

<b>IN RE: PETITION FOR ADMIN. VARIANCE</b>	*	BEFORE THE
<b>(1920 Shanklin Avenue)</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup> Election District	*	OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE
5 <sup>th</sup> Council District		
Carl and Melanie Merhar	*	HEARINGS FOR
Petitioners		
	*	BALTIMORE COUNTY
	*	<b>CASE NO. 2014-0079-A</b>

\* \* \* \* \*

**OPINION AND ORDER**

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for Baltimore County for consideration of a Petition for Administrative Variance filed by the legal owners of the property, Carl and Melanie Merhar. The variance request is from Section 1B02.3.C.1 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (“B.C.Z.R.”), to permit a proposed garage addition with a side yard setback of 7 ft. in lieu of the minimum 15 ft. The subject property and requested relief is more fully depicted on the site plan that was marked and accepted into evidence as Petitioners’ Exhibit 1.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received and are made part of the record of this case. There were no ZAC comments submitted from any of the County reviewing agencies. It is to be noted that letters of support were received from adjacent owners residing on Shanklin Avenue (1900 and 1921).

The Petitioners having filed a Petition for Administrative Variance and the subject property having been posted on October 5, 2013, and there being no request for a public hearing, a decision shall be rendered based upon the documentation presented.

The Petitioners have filed the supporting affidavits as required by Section 32-3-303 of the Baltimore County Code (B.C.C.). Based upon the information available, there is no evidence in

the file to indicate that the requested variance would adversely affect the health, safety or general welfare of the public and should therefore be granted. In the opinion of the Administrative Law Judge, the information, photographs, and affidavits submitted provide sufficient facts that comply with the requirements of Section 307.1 of the B.C.Z.R. Furthermore, strict compliance with the B.C.Z.R. would result in practical difficulty and/or unreasonable hardship upon the Petitioners.

Although the Department of Planning did not make any recommendations related to the garage height and usage, I will impose conditions that the garage not be converted into a dwelling unit or apartment, not contain any sleeping quarters, living area, kitchen or bathroom facilities, and not be used for commercial purposes.

Pursuant to the posting of the property and the provisions of both the Baltimore County Code and the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, and for the reasons given above, the requested variance should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2013 by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County, that the Petition for Variance seeking relief from Section 1A03.4.B.2.a of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (“B.C.Z.R.”), to permit a proposed garage addition with a side yard setback of 7 ft. in lieu of the minimum 15 ft., be and is hereby GRANTED.

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

1. Petitioners may apply for any appropriate permits and be granted same upon receipt of this Order; however, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at her own risk until such time as the 30-day appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, Petitioners would be required to return, and be responsible for returning, said property to its original condition.

2. The Petitioners or subsequent owners shall not convert the subject garage into a dwelling unit or apartment. The structure shall not contain any sleeping quarters, living area, kitchen or bathroom facilities.
3. The garage shall not be used for commercial purposes.

Any appeal of this decision must be made within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed  
LAWRENCE M. STAHL  
Managing Administrative Law Judge for  
Baltimore County

LMS:dlw