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

John Buchan (Agent, Esther Fredrickson) requests a variance of 15 feet to the required 25 foot rear yard setback for Lot 208B2, MRGCD Map 31, located at 1320 Avenida Cristo Rey NW, zoned R-A [Section 14-16-5-1]

Special Exception No:..... **VA-2020-00324**
Project No: ..... **Project#2019-002458**
Hearing Date: 11-17-20
Closing of Public Record: 11-17-20
Date of Decision: 12-02-20

On the 17th day of November, 2020, Esther Fredrickson, agent for property owner John Buchan ("Applicant") appeared before the Zoning Hearing Examiner ("ZHE") requesting a variance of 15 feet to the required 25 foot rear yard setback ("Application") upon the real property located at 1320 Avenida Cristo Rey NW ("Subject Property"). Below are the ZHE's finding of fact and decision:

FINDINGS:

1. Applicant is requesting a variance of 15 feet to the required 25 foot rear yard setback.
2. The City of Albuquerque Integrated Development Ordinance, Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a) (Variance-Review and Decision Criteria) reads: "… an application for a Variance-ZHE shall be approved if it meets all of the following criteria:

   (1) There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property that are not self-imposed and that 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. Such special circumstances of the property either create an extraordinary hardship in the form of a substantial and unjustified limitation on the reasonable use or return on the property, or practical difficulties result from strict compliance with the minimum standards.

   (2) The Variance will not be materially contrary to the public safety, health, or welfare.

   (3) The Variance does not cause significant material adverse impacts on surrounding properties or infrastructure improvements in the vicinity.

   (4) The Variance will not materially undermine the intent and purpose of the IDO or the applicable zone district.

   (5)The Variance approved is the minimum necessary to avoid extraordinary hardship or practical difficulties."
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 14-16-6-4(N)(1).
4. Agent appeared and gave evidence in support of the application.
5. All property owners within 100 feet of the subject property and the affected neighborhood association were notified.

6. The subject property is currently zoned R-A.
7. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, it appears that there are special circumstances applicable to the Subject Property that are not self-imposed and that 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 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(1). Specifically, applicant testified that the surroundings and location characteristics of the site are unique and merit the increased safety, security and convenience that the requested would provide.
8. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, the variance will not be contrary to the public safety, health and welfare of the community as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(2). Specifically, evidence was submitted supporting that, if granted approval, the Applicant intends to use the property in a manner that is consistent with the IDO and the Development Process Manual (DPM).
9. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, the variance will not cause significant adverse material impacts on surrounding properties or infrastructure improvements in the vicinity as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(3). Specifically, the proposed variance is designed to be in harmony and consistency with what currently exists in the neighborhood, which was supported by photographic evidence and oral testimony.
10. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, the variance will not materially undermine the intent and purpose of the IDO or applicable zone district as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(4). Specifically, Applicant presented evidence that the intent of IDO will still be met in that the subject site will continue the existing use and the proposed variance would merely add to the safety and usability of the site.
11. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, the variance approved is the minimum necessary to avoid extraordinary hardship or practical difficulties as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(5). Specifically, Applicant testified that any smaller variance would be ineffective. Thus, the applicant is not requesting more than what is minimally necessary for a variance.
12. City Transportation submitted a report stating no objection.
13. The proper "Notice of Hearing" signage was posted for the required time period as required by Section 14-16-6-4(K)(3).
14. The Applicant has authority to pursue this Application.
15. Neighbors appeared and provided public comment regarding the Application, expressing concern and posing questions regarding what was proposed. Applicant responded that the residence proposed for the site would be constructed in accordance with the site sketch that accompanied the Application, to which the neighbors were amenable.

DECISION:

APPROVAL WITH CONDITION of a variance of 15 feet to the required 25 foot rear yard setback.

CONDITION:

Development of the Subject Property must proceed in accordance with the site sketch that accompanied the Application.

APPEAL:

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must do so by December 17, 2020 pursuant to Section 14-16-6-4(U), of the Integrated Development Ordinance, you must demonstrate that you have legal standing to file an appeal as defined.

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.

Robert Lucero, Esq.
Zoning Hearing Examiner

cc:

ZHE File
Zoning Enforcement
Esther Fredrickson, abqjoinery@gmail.com
Steve Finch, sfinch@shomaker.com
Melinda Benson, 4503 Compound North Ct, 87107

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

John Buchan (Agent, Esther Fredrickson) requests a variance of 10 feet to the required 20 foot front yard setback Lot 208B2, MRGCD Map 31, located at 1320 Avenida Cristo Rey NW, zoned R-A [Section 14-16-5-1]

Special Exception No:..... **VA-2020-00350**
Project No: ..... **Project#2019-002458**
Hearing Date: 11-17-20
Closing of Public Record: 11-17-20
Date of Decision: 12-02-20

On the 17th day of November, 2020, Esther Fredrickson, Agent for property owner John Buchan ("Applicant") appeared before the Zoning Hearing Examiner ("ZHE") requesting a variance of 10 feet to the required 20 foot front yard setback ("Application") upon the real property located at 1320 Avenida Cristo Rey NW ("Subject Property"). Below are the ZHE's finding of fact and decision:

FINDINGS:

1. Applicant is requesting a variance of 10 feet to the required 20 foot front yard setback.
2. The City of Albuquerque Integrated Development Ordinance, Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a) (Variance-Review and Decision Criteria) reads: "… an application for a Variance-ZHE shall be approved if it meets all of the following criteria:
   (1) There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property that are not self-imposed and that 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. Such special circumstances of the property either create an extraordinary hardship in the form of a substantial and unjustified limitation on the reasonable use or return on the property, or practical difficulties result from strict compliance with the minimum standards.
   (2) The Variance will not be materially contrary to the public safety, health, or welfare.
   (3) The Variance does not cause significant material adverse impacts on surrounding properties or infrastructure improvements in the vicinity.
   (4) The Variance will not materially undermine the intent and purpose of the IDO or the applicable zone district.
   (5)The Variance approved is the minimum necessary to avoid extraordinary hardship or practical difficulties."
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 14-16-6-4(N)(1).
4. Agent appeared and gave evidence in support of the application.
5. All property owners within 100 feet of the subject property and the affected neighborhood association were notified.

6. The subject property is currently zoned R-A.
7. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, it appears that there are special circumstances applicable to the Subject Property that are not self-imposed and that 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 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(1). Specifically, applicant testified that the surroundings and location characteristics of the site are unique and merit the increased safety, security and convenience that the requested would provide.
8. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, the variance will not be contrary to the public safety, health and welfare of the community as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(2). Specifically, evidence was submitted supporting that, if granted approval, the Applicant intends to use the property in a manner that is consistent with the IDO and the Development Process Manual (DPM).
9. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, the variance will not cause significant adverse material impacts on surrounding properties or infrastructure improvements in the vicinity as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(3). Specifically, the proposed variance is designed to be in harmony and consistency with what currently exists in the neighborhood, which was supported by photographic evidence and oral testimony.
10. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, the variance will not materially undermine the intent and purpose of the IDO or applicable zone district as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(4). Specifically, Applicant presented evidence that the intent of IDO will still be met in that the subject site will continue the existing use and the proposed variance would merely add to the safety and usability of the site.
11. Based on evidence submitted by or on behalf of Applicant, the variance approved is the minimum necessary to avoid extraordinary hardship or practical difficulties as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(a)(5). Specifically, Applicant testified that any smaller variance would be ineffective. Thus, the applicant is not requesting more than what is minimally necessary for a variance.
12. City Transportation submitted a report stating no objection.
13. The proper "Notice of Hearing" signage was posted for the required time period as required by Section 14-16-6-4(K)(3).
14. The Applicant has authority to pursue this Application.
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DECISION:

APPROVAL WITH CONDITION of a variance of 10 feet to the required 20 foot front yard setback.

CONDITION:

Development of the Subject Property must proceed in accordance with the site sketch that accompanied the Application.

APPEAL:

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must do so by December 17, 2020 pursuant to Section 14-16-6-4(U), of the Integrated Development Ordinance, you must demonstrate that you have legal standing to file an appeal as defined.

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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