



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

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| Andrew Skarsgard (Juanita Garcia, JAG Planning & Zoning, LLC – Agent) requests a Variance of Five (5) feet to the north side property line for Lot 15-A, Block 34, Plat of Lots 14-1 and 15-A Block 34 Parkland Hills Addition (Being a replat of Lots 14 and 15 a A), located at 907 Laurel Circle SE, zoned R-1D (L- 17) IDO Section 16-5-1(C)(1); Table 5-1-1 | Special Exception No:..... | VA-2026-00014 |
| | Project No: | NA |
| | Hearing Date: | 03-17-2026 |
| | Closing of Public Record: | 03-17-2026 |
| | Date of Decision:..... | 04-01-2026 |

On March 17, 2026, Andrew Skarsgard (Juanita Garcia, JAG Planning & Zoning, LLC – Agent) was scheduled to appear before the Zoning Hearing Examiner (the “ZHE”) requesting a Variance to the north side setback of the property (“Application”) upon the real property located at 907 Laurel Circle SE (the “Subject Property”). Below are the ZHE’s findings of fact and decision:

FINDINGS:

1. Variance request to the north side setback for new construction, pursuant to City of Albuquerque Code of Ordinances Integrated Development Ordinance (“IDO”) Section 14-16-6-6(O).
2. Applicant has authority to pursue this Application, pursuant to 14-16-6-4(D).
3. Applicant has duly authorized Agent to act on Applicant’s behalf regarding the Application.
4. Applicant is not required to offer a meeting to Indian Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos no more than 1 calendar year before filing the application, pursuant to IDO Section 14-16-6-4(B).
5. The Planning Director’s delegee has determined that the Application is complete, pursuant to IDO Section 14-16-6-4(G).
6. The analyses and studies listed in IDO Section 14-16-6-4(H) were delivered.
7. The Application was forwarded to commenting agencies pursuant to IDO Section 14-16-6-4(I).
8. The content of the notice of the Application satisfies IDO Section 14-16-6-4(J)(1).
9. Applicant has sent an electronic mail notice to the email addresses on file with the Office of Neighborhood Coordination for each pertinent Neighborhood Association as required by IDO Section 14-16-6-4(J)(2).

10. Applicant has sent a mailed notice to all property owners within 100 feet of the subject property as required by IDO Section 14-16-6-4(J)(3).
11. Applicant has posted sign notice(s) as required by IDO Section 14-16-6-4(J)(4).
12. The Subject Property is located at 907 Laurel Circle SE, in the R-1D zone district.
13. Therefore, a Variance to side setback is required to place a proposed house pursuant to IDO Subsection 14-16-6-6(O).
14. IDO Section 14-16-6-6(O)(3)(a) (Review and Decision Criteria– Variance) 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 a single lot that are not self-imposed and that do not apply generally to other property in the same zone district and vicinity, including but not limited to size, shape, topography, location, surroundings, physical characteristics, natural forces, or by government actions for which no compensation was paid. Such special circumstances of the lot either create an extraordinary hardship in the form of a substantial and unjustified limitation on the reasonable use or economic 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 this IDO, the applicable zone district, or any applicable Overlay Zone.*
 5. *The Variance approved is the minimum necessary to avoid extraordinary hardship or practical difficulties.”*
15. 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).
16. 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).
17. Agent appeared at the March 17, 2026 ZHE hearing on the Application and gave evidence in support of the Application.
18. 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, and such special circumstances of the lot either create an extraordinary hardship in the form of a substantial and unjustified limitation on the reasonable use or economic return on the property, or practical difficulties result from strict compliance with the minimum standards, as required by Section 14-16-6-6(O)(3)(a)(1). The unusual shape and size of the Subject Property based on historic platting create special circumstances under which practical difficulties result from strict compliance with the minimum standards.

19. 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(O)(3)(a)(2). There is still appropriate buffering from adjacent properties and no safety, health or welfare concerns are implicated in the record.
20. 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(O)(3)(a)(3). The variance requested does not create a zero lot line or otherwise impose upon neighboring properties..
21. 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(O)(3)(a)(4). The uses of the property are consistent with the IDO and the Application merely seeks to rectify a setback situation.
22. 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(O)(3)(a)(5). Applicant requests only the minimum required to accommodate the planned development of the Subject Property.
23. The City Traffic Engineer submitted a report stating no objection to the Application.

DECISION:

APPROVAL of a Variance of Five (5) feet to the north side property line.

APPEAL:

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must do so by April 16, 2026, 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 Notice of Decision does not constitute approval of plans for a building permit. If your application is approved, bring this Notice of Decision with you when you apply for any related building permit or occupation tax number. Approval of a Conditional Use is void after two (2) years from date of approval if the rights and privileges granted thereby have not been executed or utilized. Approval of a Variance is void after one (1) year from date of approval if the rights and privileges granted thereby have not been executed or utilized.



Robert Lucero, Esq.

Zoning Hearing Examiner

cc: *Juanita Garcia, Agent, jag@jagpandz.com*
ZHE File
Zoning Enforcement