

IN RE: PETITION FOR ADMIN. VARIANCE	*	BEFORE THE
(3100 Yorkway)		
12 th Election District	*	OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE
7 th Council District		
Christina L. & Douglas L. Simms, Sr.	*	HEARINGS FOR
Petitioners		
	*	BALTIMORE COUNTY
	*	CASE NO. 2017-0053-A

* * * * *

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, Christina L. and Douglas L. Simms, Sr. (“Petitioners”). The Petitioners are requesting Variance relief pursuant to § 400.1 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, to permit an accessory structure (detached garage) to be located in the side yard in lieu of the required rear yard placement in the 1/3 of the lot farthest from both streets. 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.

It is to be noted that this administrative variance case closed on September 19, 2016 but was not received by OAH until October 3, 2016; the whereabouts of the case file between these dates is unknown.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received and are made part of the record of this case. No adverse ZAC comments were received from any of the County reviewing agencies.

The Petitioners having filed a Petition for Administrative Variance and the subject property having been posted on August 26, 2016, 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 § 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 § 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 proposed garage's height and usage, I will impose conditions that the garage shall not be converted into a dwelling unit or apartment, not contain any sleeping quarters, living area, and kitchen or bathroom facilities.

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 11th day of **October, 2016**, by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County, that the Petition for Variance seeking relief from § 400.1 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, to permit an accessory structure (detached garage) to be located in the side yard in lieu of the required rear yard placement in the 1/3 of the lot farthest from both streets, be and is hereby GRANTED.

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

1. Petitioners may apply for necessary permits and/or licenses upon receipt of this Order. However, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until 30 days from the date hereof, during which time an appeal can be filed by any party. If for whatever reason this Order is reversed, Petitioners would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.
2. Petitioners or subsequent owners shall not convert the garage into a dwelling unit or apartment. The garage shall not contain any sleeping quarters, living area, and 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 _____
JOHN E. BEVERUNGEN
Administrative Law Judge for
Baltimore County

JEB:dlw