describe how the variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of the legal property rights of the 2. Garap owner: Silv Gar HOM Describe how the variance will not be detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare or injurious to the legal 3 rights other property owners enjoy in the area: Co 5011 and special conditions that are unique to this applicant or property. **Board Action** Chairman, Board of Adjustment Date Signature Rev. 9/20

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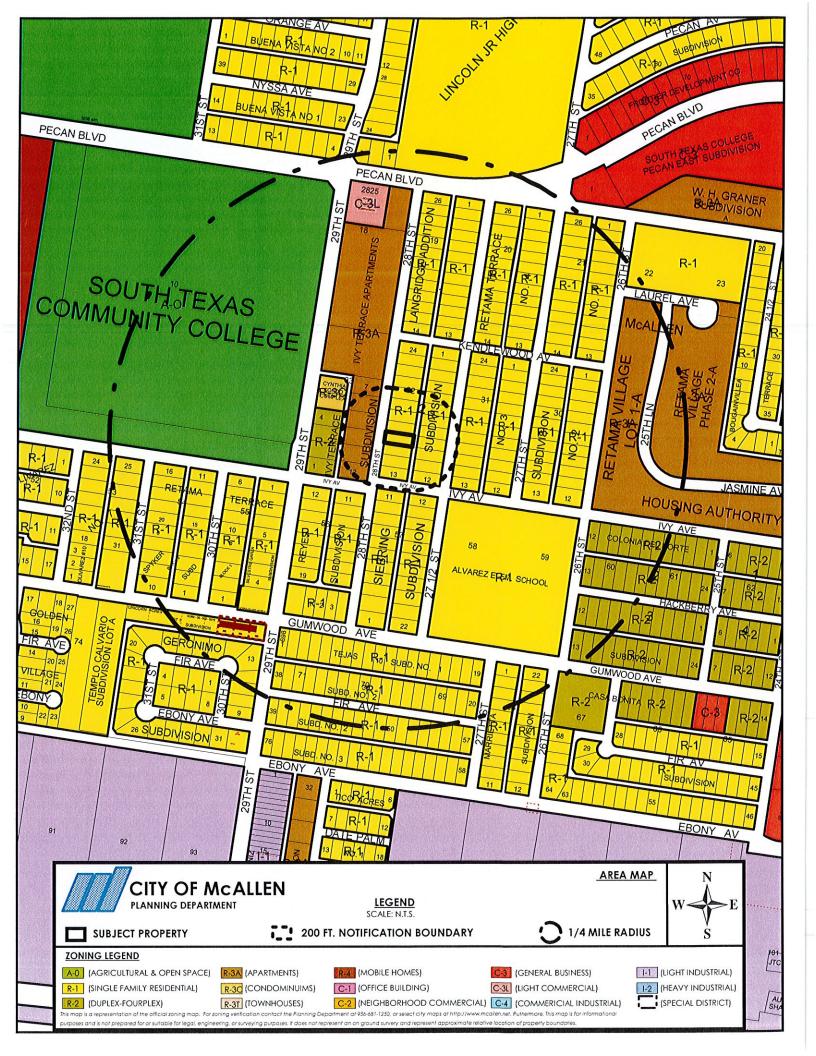
yo with the assistance of crutches or a wheel chair at times. When there is bad weather, it mokes it she cilically hord For him and as to get into vehicle. By houry this Corport, it helps him to get into vehicle - Auch Fo without too much exposure to indement weather.

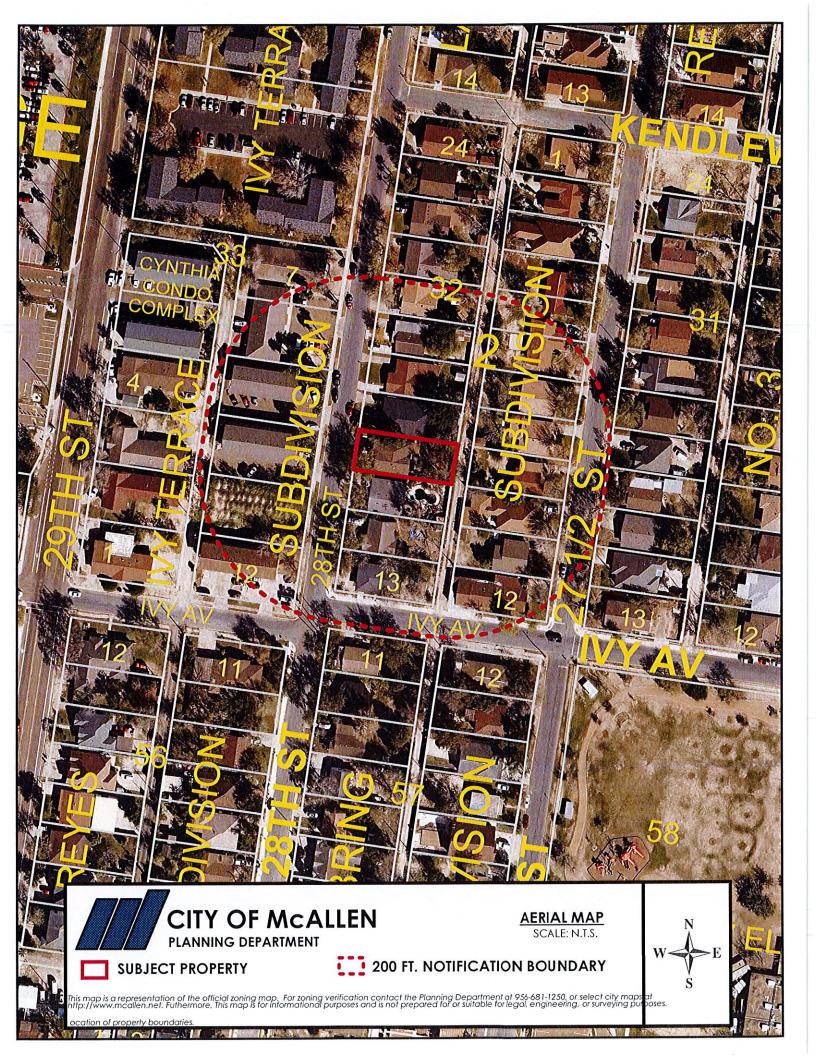




| | MALLEN | RESIDENTIAL PER | | | REV. 3/2021 |
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| | P.O. BOX 220 McALLEN, TEXAS 78505-0220 | PERMIT APPLICATION | REFERENCE NUMBER_ | Resnort-06 | 95 90 |
| | APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETE (Please type or print in black or blue ink) | GC NUMBER | 1446 | - | |
| L | NAME SUSE Z | AVACA | PHONE | 956.703 | . 2621 |
| APPLICANT | ADDRESS 912 N. | 28/4 | | | |
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| same or be lnspe comp the v of wo | foregoing is a true and correct description of the impro- e. The building permit shall not be held to permit or be a waiver by the City of such violation. Alteration char ection Department. The applicant herby agrees to cor- pliance. It is understood that the improvements sha work authorized by such permit is commenced within s ork is commenced. This permit is good for one year of DOSE 24VAA NT (AUTHORIZED AGENT/OWNER) | vement proposed by the undersig an approval of the violation or mo iges or deviations from the plans a nply with all City ordinances, code: all not be occupied until a Certifi ix months after its issuance of if th | ned applicant and the applica dification of any provisions of authorized by this permit is un s, subdivision, restrictions and cate of Orcupancy has bee e work authorized by such pe | nt states that he will have full City ordinances, codes, subd lawful without written authoriz I State laws and assume all re n issued. Every permit issue rmit is suspended or abandor | authority over construction of ivision restrictions of State law ation from the Building esponsibility for such ds shall become invald unless |
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VOL.16 PAGE 12 : 11 5 FILED FOR RECORD THIS DATE 4315 At 12:04 o'clock P. M. F. M. Nº. 495 81 34 20 W 330.0' (MAPLE AVE.) MAR 28 1957 -1 SANTOS SALDANA MAP 20, by M. Heading 26 1 LANGRIDGE ADDITION 30 25 2 3 BEING A RESUBDIVISION OF LOTS 19 & 32, BLOCK 2, 24 C.E. HAMMOND'S SUBDIVISION OF PORCIONES 61, 62, 63, § 64, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS. 4 23 SCALE: 1"= 100' DATE: 8-30-1965 5 22 I, C. L. FABIAN, A REGISTERED PUBLIC SURVEYOR, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING WAP TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE BUBDL VISION OF THE LANDS HEREON DESCRIBED AS PLATTED BY NETFON THEOUTH SIDE BOUNDARIES OF SAME. 6 21 × 0 7 1/Zvet 20 Y'S C. L. FABIAN REGISTERED PUBLIC SURVEYOR NC ALLEN, TEXAS 8 19 00 STREET 7 7 12000 0 10.2150 8 9 18 STATE OF TEXAS: COUNTY OF HIDALEO: 44 ¢ COUNTY OF HIDALED: KNOW ALL WEN BY THESE PRESENTS: THAT I, CLIFFORD R. LANGRIGGE, ONLER OF THE PROPERTY MEREON DESCRIBED, DO MEREBY ADOPT, DEDICATE AND CONFIRM THE FOREOING WAR AND DO WEREBY DEDICATE TO THE PUBLIC THE SURFACE USE OF THE STREETS AND ALLEYS THEREON SHOWN. CLIFFORD R. LANGRITHE ار کے 10 17 4 ۴ 11 16 5 15 12 202 50. 20 13 LOT 14 7 5 80 25.1 STATE OF TEXAS: COUNTY OF HIDALGO: KENDLEWOOD AVE -\$-1350.0' 1350.0' N 8° 25' 4 BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, ON THIS DAY PERSONALLY APPEARED CLIFFORD R. LANGRIDGE, OWNER, KNOWN TO WE TO BE THE PERSON WHOE MAKE IS SUBSCRIED TO THE FOREOGINE INSTRUMENT (NAL DEKNOMEDGED THAT WE EXECUTED THE SAME FOR THE PURPOSES AND CONSTREPTION THEREIN EPACESED GIVEN UNDER WY MAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE ON THE STHEPACESED MARMADER A. D. 1966. 55. 55, 1 24 ž. THE ATTON THEREIN EXPRESSED. 25 22 2 > 23 Danis HUCE COUNTY, TEXAS • 3 22 21-12 T I 4 21 ¥ R E ZA. 20 5 0 THIS PLAT APPROVED BY THE WE ALLEN ZONING AND PLANNING BOARD ON THIS ______A.D. 1966. > LINE 19 6 1 X. MC ALLEN ZONING AND PLANNING BOARD' BY: Olo Osillico BEN BILBREY, CHAILMAN 1120 DACK 18 7 0 Ser 8 17 * 978 9 15 N 15 10 ATTEST: 35 11 14 PAUL G. VEALE, NATULADAD SANCUEZ MATOR 55. 22 12 13 130 s è IVY AVE. 30' 34'20" E THIS PLAT APPROVED BY THE HIDALED COUNTY WATER CONTROL & INPROVES MENT DISTRICT NO. 1 ON THIS 23 M DAY OF MERLE A.D. 1967 81" ADDITION SIEBRING ATTEST: <u>(Im (2)</u> Cust SECRETARY Richard Wieselin APPROVED FOR RECORDING APPROVED FOR RECORDING BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT This the 28 toy of March 1967 SANTOS SALDANA, County Clerk Hidoloo County, Texos 3-28-67 16-12



CRITERIA FOR ZBOA DETERMINATIONS

APPEALS

- 1. ZBOA may hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official in the enforcement of Chapter 138 of the Code of Ordinances ("Zoning").
- 2. In conformity with the provisions of V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 211.009 et seq. and Chapter 138 of the Code of Ordinances, the **ZBOA may** reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the order, requirement, decision or determination appealed from.

SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

Authorized under Ord. Sec. 138-43 ("Powers") in the following instances:

- 1. Where the **street layout** actually on the ground varies from the street layout as shown on such maps.
- 2. To permit the **reconstruction of a nonconforming building** which has been damaged to the extent of more than 50 percent of its replacement cost.
- 3. To waive or reduce the parking and loading requirements whenever:
 - a. The character or use of the building is such as to make unnecessary the full provisions of parking or loading facilities, OR
 - b. Where such regulations would impose an unreasonable hardship upon the use of the lot, as contrasted with merely granting an advantage or a convenience.
- 4. To allow a change from an existing nonconforming use to another nonconforming use of a structure, or a structure and premises in combination, if:
 - a. No structural alterations are made, AND
 - b. The Board finds that the proposed nonconforming use is not more nonconforming in the district as the existing nonconforming use.

Ord. Sec. 138-86. - GENERAL POLICY.

The general public, the board of commissioners, and the planning board are directed to take note that nonconformities in the use and development of land and buildings are to be avoided, or eliminated where now existing, wherever and whenever possible, except:

- (1) When necessary to preserve property rights established prior to the date the ordinance from which this article is derived became effective as to the property in question, and
- (2) When necessary to promote the general welfare and to protect the character of the surrounding property.

VARIANCES

Authorized only when ALL of the following applies:

- 1. Owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of Zoning Ordinance provisions would result in **unnecessary hardship**.
- 2. Applicant proves to the Board the following:
 - a. Land in question cannot yield a reasonable return if used only for a purpose allowed in that zone,
 - b. Plight is unique and not shared in general by others in the neighborhood, and
 - c. Variance will not alter the essential character of the locality.
- 3. Variance would not merely serve as a convenience to the applicant.
- 4. Variance must be in harmony with purpose and intent of Zoning Ordinance.
- 5. Variance would not be contrary to the public interest.
- 6. Surrounding property is be properly protected.
- 7. The spirit of this Zoning Ordinance is observed and substantial justice done.

Definitions

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Chapter 138-Zoning

Sec. 138-1. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Accessory building means a subordinate building, located on the same lot as the main building, the use of which is clearly incidental to and customarily found in connection with the main building or principal use of the property.

Accessory use means a use which is clearly incidental to and customarily found in connection with the principal use of the premises and which is located on the same lot as the principal use.

Accessory use of building means a subordinate use or structure customarily incident to and located on the lot occupied by the main use or structure and conforming with setback and other regulations concerning location.

Alley means a minor public right-of-way which is used primarily for vehicular and utility service access to the backs or sides of properties otherwise abutting on a public street.

Apartment means a room or suite of rooms located in a building with other such rooms or suites arranged, designed, or to be occupied as a residence by a family. (See Dwelling unit.)

Associated recreation means recreational uses which are an integral part of a common ownership or associated or high density residential development (example: homeowners' association with a private club or facility).

Authorized agent means an architect, builder, developer or other person empowered to act on behalf of such persons.

Base station. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below, except for new base stations that are not eligible for Section 6409, need not be existing at the time of the application, nor does subsection 138-1.A(a)1.c. apply to a new base station.

Boardinghouse means a building other than a hotel where lodging and meals are provided for compensation.

Building means any structure designed to be built for the support, enclosure, shelter or protection of persons, animals, chattel or property of any kind. The word "building" includes the word "structure."

Carrier on wheels or cell on wheels ("COW"). A portable self-contained mobile facility moved to a location and set up to provide wireless services on a temporary or emergency basis.

Concealed or stealth design elements. A design elements of any tower, base station or transmission equipment that allows it to be integrated as an architectural feature of a tower or base station or so that it is not readily apparent to a casual observer. It may be screened, disguised, concealed or otherwise camouflaged as a natural structure, structure or part of a structure so that it is not easily recognizable from other natural structures.

Conditional use means a use which may be suitable in certain locations in a zoning district if developed and operated under specific conditions and/or for a limited period of time.

Depth of lot means the mean horizontal distance between the front and rear lot lines. (See definitions of Front and Rear lot lines.)

District means a section of the city for which the regulations governing the areas, heights or uses of buildings are uniform.

Dwelling unit means any building or portion thereof which is designed for or used primarily for residential occupancy, but not including hotels, boardinghouses or mobile homes.

(1) Single-family means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by one family as a separate dwelling unit.

- (2) *Duplex* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by two families living independently of each other.
- (3) *Triplex* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by three families living independently of each other.
- (4) *Fourplex* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by four families living independently of each other.
- (5) *Multiple* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by five or more families living independently of each other.

The determination of whether one family is living independent of another is based on one or more of the following criteria: separate sanitary facilities; separate kitchen facilities; separate entrances; or separate utilities.

Eligible facilities request. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Eligible support structure. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Existing. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Family means one or more persons living together as a single housekeeping unit with common sanitary and kitchen facilities.

Garage, commercial means a building or premises used for storage, repair, rental or servicing of motor vehicles.

Garage, private means an accessory building, attached or detached, designed or used for the storage of motor-driven vehicles owned and used only by the occupants of the building to which it is accessory.

Guesthouse means an accessory building designed for the temporary occupancy of guests of the primary dwelling for which there is no remuneration. "Maids' quarters" means a portion of a dwelling unit, within the same enclosure and not a separate accessory building attached to the primary building, that may contain separate sanitary and/or kitchen facilities which is designed for or used for residential occupancy by an employee of the primary residence.

Height means, for a building or portion of a building, the vertical distance from grade to the highest point of the coping of a flat roof, the deck line of a mansard roof, and the mean height level between eaves and ridge for hip, gable or gambrel roofs. In measuring the height of a building, the following structures shall be excluded: chimneys, cooling towers, elevator bulkheads, mechanical rooms, tanks, water towers, radio towers, television antennas, ornamental cupolas, domes or spires, and parapet walls not exceeding four feet in height. Heights authorized in this chapter are subordinate to the airport zoning ordinance, appendix A.

Loading space means a space within the main building or on the same lot therewith, providing for the standing, loading or unloading of trucks and having a minimum dimension of 12 by 35 feet and a vertical clearance of at least 14 feet.

Lot means an undivided tract or parcel of land having frontage on a public street, and which is, or in the future may be, offered for sale, conveyance, transfer or improvement, which is designated as a distinct and separate tract, and which is identified by a tract or lot number or symbol in a duly approved subdivision plat which has been properly filed of record. The word "lot" includes the word "plot."

- (1) Corner lot means a lot abutting upon two or more public streets at their intersection.
- (2) *Building coverage* means percentage of the lot that is occupied by the ground area of a building and its accessory buildings.
- (3) *Lot, double frontage* means a lot abutting on two nonintersecting public streets as distinguished from a corner lot.

- (4) Lot lines means the lines bounding a lot as defined in this section.
 - a. *Front lot line* means the property line between the front yard and the contiguous street rightof-way boundary.
 - b. *Rear lot line* means the property line between the rear yard and the adjacent property or right-of-way, and contiguous with the legal boundary of such use.
 - c. Side lot line means the property between two adjacent lots or between the side yard and the contiguous street right-of-way boundary on corner lots.

Lot of record means a parcel of land which is part of a subdivision, the map or plat of which has been recorded in the office of the county clerk; or a tract of land not a part of an urban or town lot subdivision, the deed of which has been recorded in the office of the county clerk prior to October 15, 1973, which has not been divided since recording.

Maneuvering space means the space entirely on private property required for maneuvering vehicles in such a manner as to preclude the backing of any vehicle into any street right-of-way.

Mobile home means a movable or portable dwelling originally constructed to be towed, on its own chassis, by a motor vehicle over public roads.

Mobile home and modular home park means a unified development of five acres or more for mobile homes arranged on a tract of land owned by an individual or a single business entity for the purpose of renting or leasing lots, and meeting the requirements of chapter 122, article II of this Code.

Mobile home and modular home subdivision means a unified development of five acres or more for mobile homes arranged on a tract of land in such a manner as to provide an individual lot (see definition of Lot) for each of the mobile homes.

Modular home means a dwelling unit in which more than 50 percent of the structure is constructed at other than the construction site, brought to the site in modules, and set on a permanent foundation.

Ornamental feature means an addition to a structure designed to enhance the appearance of the structure, in compliance with all of the following criteria:

- (1) Any space occupied by or enclosed by the ornamental feature should not be included in or made a part of the air conditioned, heated, or enclosed portion of the structure;
- (2) The feature should serve no purpose or function for the structure other than ornamentation. The building should be equally functional without the feature as with the feature; and
- (3) The feature shall extend no further than 24 inches into a required yard.

Parking area means a space used exclusively for the parking of vehicles and where no other business is conducted.

Parking space means an area, not closer than six feet from the back edge of the curb, the width and length of which shall exceed by a minimum of two feet the dimensions of the type of vehicle normally to be parked in the space, and connected with a street or alley by a driveway affording satisfactory ingress and egress. The minimum dimension of a parking space shall be in accordance with the city off-street parking requirements in article VII of this chapter.

Planned unit development (PUD) means and includes a combination of different dwelling types and/or a variety of land uses which creatively complement each other and harmonize with existing and proposed land uses in the vicinity, and which comply with the Planned Unit Development provisions of chapter 134, article IV of this Code.

Portable building means a temporary building that does not have a foundation and is transportable.

Recreational vehicle or travel trailer means a vehicular, portable structure built on a chassis, designed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreational and vacation uses, permanently identified as a travel trailer by the manufacturer of the trailer and, when factory-equipped for the road, it shall have a body width not exceeding eight feet and a body length not exceeding state maximums.

Residential storage building means any building, either portable or constructed onsite, utilized for storage purposes and not requiring plumbing and electrical wiring, and not used for living quarters.

Restaurant means a building or portion of a building where the primary business is the on-premises sale of prepared food, with adequate kitchen facilities for the preparation of the food to be sold, the adequacy of such kitchen facilities to be based upon the seating capacity of the restaurant and the type of menu offered, and where alcoholic beverages may be sold under the following conditions:

- (1) At least 51 percent of the gross income shall be derived from the sale of prepared food.
- (2) Any outside entrances, outside separate identification, outside signs or other separate advertising for lounge or bar areas shall be permitted only as an accessory or secondary feature of the restaurant.
- (3) Live entertainment may be permitted.
- (4) Whenever the director of planning on the basis of a sworn complaint from any person determines that a violation of this section exists, he may require any person serving alcoholic beverages as an incidental use to provide the city, within 30 days of notification, a verified audit for each quarter of the calendar year, showing the gross income derived from the sale of food.

Retail means the sale of goods directly to a consumer; engaged in, pertaining to or relating to the sale of merchandise at retail; or selling by individual items, or by the piece, directly to a consumer.

Right-of-way line means a dividing line between a lot, tract or parcel of land and the public right-of-way.

Street means a public or private thoroughfare which affords the principal means of access to abutting property, excluding alleys.

Structural alteration means any change in the supporting members of a building, such as bearing walls, columns, beams or girders.

Structure means anything constructed, erected or artificially built up; or composed of parts and joined together in a permanent manner.

Substantial change. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Tower. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below, except for new towers that are not eligible for Section 6409, they need not be existing at the time of the application.

Townhouse means a single-family dwelling unit constructed in a series or a group of units having common walls, each on a separate lot.

Transmission equipment. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Yard means an open space between a building and the adjoining lot lines, unoccupied and unobstructed by any portion of a structure from the ground upward, except as otherwise provided in the definitions of "yard" set out in this section. In measuring a yard for the purpose of determining the width of a side yard, the depth of a front yard, or the depth of a rear yard, the minimum horizontal distance between the lot line and the main building shall be used.

(1) Front yard means a yard extending across the front of a lot between the side lot lines, and being the minimum horizontal distance between the right-of-way line and wall of the main building or any projections thereof other than projections of the usual uncovered steps, uncovered balconies or uncovered porches. On corner lots, the front yard shall be considered as parallel to the street upon which the lot has its least dimension, except where corner lots may be square in dimension and/or have double frontage, in which case the front yard shall correspond to the lot's side adjacent to the longest block face in which it occurs and to which the majority of the existing structures front.

- (2) *Rear yard* means a yard extending across the rear of a lot and being the required minimum horizontal distance between the rear lot line and the rear of the main building or any projections thereof other than projections of uncovered steps, uncovered balconies or uncovered porches. On all lots, the rear yard shall be in the rear of the front yard.
- (3) *Side yard* means a yard between the main building and the side line of the lot, and being the minimum horizontal distance between a side lot line and the sides of the main buildings or any projections thereof.

(Code 1966, § 32-2; Ord. No. 1996-8, § I, 1-22-96; Ord. No. 1996-70, § I, 11-18-96; Ord. No. 1998-68, § 1, 2-27-98; Ord. No. 1999-69, § 1, 8-9-99; Ord. No. 2004-15, § 5, 2-9-04; Ord. No. 2015-38, § II, 5-11-15)

Cross reference— Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-2.

Footnotes:

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Note—47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C) Definitions. For purposes of this paragraph—(i) the term "personal wireless services" means commercial mobile services [cellular service], unlicensed wireless services, and common carrier wireless exchange access services..."; 47 U.S.C. § 332(d)(1) the term "commercial mobile service" means any mobile service (as defined in section 153 of this title) that is provided for profit and makes interconnected service available (A) to the public or (B) to such classes of eligible users as to be effectively available to a substantial portion of the public, as specified by regulation by the Commission;..."

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Note— 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C) Definitions for purposes of this paragraph... (ii) the term "personal wireless service facilities" means facilities for the provision of personal wireless services..."

Chapter 110-Vegetation

Sec. 110-26. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Buffer means a screen constructed of wood, concrete block, masonry, a combination of wood and masonry, or landscape material with a chain link fence in such a manner that adjacent property is visually screened, and so that noise, solid waste or other objectionable influences will be avoided. Such buffer shall be perpendicular to the ground, a minimum of six feet in height, continuous and uninterrupted, and 100 percent opaque except where extraordinary circumstances exist where additional height will more adequately accomplish the desired end.

Caliper means the diameter of a tree measured 12 inches above the ground for trees up to and including eight inches in diameter and four and one-half feet above the ground for trees having a diameter of more the eight inches. The diameter of a multi-stem tree shall be measured at the point below branching or the sum of the two largest stems measured at four and one-half feet above the ground which ever is greater.

Contiguous means adjacent property whose property lines are shared, or are separated by only a street, alley, easement or right-of-way.

Developed property means that portion of a lot or parcel upon which a building, structure, pavement, or other improvements have been or are proposed to be placed.

Diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) means the tree trunk diameter measured in inches at a height of four and one-half feet (54 inches) above natural grade or the DBH measurement according to the latest edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal as published by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, when the tree trunk branches out at a point lower than four and one-half feet.

Frontage means lineal distance measured along abutting street rights-of-way.

Ground cover means low growing plants planted in such a manner as to form a continuous cover over the ground, typical horizontal growth form with a maximum height of 24 inches, such as liriope, low growing varieties of honeysuckle, confederate jasmine, English ivy or others.

Landscape material means trees, shrubs, ground cover, vines or grass installed in planting areas, including but not limited to those installed for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this article.

Landscape strip area means a planting area within the property lines of specified width and parallel to a public street, excluding driveways for ingress and egress.

Paved ground surface area (also referred to in this article as paved area or paved ground area) means any paved ground surface area (excepting public rights-of-way) used for the purpose of driving, parking, storing or displaying of vehicles, boats, trailers and mobile homes, including new and used car lots and other open lot uses. Parking structures, covered drive-in parking areas to the drip line of the covering or garages shall not be considered as paved ground surface areas.

Planting area means an area intended or used for landscaping that has a minimum of 40 square feet of actual plantable area and an inside dimension on any side of at least 36 inches.

Reconstruction means rehabilitation or replacement of structures on nonresidential or multifamily property to an extent exceeding 50 percent of the assessed valuation of such structures as shown on the most recent tax roll of the city.

Shrub means any woody plant of relatively low height, having several stems arising from the base and lacking a single trunk.

Stormwater detention facility means an impoundment on a lot or parcel reserved for detaining and controlling the release of stormwater runoff as required by City of McAllen Drainage Policy.

Street line means that line separating the right-of-way from any adjacent property.

Tree means any self-supporting woody plant of a single trunk and of a species which normally grows to an overall mature height of a minimum of 15 feet in the lower Rio Grande Valley of the state.

Vine means any of a group of woody or herbaceous plants which may climb by twining, by means of aerial rootlets or tendrils, or which may simply sprawl over the ground or other plants.

Xeriscape means landscape methods which conserve water through the use of drought-tolerant plants and planting techniques.

(Code 1966, § 17 3/8 -4; Ord. No. 1993-88, § I, 12-13-93; Ord. No. 2006-118, § 1, 11-13-06; Ord. No. 2007-28, § 1, 3-26-07)

Cross reference— Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-2.

Exceptions Cited within the Zoning Ordinance

Exceptions pertaining to front yard setbacks:

- 1. Balconies opening upon fire towers not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 2. Balconies, uncovered (Section 138-1, Yard (1))
- 3. Chimneys not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 4. Cornices up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 5. Eaves up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 6. Fence not to exceed 3 feet within 25 feet of a curb intersection in residential zones (Section 138-367 (c))
- 7. Fire escapes, open or lattice-enclosed not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 8. Flues not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 9. Ornamental features up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 10. Planting not to exceed 3 feet within 25 feet of a curb intersection in residential zones (Section 138-367 (c))
- 11. Porches, uncovered (Section 138-1, Yard (1))
- 12. Projections up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 13. Pumps, filling station not less than 13 feet from the property line or 18 feet from the curb, whichever greater (*Section 138-367(d*))
- 14. Pumps, gas and canopies not less than 9 feet from the property line or 10 feet from the curb, whichever greater (*Section 138-259*)
- 15 Pumps, islands not less than 13 feet from the property line or 18 feet from the curb, whichever greater (*Section 138-367(d*))
- 16. Sills up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 17. Stairways, outside not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 18. Steps, uncovered (Section 138-1, Yard (1))
- 19. Structure not to exceed 3 feet within 25 feet of a curb intersection in residential zones (Section 138-367 (c))

Exceptions pertaining to rear yard setbacks:

- 1. Balconies opening upon fire towers not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 2. Balconies, uncovered (Section 138-1, Yard (1))
- 3. Buildings, accessory may occupy no more than 30% (Section 138-369)
- 4. Carports, unenclosed abutting an alley may be built up to the rear property line within the R-3A and R-3C Districts (*Section 138-356, Footnote 5*)
- 5. Chimneys not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 6. Cornices up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 7. Eaves up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 8. Fire escapes, open or lattice-enclosed not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 9. Flues not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 10. Ornamental features up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 11. Parking, unenclosed may occupy no more than 90% (Section 138-369)
- 12. Porches, uncovered (Section 138-1, Yard (1))
- 13. Projections up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 14. Sills up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 15. Stairways, outside not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 16. Steps, uncovered (Section 138-1, Yard (1))

Exceptions pertaining to side yard setbacks:

- 1. Balconies opening upon fire towers not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 2. Canopy, unenclosed and not less than 4 feet from the side lot line or 8 feet from a corner lot line (*Section 138-368 (d*))
- 3. Chimneys not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 4. Cornices up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 5. Eaves up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c*))
- 6. Fire escapes, open or lattice-enclosed not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 7. Flues not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 8. Ornamental features up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 9. Porte-cochere, unenclosed and not less than 4 feet from the side lot line or 8 feet from a corner lot line (*Section 138-368 (d*))
- 10. Projections up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 11. Side yards can be reduced to 10% of the lot width provided the lot has a width less than 50 feet. However, no side yard shall be less than 3.5 feet (*Section 138-368 (f)*)
- 12. Sills up to 2 feet (Section 138-366 (c))
- 13. Stairways, outside not to exceed 5 feet (Section 138-366 (d))
- 14. Townhouses can be built up to the side property line with a firewall (Section 138-356, Footnote 10)

Exceptions pertaining to height measurements (Section 138-1, Height):

- 1. Chimneys
- 2. Cooling towers
- 3. Domes
- 4. Elevator bulkheads
- 5. Mechanical rooms
- 6. Ornamental cupolas
- 7. Parapet walls not exceeding four feet in height
- 8. Radio towers
- 9. Spires
- 10.Tanks
- 11. Television antennas
- 12. Water towers

Exceptions as per Planning Department Policy

By policy the following are permitted:

- 1. AC Units
- 2. Clothes lines
- 3. Concrete slabs
- 4. Fire pits
- 5. Pergolas, arbors, and trellises as a landscape feature (legal opinion, 2009)
- 6. Playground equipment
- 7. Pool decks
- 8. Pool pumps
- 9. Portable grills
- 10. Sports equipment i.e. basketball hoop
- 11 Swimming pools prior to 2009 (legal opinion)
- 12. Umbrellas and patio furniture
- 13. Water features and fountains

Legal opinions:

- In 2009 Assistant City Attorney Ignacio Perez made an interpretation to allow arbors, pergolas, and trellises within the required setbacks. The definition of landscape material is stated as trees, shrubs, ground cover, vines or grass installed in planting areas in Section 110-26 of the Vegetation Ordinance. The legal interpretation was if vines were allowed by code as a planting area and they cover vertical planes such as walls then the same logic could be applied to arbors, pergolas, and trellises as a planting area. Mr. Perez also cited Section 110-56 (g) of the Vegetation Ordinance stating architectural planters may be permitted to fulfill landscape requirements.
- 2. Prior to 2009 swimming pools were not considered a structure due to the fact they were constructed underground and the Zoning Ordinance defines a structure as anything constructed, erected or artificially built up or composed of parts and joined together in a permanent manner. However, an interpretation was made in 2009 to consider swimming pools as a structure to abide by setback requirements.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

RULES AND PROCEDURES

CITY OF MCALLEN

The McAllen Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals adopts the following Rules and Procedures (hereinafter "Rules") to govern the substance of all board matters.

I. ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS

A. Members

The McAllen City Commission created the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals (hereinafter referred to as "Board") pursuant to Chapter 211 of the Texas Local Government Code and Chapter 138, Article II, Division 3 of the City of McAllen, Texas Code of Ordinances (the "City Code"). The Commission appoints the members for that Board under Section 211.008 of the Texas Local Government Code (the "Code").

The Commission composed the Board to sit five (5) members. Each member serves a two-year term. The Commission may renew a member's term for a maximum of three total consecutive terms. The Commission also appoints four (4) alternate members to serve in the absence of a regular board member. Alternate members serve just as regular members and are subject to the same rules as regular members, unless otherwise provided in these Rules, but do not vote except in the absence of a regular member.

B. Officers

The Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from its own regular members by majority vote. The Chair and Vice Chair each serve one year. The Board shall accept an Executive Secretary appointed by the McAllen Planning Department. The Board shall adopt an attorney advisor appointed by the McAllen Legal Department. The Board shall only accept the appointment of personnel under the condition each person remains the employee and charge of the City of McAllen, with no employment relationship to the Board.

C. Duties and Officers

The Chair shall preside over the Board, hold meetings of the Board, decide points of order, and dispense the business of the Board. The Chair may administer oaths, compel the attendance of witnesses, and issue subpoenas as per Section 211.008 of the Code. The Chair shall sign the minutes of board meeting after the minutes have been approved by the Board.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, or in both their absences the most senior member, according to the member's appointment date, shall dispense the duties of the Chair.

II. <u>POWERS OF THE BOARD</u>

A. General Powers

The Board has those powers specified in Section 211.009 and 241.033 of the Code, and those powers granted by the City Commission under Chapter 138 (Zoning Ordinance) and Chapter 110 (Vegetation Ordinance) of the City Code, and those powers granted to the Board by ordinance.

B. Specified Powers

As per city ordinance and state statute, the Board has those powers described in Section 211.009 of the Code and Section 138-43 of the City Code. Those powers described in Section 138-43 are:

1. Hear and decide appeals that allege an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official or agency in the enforcement of applicable provisions of the Local Government Code, the City Ordinance;

2. Authorize variances to specific cases from the terms of the City Code as will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of City Ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of ordinances shall be observed and substantial justice done;

3. Grant special exception to waive or reduce parking and loading requirements whenever the character and use of the building is such as to make unnecessary the full provisions of parking or loading, or where such regulations would impose an unreasonable hardship upon the use of the lot; and

4. Hear and decide any other matters authorized by the City Commission through ordinance.

III. <u>DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS</u>

A. General Duties of Members

1. All members of the Board should attempt to inspect the premises of each case which is under consideration at each meeting and become generally familiar with each case prior to Board meetings.

2. All members shall attend all meetings, provided, however, the member must provide 72 hours prior notice to the Executive Secretary in the event the member cannot attend.

3. All members of the Board shall arrive at a logical and fair decision on each case, except where a conflict may preclude a vote on the case.

B. Disqualification/Conflict of Interest

All members of the Board of Adjustment are subject to the City of McAllen Ethics Ordinance (Chapter 2 of the City Code).

In all cases before the Board where a member of the Board has a conflict as described in the Ethics Ordinance, the member shall refrain from any discussion, deliberation or vote. When applicable, the member shall complete and submit a City Conflict of Interest form, but in all cases alert the Executive Secretary at least 72 hours prior to the meeting on which the conflict is at issue. The Executive Secretary shall submit all notices of conflict to the City's attorney.

IV. <u>A BASIS FOR ACTION</u>

The Board shall decide each case based on the following:

- 1. Facts filed with application.
- 2. Testimony presented at the public hearing on the appeal.
- 3. The Planning Department's technical report on the appeal.
- 4. The Board's findings in its field inspection of the property may question all witnesses to assist the Board in arriving at a correct, logical and fair decision.
- 5. The applicable standards of review described in Section 138-43 of the City Code and Sections II.A., II.B. and VI. of these Rules.
- 6. All decisions shall be made on the Basis for Action. Neither the Board nor the individual members may use personal, first hand knowledge of any facts to make a determination, if such information has not been entered into the record or made available at the public hearing.

V. <u>APPLICANTS</u>

A. Legally Vested Interest

The Board shall not consider an application from any applicant who does not have a vested legal or equitable interest in the property in question. Applicants may appear on their own behalf or may be represented by counsel or agent. Any representation by someone other than an applicant must be accompanied with a written designation by the applicant for the agent to act on behalf of the applicant. (For example, the representative may produce a letter from the applicant to the Planning Department to authorize the representative to speak on behalf of the applicant; or, the representative may submit an application on behalf of a verifiable power of attorney.)

B. Applications

All applications for consideration by the Board must be on the prescribed form approved by the Planning Department and acceptable to the Board. The Board shall not consider applications for a variance or a special exception or any other Board action, if the application is not on a designated form. The Board shall approve the official application and the Chair shall implement it.

All applications for variances and special exceptions to commercial properties must be submitted with a current, valid "on the ground" survey. An applicant must submit a pauper form with their application if

they cannot proffer a valid survey; provided, however, the applicant illustrates their property with setbacks and encroachments as a survey would.

C. Meetings

Applicants have the right to be heard at all meetings where their applications are considered for a dispositive vote. Applicants not able to be present at the scheduled meeting to consider their application may submit to the Planning Department a written request for the Board to table the application. The Board will decide whether or not to grant the applicant's request to table. No application may be tabled at the request of applicant for more than two meetings prior to being considered for a dispositive vote. However, if the applicant requests for his/her application to be tabled because there are only four (4) board members present, such request shall not be counted against applicant's two (2) opportunities to table the application. The Board shall note on the record the reason(s) for the tabling of an agenda item. The reason(s) for each tabling, as well as the number of times an agenda item has been tabled, shall be reflected in an activity log in the meeting minutes at the end of each agenda item.

D. Evidence

Applicants should be prepared to present evidence necessary to prove their application. The burden of persuasion on seeking a remedy from the Board remains with the applicant at all times.

VI. <u>HARDSHIP</u>

A. For an "unnecessary hardship" to apply to a variance, it must relate to the very property for which the variance is sought and be a condition unique, oppressive, and uncommon to other properties. An unnecessary hardship may not be self-created, or be solely financial.

B. "Hardship" must be based on hardship resulting from sharp changes in topography or unusual terrain features. The applicant may prove the topography with a plot plan which includes topographic information related to known base points or surveys, and profiles or particular problems involved, including relationships to topographic features of adjoining properties.

C. There is no unnecessary hardship if the property is suitable and useable for the uses permitted in the district in which it lies, although there will be a loss of profit or other economic disadvantage on account of such use.

VII. <u>MEETINGS</u>

A. Texas Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act.

Except as permitted under the advice of the Board's attorney, all meetings of the Board are subject to the Texas Public Information Act and shall be open to the public. The minutes of the Board's meetings and records of its examination or other official actions are public records, unless excepted under law.

B. Quorum

A quorum consists of seventy-five percent (75%) of the full complement of members. For a full complement of five (5) members, therefore, four (4) members present constitute a quorum. The Chair may declare a quorum does not exist fifteen (15) minutes following a posted meeting time, having found at least four (4) members and alternate members are not present; provided however, the Chair may not declare a quorum thirty (30) minutes from the posted time, should at least members and alternate members not be present.

C. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held every first and third Wednesday at 5:30 P.M., or at other times as determined by the Board, in the City Commission Chambers. The Board by majority vote may change the place, day, and hour of the meetings; provided that, notice complies with the Texas Open Meetings Act (Chapter 511 of the Texas Government Code).

D. Special Meetings

The Chair may call a special meeting. A special meeting shall have a lawful purpose and members and public shall be given at least seventy-two (72) hours notice prior to the meeting.

E. Order of Business

The usual order of business shall be:

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Approval of Minutes
- 3. Open Public Hearing
- 4. Other Statements
- 5. Introduction: New Information Recommendation
 - a) Presentation of recommendation by City Staff.
 - b) The Chair shall call the applicant or his representative(s) to present the case and answers any questions. If the applicant or representative is not present when called, the Chair may move a case to the end of the agenda.
 - c) The Chair shall then inquire if there are others who wish to address the Board in support of the case.
 - d) The Chair shall then inquire if there are those present who wish to address the Board who are opposed to the case.
 - e) The applicant or his representative may then give a rebuttal to any opposition.
 - f) If new facts are presented during this rebuttal, opposition shall be given the opportunity for rebuttal
 - g) Staff shall then have an opportunity to provide additional information, clarification or address questions from the Board.
 - h) Board discussion.
 - i) The Chair shall then declare that the discussion of the case is closed.

- j) In order to achieve an unambiguous decision, motions should be made in affirmative manner when possible.
- k) Any motion by a member shall require a second. After a motion has been made and duly seconded, discussion of the motion may be held for a reasonable time. Discussion shall terminate whenever a member shall call for a vote upon the question or whenever the Chair shall so rule.
- 1) Vote on a motion.
- 6. The Chair may move a case out of regular agenda order.
- 7. Staff Report
- 8. Other Business posted on the Agenda
- 9. Adjournment

F. Staff Recommendations

City staff shall provide recommendations on each case before the Board.

G. Action by the Board

The super-majority concurring vote of seventy-five percent of the full board compliment, i.e., four affirming members of the Board, shall be necessary to reverse an order, requirement, decision or determination of an administrative official or agency; to decide in favor of an applicant on a matter upon which the Board is required to pass under any such ordinance or regulation; to authorize a variation; or to recommend to the Director of Planning to uphold or modify the interpretation of the City Code. All other matters shall be decided by a majority vote, unless otherwise specified in the City Code. The Board on its own motion may table an application when an applicant does not appear; provided however, in no case may the board table an application, for failure of the applicant to appear, more than twice without taking a dispositive vote.

H. Minutes of the Board

The Board, through its designated appointee, shall keep minutes of all meetings that indicate the vote of each member on every question on which it is required to act, or the fact that a member is absent or fails to vote. The minutes shall be filed in the office of the Planning Department and are public record.

VIII. <u>DECISIONS OF THE BOARD</u>

A. Precedent

There is not precedent. Any one case does not set a precedent for any future case. Each case shall be decided on its own merits and upon the circumstances of the case.

B. Public Statements

No Board member shall release any official statement to the public or the press. Only the Director of the Planning Department or her designated representative may make official statements on behalf of the Board.

B. Parliamentary Procedure

Any question regarding parliamentary procedure not covered by these rules shall be decided according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

IX. <u>WITHDRAWAL OF APPEAL</u>

Any appeal or application may be withdrawn by the applicant upon written notice to the Director of Planning.

X. <u>ATTENDANCE</u>

Excessive absences cannot be tolerated, as the Board depends on a super majority of attendance in order to exercise decisions on applications for a variance. Three absences or more in a six-month period are excessive. If a Board member is excessively absent from regularly scheduled meetings, the Board may recommend to City Commission, by majority vote, that the Commission appoint an immediate replacement.

XI. <u>AMENDEMENT PROCEDURE</u>

Amendment to these rules and procedures may be made by the Board at any meeting, upon the affirmative vote of five (5) members, provided any such amendment is proposed at a preceding meeting and entered into the minutes of such meeting. However, board members may adopt through unanimous consent of all members an amendment at the meeting at which it was introduced; provided, however, the amendment shall not become effective until the next regular meeting.

Adopted this ______day of ______, 2014 as affirmed by the designated Executive Secretary assigned by the Planning Department of the City of McAllen.

Executive Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-70

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MCALLEN AT CHAPTER 138 ("ZONING"), ARTICLE VI ("SUPPLEMENTARY DISTRICT REGULATIONS"), DIVISION 3 ("LOTS AND YARDS"), BY ADDING PROVISIONS REGULATING CARPORTS AND GRANTING THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS TO GRANT SPECIAL EXCPEPTIONS THERETO; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ORDAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER HEREOF.

WHEREAS, the City of McAllen desires to establish rules and regulations relating to

the construction and maintenance of carports within the City,

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that it is in the public interest to delegate the

authority to regulate carports to the Zoning Board of Adjustments,

WHEREAS, the City of McAllen seeks to protect the value of property located within

the corporal limits of the City,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OF THE CITY OF MCALLEN, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION I: The Code of Ordinances, City of McAllen, Chapter 138 ("Zoning"), Article

VI ("Supplementary District Regulations"), Division 3 ("Lots and Yards") is hereby amended

to read as follows:

Sec. 138-371. – Special Exception for carports.

- (a) The Zoning Board of Adjustment may grant a special exception to the minimum setback requirements for a carport when, in the opinion of the board:
 - (1) there is no adequate vehicular access to an area behind the required front building line that would accommodate a parking space; and

- (2) the carport will not have a detrimental impact on surrounding properties.
- (b) In determining whether to grant this special exception, the board shall consider the following factors:
 - (1) Whether the requested special exception is compatible with the character of the neighborhood.
 - (2) Whether the value of surrounding properties will be adversely affected.
 - (3) The suitability of the size and location of the carport
 - (4) The materials to be used in construction of the carport
- (c) Storage of items other than motor vehicles is prohibited in a carport for which a special exception has been granted under this subsection.
- (d) If the Zoning Board of Adjustment Grants a special exception as provided in this section, the site plan and the minutes of the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting shall be officially recorded with Hidalgo County.
- (e) Any special exception granted under this chapter is granted solely to the applicant and may not be transferred, sold, inherited, bequeathed, or devised.
- (f) A new special exception shall be required upon any change or transfer in ownership of the underlying tract; a special exception granted to a previous applicant does not confer any right to any other individual or corporation to maintain the carport without approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

SECTION II: The City Secretary of the City of McAllen is hereby authorized and

directed to cause the caption of this ordinance to be published in a newspaper having

general circulation in McAllen, Hidalgo County, Texas in accordance with the Code of

Ordinances of the City of McAllen, Section 2-56. Publication of ordinances.

SECTION III: The City Secretary of the City of McAllen is hereby authorized and directed to cause the language in Chapter 38, Article VI, Division 3, the McAllen Code of Ordinances, as amended by Section I, hereinabove, to be published in the appropriate location in the said Code of Ordinances.

SECTION IV: This Ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect from and

after its passage by the Board of Commissioners, and execution by the Mayor.

SECTION V: If any part or parts of this Ordinance are found to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court having competent jurisdiction, then such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining parts hereof and such remaining parts shall remain in full force and effect, and to that extent this Ordinance is considered severable.

CONSIDERED, PASSED and **APPROVED** this <u>8th</u> day of October, 2018, at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the City of McAllen, Texas at which a quorum was present and which was held in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

SIGNED this 9th day October, 2018.

Attest: <u>Uah Aara</u> Perla Lara, TRMC/CMC, CPM City Secretary Approved as to form: <u>Austin W. Stevenson, Assistant City Attorney</u>

2021 ATTENDANCE RECORD FOR ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

| | 01/06/21 | 01/20/21 | 02/03/21 | 02/17/21 | 03/03/21 | 03/17/21 | 04/07/21 | 04/21/21 | 05/05/21 | 05/19/21 | 06/02/21 | 06/17/21 | 07/07/21 | 07/21/21 | 08/04/21 | 08/18/21 | 09/01/21 | 09/15/21 | 10/06/21 | 10/20/21 | 11/03/21 | 11/17/21 | 12/01/21 | |
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| ERICK DIAZ- CHAIRPERSON | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | A | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | | | | | | | |
| JOHN MILLIN-VICECHAIRPERSON | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Α | Ρ | | | | | | | |
| SYLVIA HINOJOSA | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | | | | | | | |
| JOSE GUTIERREZ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | | | | | | | |
| JUAN F. JIMENEZ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Α | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Α | Α | | | | | | | |
| ANN TAFEL (ALT 1) | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | | | | | | | |
| HUGO AVILA (ALT 2) | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Р | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | | | | | | | |
| REBECCA MILLAN (ALT 3) | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Р | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | | | | | | | |
| ROGELIO RODRIGUEZ (ALT 4) | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Α | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | Р | Ρ | Ρ | Ρ | | | | | | | |

P - PRESENT

A - ABSENT

NEW APPOINTMENT

MC - MEETING CANCELLED

NRM - NO MEETING

LOQ - LACK OF QUORUM

RS - RESIGNATION

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