



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

Maverik Inc. – Troy Jorgensen (Agent, Tierra West) requests a conditional use to allow for liquor retail for Lot 11B, Avalon Unit 5, located at 9701 Bluewater RD NW, zoned NR-BP [Section 14-16-4-2]

Special Exception No: **VA-2023-00047**
Project No: **Project#2019-002402**
Hearing Date: 03-21-23
Closing of Public Record: 03-21-23
Date of Decision: 04-05-23

On the 21st day of March, 2023, Tierra West, agent for property owner Maverik Inc. – Troy Jorgensen (“Applicant”) appeared before the Zoning Hearing Examiner (“ZHE”) requesting a conditional use to allow for liquor retail (“Application”) upon the real property located at 9701 Bluewater RD NW (“Subject Property”). Below are the ZHE’s finding of fact and decision:

FINDINGS:

1. Applicant is requesting a conditional use to allow for liquor retail.
2. The City of Albuquerque Code of Ordinances Section 14-16-6-6(A)(3) (Review and Decision Criteria– Conditional Use) reads: “*An application for a Conditional Use Approval shall be approved if it meets all of the following criteria:*
 - (a) *It is consistent with the ABC Comp. Plan, as amended;*
 - (b) *It complies with all applicable provisions of the IDO, including, but not limited to any Use-specific Standards applicable to the use in Section 14-16-4-3; the DPM; other adopted City regulations; and any conditions specifically applied to development of the property in any prior permit or approval affecting the property, or there is a condition of approval that any Variances or Waivers needed to comply with any of these provisions must be approved or the Conditional Use Approval will be invalidated pursuant to Subsection (2)(c)2 above;*
 - (c) *It will not create significant adverse impacts on adjacent properties, the surrounding neighborhood, or the larger community;*
 - (d) *It will not create material adverse impacts on other land in the surrounding area, through increases in traffic congestion, parking congestion noise, or vibration without sufficient mitigation or civic or environmental benefits that outweigh the expected impacts;*
 - (e) *On a project site with existing uses, it will not increase non- residential activity within 300 feet in any direction of a lot in any Residential zone district between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.;*
 - (f) *It will not negatively impact pedestrian or transit connectivity without appropriate mitigation*
3. Applicant bears the burden of providing a sound justification for the requested decision, based on substantial evidence, pursuant to IDO Section 14-16-6-4(E)(3).
4. Applicant bears the burden of showing compliance with required standards through analysis, illustrations, or other exhibits as necessary, pursuant to IDO Section 14-16-6-4(E)(4).

5. Agent appeared at the ZHE hearing on this matter and gave evidence in support of the Application.
6. Applicant established that the proper "Notice of Hearing" signage was posted for the required time period as required by Section 14-16-6-4(K)(3).
7. Applicant established that all property owners and neighborhood association entitled to notice were notified of the Application.
8. Applicant has met its burden of providing evidence that establishes that the requested Conditional Use approval is consistent with the ABC Comp. Plan, as amended. Specifically, Applicant submitted the following evidence supporting that the requested Conditional Use approval furthers the goals and policies of the ABC Comp. Plan by helping to ensure appropriate scale and location of development and character of design, placing new development along corridors, and providing employment and services for the area.
9. Applicant has met its burden of providing evidence that establishes that the requested Conditional Use approval complies with all applicable provisions of the IDO, including, but not limited to any Use-specific Standards applicable to the use in Section 14-16-4-3; the DPM; other adopted City regulations; and any conditions specifically applied to development of the property in any prior permit or approval affecting the property. Specifically, Applicant testified and confirmed in written submittals that the requested Conditional Use approval would comport with all applicable requirements.
10. Applicant has demonstrated compliance with the use-specific standards in IDO Section 14-16-4-3(D)(39).
11. Applicant has met its burden of providing evidence that establishes that the requested Conditional Use approval will not create significant adverse impacts on adjacent properties, the surrounding neighborhood, or the larger community. Specifically, Applicant testified and confirmed in written submittals that the requested Conditional Use approval would not create any adverse impact other than as would be effectively limited by the use-specific standards and other requirements of the IDO, with which Applicant will comply. Opponents raised concerns regarding the potential for increases in crime resulting from alcohol sales. Agent pointed out the policies and best practices followed by Applicant and the recent regulatory limitations that mitigate the risks of higher crime and other potential adverse impacts. On balance, the requested Conditional Use approval will not create significant adverse impacts on adjacent properties, the surrounding neighborhood, or the larger community.
12. Applicant has met its burden of providing evidence that establishes that the requested Conditional Use approval will not create material adverse impacts on other land in the surrounding area, through increases in traffic congestion, parking congestion noise, or vibration without sufficient mitigation or civic or environmental benefits that outweigh the expected impacts. Specifically, Applicant testified and confirmed in written submittals that the requested Conditional Use approval would not create any adverse impact, given that the proposed use is located on along a corridor and will have appropriate buffering between it and residential uses.
13. Applicant has met its burden of providing evidence that establishes that the requested Conditional Use approval will not increase non-residential activity within 300 feet of a lot in any residential zone district between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. Specifically, Applicant testified that non-residential activity would not increase in any prohibited manner, because the proposed use is not located with 300 feet of any residentially zoned lot.

14. Applicant has met its burden of providing evidence that establishes that the requested Conditional Use approval will not negatively impact pedestrian or transit connectivity without appropriate mitigation. Specifically, Applicant testified that no negative impact on pedestrian or transit connectivity would result.
15. The City Traffic Engineering Division stated no objection.
16. The criteria within IDO Section 14-16-6-6(A)(3) are satisfied.

DECISION:

APPROVAL of a conditional use to allow for liquor retail.

APPEAL:

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must do so by April 20, 2023 pursuant to Section 14-16-6-4(V), 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
Tierra West, jgarcia@tierrawestllc.com, rrb@tierrawestllc.com,
VCarrica@tierrawestllc.com