

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
URBAN DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
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ZONING HEARING EXAMINER NOTICE OF DECISION

Special Exception Number: VA-2026-00076

Project Number: PR-2020-004595

Hearing Date: 07-21-2026

Closing of Public Record: 07-21-2026

Date of Decision: 08-05-2026

Case Description: Kenneth Goldblum (Owner) & Veronica Herrera (Applicant) request Variance to Contextual Lot Size Standards for Lot 6, Block 0000, Albuquerque Ranch Estates Unit 2, located at 12521 Bevan Way NE, zoned R-1 (E-22) IDO § 14-16-5-1(C)(2)

On July 21, 2026, Kenneth Goldblum (Owner) & Veronica Herrera (Applicant) were scheduled to appear before the Zoning Hearing Examiner ("ZHE") requesting a Variance to Contextual Residential Development in Areas of Consistency (Lot Size) ("Application") upon the real property located at 12521 Bevan Way NE ("Subject Property"). Below are the ZHE's findings of fact and decision.

FINDINGS, VARIANCE TO CONTEXTUAL LOT SIZE STANDARDS:

1. Applicant is requesting a Variance to Contextual Residential Development in Areas of Consistency (Lot Size) pursuant to City of Albuquerque Code of Ordinances Integrated Development Ordinance ("IDO") § 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 at least 1 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 not required.
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 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(s) is located on Lot 5 Plat of Albuquerque Ranch Estates, Unit II and on Lot 6 Plat of Albuquerque Ranch Estates, Unit II in an Area of Consistency, therefore new development must comply with the contextual standards for lot size.
13. A Variance to Contextual Residential Development in Areas of Consistency on the Subject Property requires a Variance Approval pursuant to IDO Subsection 14-16-6-6(O).
14. IDO § 14-16-6-6(O)(3)(a) (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 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 § 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 § 14-16-6-4(E)(4).
17. Applicant bears the burden of providing a sound justification for the requested decision, based on substantial evidence, pursuant to IDO § 14-16-6-4(E)(3).
18. Applicant bears the burden of showing compliance with required standards through analysis, illustrations, or other exhibits as necessary, pursuant to IDO § 14-16-6-4(E)(4).
19. Applicant bears the burden of providing a sound justification for the requested decision, based on substantial evidence, pursuant to IDO § 14-16-6-4(E)(3).
20. Applicant bears the burden of showing compliance with required standards through analysis, illustrations, or other exhibits as necessary, pursuant to IDO § 14-16-6-4(E)(4).

21. 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 Applicant seeks to consolidate two existing parcels into one to develop a single family home. This is necessary because of a reduction in buildable area of each parcel resulting from existing PNM easement areas occupying space on both lots and a restrictive covenant for a detention pond on the southern lot. These conditions constitute special circumstances that result in practical difficulties with compliance with IDO standards.
22. 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). No safety, health or welfare concerns are implicated in the record.
23. 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 impose upon neighboring properties or infrastructure.
24. 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 development of the property is consistent with the IDO and the Application merely seeks to rectify a variance situation.
25. 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 development of the Subject Property.

DECISION:

APPROVAL of a Variance to Contextual Residential Development in Areas of Consistency (Lot Size) for Lot 6, Block 0000, Albuquerque Ranch Estates Unit 2, located at 12521 Bevan Way NE.

APPEAL:

If you wish to appeal this decision, you must do so by August 20, 2026. Pursuant to IDO § 14-16-6-4(U), you must demonstrate that you have legal standing to file an appeal.

PERIOD OF VALIDITY:

Approval of a Variance is valid for one (1) year from date of approval.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

THIS NOTICE OF DECISION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL OF PLANS FOR A
BUILDING PERMIT.

Successful applicants are reminded that other regulations of the City must be complied with, even after approval of a special exception is secured. If your application is approved, submit this Notice of Decision when you apply for any related building permit or other necessary permit.



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ZHE File
Zoning Enforcement