



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

Armand Huertaz requests a variance of 5ft to the 3ft maximum wall height for Lot 8-P1, Block 20, Saltillo Unit 1, located at 11001 Escensia ST NW, zoned R-1B [Section 14-16-5-7(D)]

Special Exception No:..... **VA-2019-00325**
Project No: **Project#2019-002915**
Hearing Date: 11-19-19
Closing of Public Record: 11-19-19
Date of Decision: 12-04-19

On the 19th day of November, 2019, property owner Armand Huertaz (“Applicant”) appeared before the Zoning Hearing Examiner (“ZHE”) requesting a variance of 5ft to the 3ft maximum wall height (“Application”) upon the real property located at 11001 Escensia ST NW (“Subject Property”). Below are the ZHE’s findings of fact and decision:

FINDINGS:

1. Applicant is requesting a variance of 5 ft to the 3 ft maximum wall height.
2. The City of Albuquerque Integrated Development Ordinance Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(c) Variance for a Taller Front or Side Yard Wall reads: “A *variance application for a taller front or side yard wall shall be approved by the Zoning Hearing Examiner, if and only if, the Zoning Hearing Examiner finds all of the following:*
 - (1) *The proposed wall would strengthen or reinforce the architectural character of the surrounding area;*
 - (2) *The proposed wall would not be injurious to adjacent properties, the surrounding neighborhood, or the larger community;*
 - (3) *The wall is proposed on a lot that meets any of the following criteria:*
 - a. *The lot is at least ½ acre;*
 - b. *The lot fronts a street designated as a collector or above in the LRTS guide;*
 - c. *At least 20 percent of the properties within 330 feet of the lot where the wall or fence is being requested have a wall or fence over 3 feet in the front yard.*
 - (4) *The design of the wall complies with any applicable standard in Section 14-16-5-7 (Walls and Fences), including, but not limited to Subsection 14-16-5-7(E)(2) (Articulation and alignment) and Subsection 14-16-5-7(E)(3) (Wall Design), and all of the following:*
 - a. *The wall or fence shall not block the view of any portion of any window on the front façade of the primary building when viewed from 5 feet above ground level at the centerline of the street in front of the house.*
 - b. *The design and materials proposed for the wall or fence shall reflect the architectural character of the surrounding area.*
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. Armand Huertaz, property owner appeared and gave evidence in support of the application.

5. The address of the subject property is 11001 Escensia St NW.
6. The subject property is currently zoned R-1B.
7. The request is for a variance from Section 14-16-5-7(D)(1): ***DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS; Walls and Fences; Table 5-7-1: Maximum Wall Height.***
8. The proposed wall is an extension of a presently existing 8 foot tall side yard wall.
9. The wall is facing Carmona Rd and there are no adjacent properties on that side of the property.
10. There is an existing 3 foot tall CMU block retaining wall, and the proposed wall extension would be constructed upon that existing wall.
11. The proposed wall would be constructed of CMU Blocks, which would match the color of the existing wall.
12. A site plan, with accompanying photographs was submitted in support of the Application.
13. All property owners within 100 feet and affected neighborhood association were notified of the application.
14. Westside Coalition of Neighborhood Associations is the affected neighborhood association.
15. The neighborhood association was notified by e-mail dated September 9, 2019.
16. No response nor request for meeting has been submitted.
17. An e-mail from Diane Rossignol, Saltillo Community Manager, dated June 4, 2019, indicating approval of the proposed request by the Architectural Control Committee for the Saltillo HOA, was submitted in support of the Application.
18. Adjacent property owner have indicated verbal approval of the Application.
19. Transportation issued a report indicating Conditional Approval to the Application.
20. The proposed wall extension is not located within either the clear sight triangle nor the mini-clear sight triangle.
21. Any proposed wall design shall not violate the clear sight triangle as required by Transportation.
22. No one appeared in opposition to the Application.
23. The proposed wall would strengthen or reinforce the architectural character of the surrounding area as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(c)(1).
24. The wall would not be injurious to adjacent properties, the surrounding neighborhood, or the larger community as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(c)(2).
25. A proximity map (showing properties within 330 feet of the subject property), photographs of properties (with addresses) within 330 feet showing walls taller than 3 feet in front yard set-backs, in support of criteria required by Section 14-16-4-3(C)(3)c are submitted by Applicant
26. 29 properties are shown on the map requiring 6 to show at least 20 percent, and Applicant submitted 12 photographs with addresses, showing 40 per cent.
27. At least 20 percent of the properties within 330 feet of the lot where the wall or fence is being requested have a wall or fence over 3 feet in the front yard as required by Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(c)(3)c.
28. The ZHE finds that the proper "Notice of Hearing" signage was posted for the required time period as required by Section 14-16-6-4(K)(3).
29. The ZHE finds that the Applicant has authority to pursue this Application.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The criteria within Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(c) of the IDO are satisfied.

DECISION:

APPROVAL of a variance of 5 ft to the 3 ft maximum wall height.

CONDITIONS:

The design of the fence shall comply with any applicable design standards in Sections 14-16-5-7 (Walls and Fences); 7-7(E)(2) (Articulation and Alignment); 5-7(E)(3) (Wall Design) and Section 14-16-6-6(N)(3)(c)4 a and b.

APPEAL:

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must do so by December 19, 2019 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.



Stan Harada, Esq.
Zoning Hearing Examiner

cc:

ZHE File
Zoning Enforcement
Armand Huertaz, 11001 Escensia ST NW, 87114