BERTHA OCHOA requests a special exception to Section 14-16-2-9(B) and 14-16-2-6(B)(14): a CONDITIONAL USE to allow a 5 ft tall wall within the front yard setback for all or a portion of Lot 13-P1, Block 22, El Rancho Grande 1 UNIT 5A zoned R-T, located on 8719 SPOTTED PONY AVE SW (N-9)

On the 19th day of June, 2018, property owner BERTHA OCHOA (“Applicant”) appeared before the Zoning Hearing Examiner (“ZHE”) requesting a CONDITIONAL USE to allow a 5 ft tall wall within the front yard setback (“Application”) upon the real property located at 8719 SPOTTED PONY AVE SW (“Subject Property”). Below are the ZHE’s findings of fact and decision:

FINDINGS:

1. Applicant is requesting a conditional use to allow a 5 ft tall wall within the front yard setback.
2. The City of Albuquerque Code of Ordinances Section 14-16-4-2(C)(1) (Special Exceptions – Conditional Use) reads: “A conditional use shall be approved if and only if, in the circumstances of the particular case and under conditions imposed, the use proposed:
   (a) Will not be injurious to the adjacent property, the neighborhood, or the community;
   (b) Will not be significantly damaged by surrounding structures or activities.
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 in the proposed use will not be injurious to the adjacent property, the neighborhood, or the community as required by Section 14-16-4-2(C)(1)(a).
5. Specifically, the ZHE finds that the proposed wall/fence is attractive and in harmony with its site.
6. The style of the wall/fence blends architecturally with the adjacent residences and with the general streetscape.
7. The wall/fence is consistent with the requirements of Section 14-16-3-19.
8. The portion of the wall or fence which is more than three feet above the adjacent curb top is essentially an open fence which permits good visibility through it.
9. The support of surrounding neighbor’s testimony indicates the absence of potential injury to the surrounding area.
10. The ZHE finds that the proposed use will not be significantly damaged by surrounding structures or activities as required by Section 14-16-4-2(C)(1)(b).
11. 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).

12. The ZHE finds that the Applicant has authority to pursue this Application.

DECISION:

APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS of a CONDITIONAL USE to allow a 5 ft tall wall within the front yard setback

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

The Applicant shall not alter the design to any fence material that blocks the clear sight triangle.

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must do so by July 19, 2018, 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.

Christopher L. Graeser, Esq.
Zoning Hearing Examiner

cc: Zoning Enforcement
    ZHE File
    Bertha Ochoa, 8719 Spotted Pony Ave SW, 87121
    Elfego Orona Jr, 8732 Spotted Pony Ave SW, 87121