



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
ZONING HEARING EXAMINER
NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

JOE A SANCHEZ requests a special exception to Section 14-16-2-6(E)(4)(a) : a VARIANCE request of 7 ft to the 10 ft side setback required to allow a proposed addition for all or a portion of Lot 10, Block 49A, Four Hills Village 19th Installment zoned R-1, located on 1637 SOPLO RD SE (N-23)

Special Exception No:..... **15ZHE-80292**
Project No:..... **Project# 1010687**
Hearing Date:..... 03-15-16
Closing of Public Record:..... 03-15-16
Date of Decision: 03-30-16

On the 15th day of March, 2016, JOE A SANCHEZ (“Applicant”) appeared before the Zoning Hearing Examiner (“ZHE”) requesting a variance of 7 ft to the 10 ft side setback required to allow a proposed addition (“Application”) upon the real property located at 1637 SOPLO RD SE (“Subject Property”). Below are the ZHE’s findings of fact and decision:

FINDINGS:

1. Applicant is requesting a variance of 7 ft to the 10 ft side setback required to allow a proposed addition.
2. The City of Albuquerque Zoning Code of Ordinances Section 14-16-4-2 (C)(2) (Special Exceptions – Variance) reads: “A variance application shall be approved by the Zoning Hearing Examiner, if and only if, the Zoning Hearing Examiner finds all of the following:
 - (a) The application is not contrary to the public interest or injurious to the community, or to property or improvements in the vicinity;
 - (b) There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property which do not apply generally to other property in the same zone and vicinity such as size, shape, topography, location, surroundings, or physical characteristics created by natural forces or government action for which no compensation was paid;
 - (c) Such special circumstances were not self-imposed and create an unnecessary hardship in the form of a substantial and unjustified limitation on the reasonable use or return on the property that need not be endured to achieve the intent and purpose of the Zoning Code (§14-16-1-3) and the applicable zoning district; and
 - (d) Substantial justice is done.”
3. The Applicant bears the burden of ensuring there is evidence in the record supporting a finding that the above criteria are met under Section 14-16-4-2(C).
4. The ZHE finds that Application is not: (i) contrary to the public interest, (ii) injurious to the community; or (iii) injurious to the property or improvements located in the vicinity as required by Section 14-16-4-2 (C)(2)(a).
5. Specifically, the ZHE finds that the proposed structure will not block views, light or air to other properties. It will have no deleterious effect on property values. It will not result in increased traffic, noise or intensity of use. Its design is reasonably attractive and harmonious with the existing development. Moreover, in general the addition of enclosed storage benefits the area due to reduction of unsightly outside storage of the same items.

6. The proposal is supported by the relevant homeowners' association as well as the neighboring property owners. The ZHE does not relinquish his independent decision making authority and obligation to the homeowners' association, however the ZHE does find the position of the homeowners association particularly relevant in determining whether the application is contrary to the public interest or injurious to the community.
7. It is also relevant that this matter was referred to the City of Albuquerque Land Use Facilitation Program and consensus was reached by all parties, although one individual did subsequently withdraw his consent.
8. The ZHE finds that there are special circumstances applicable to the Subject Property which do not apply generally to other property in the same zone and vicinity such as size, shape, topography, location, surroundings, or physical characteristics created by natural forces or government action for which no compensation was paid, as required by Section 14-16-4-2(C)(2)(b).
9. Specifically, the ZHE finds that the topography of the rear of the subject property, being on the edge of a hill, is such that it is substantially unusable for the intended structure and moreover the arrangement of the subject site is such that the proposed area is the only portion that has reasonable access for the intended storage purposes.
10. The ZHE finds that such special circumstances were not self-imposed and create an unnecessary hardship in the form of a substantial and unjustified limitation on the reasonable use or return on the property that need not be endured to achieve the intent and purpose of the Zoning Code (§14-16-1-3) and the applicable district, as required by Section 14-16-4-2(C)(2)(c).
11. Specifically, the ZHE finds that significantly limiting the ability to have reasonable residential enclosed storage on the subject property works an unnecessary hardship.
12. The ZHE finds that substantial justice will be done if this Application is approved, as required pursuant to Section 14-16-4-2 (C)(2)(d).
13. The ZHE finds that the proper "Notice of Hearing" signage was posted for the required time period as required by Section 14-16-4-2(B)(4).
14. The ZHE finds that the Applicant has authority to pursue this Application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The criteria within Section 14-16-4-2(C)(2) of the Albuquerque Zoning Code are satisfied.

DECISION:

APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS of a variance of 7 ft to the 10 ft side setback required to allow a proposed addition.

CONDITION: The structure shall be used for the personal storage of residents of the subject property only, and shall not be used for commercial or industrial purposes.

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must do so by April 14, 2016, in the manner described below. A non-refundable filing fee will be calculated at the Planning Department's Land Development Coordination counter and is required at the time the Appeal is filed.

Appeal is to the Board of Appeals within 15 days of the decision. A filing fee of \$105.00 shall accompany each appeal application, as well as a written explanation outlining the

reason for appeal and a copy of the ZHE decision. Appeals are taken at 600 2nd Street, Plaza Del Sol Building, Ground Level, Planning Application Counter located on the west side of the lobby. **Please present this letter of notification when filing an appeal.** When an application is withdrawn, the fee shall not be refunded.

An appeal shall be heard by the Board of Appeals within 45 days of the appeal period and concluded within 75 days of the appeal period. The Planning Division shall give written notice of an appeal, together with a notice of the date, time and place of the hearing to the applicant, a representative of the opponents, if any are known, and the appellant.

Please note that pursuant to Section 14. 16. 4. 4. (B), of the City of Albuquerque Comprehensive Zoning Code, you must demonstrate that you have legal standing to file an appeal as defined.

You will receive notice if any other person files an appeal. If there is no appeal, you can receive building permits any time after the appeal deadline quoted above, provided all conditions imposed at the time of approval have been met. However, the Zoning Hearing Examiner may allow issuance of building permits if the public hearing produces no objection of any kind to the approval of an application. To receive this approval, the applicant agrees in writing to return the building permit or occupation tax number.

Successful applicants are reminded that other regulations of the City must be complied with, even after approval of a special exception is secured. This decision does not constitute approval of plans for a building permit. If your application is approved, bring this decision with you when you apply for any related building permit or occupation tax number. Approval of a conditional use or a variance application is void after one year from date of approval if the rights and privileges are granted, thereby have not been executed or utilized.



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