CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
URBAN DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
600 2nd Street NW, 2nd Floor, Albuquerque, NM 87102
PO Box 1293, Albuquerque, NM 87103
Office (505) 924-3860

ZONING HEARING EXAMINER
NOTICE OF DECISION

Special Exception Number: VA-2026-00153

Project Number: PR-2026-000182

Hearing Date: 10-20-26

Closing of Public Record: 10-20-26

Date of Decision: 11-04-26

Case Description: Wynn Parners LLC ("**Owner**") & Julie K Pham ("**Applicant**") request a Variance to the landscape requirements for Lots 27, 31, 29, 30, 28, 26, Block 35, Tijeras Place Addition, located at 5715 Central Ave NE, zoned MX-M (K-18), IDO β 14-16-5-7 (D)(3)(c)].

On October 20, 2026, Wynn Parners LLC ("**Owner"**) & Julie K Pham ("**Applicant"**) was scheduled to appear before the Zoning Hearing Examiner ("**ZHE**") requesting a Variance to the area between the wall and the property line that shall be landscaped with at least 2 trees and 6 shrubs every 25 feet along the length of the wall in the front lot line ("**Application**") upon the real property located at 5715 Central Ave NE ("**Subject Property**"). Below are the ZHE's findings of fact and decision:

FINDINGS, VARIANCE TO LANDSCAPE:

1. Applicant is requesting a Variance to the landscaping requirement for a wall taller than 3 feet in a Mixed Use zone district pursuant to the 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 not duly authorized an Agent to act on Applicant's behalf regarding the Application.
4. The Planning Director's delegee has determined that the Application is complete as of September 29, 2026 pursuant to IDO Section 14-16-6-4(G).
5. The Application was forwarded to commenting agencies pursuant to IDO Section 14-16-6-4(I).
6. The content of the notice of the Application satisfies IDO Section 14-16-6-4(J)(1).

7. 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).
8. 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).
9. Applicant has posted sign notice(s) as required by IDO Section 14-16-6-4(J)(4).
10. The Subject Property is located at 5715 Central Ave NE in the MX-M zone district.
11. Pursuant to IDO Section 14-16-5-7(D)(3)(c), in the MX-M zone district, a wall taller than 3 feet is required to install at least 2 trees and 6 shrubs every 25 feet along the length of the wall.
12. Due to the configuration of the site and the location of the circa 1937 structure on the property, there is insufficient space to meet this requirement.
13. Therefore, a Variance – ZHE is required, pursuant to IDO Subsection 14-16-6-6(O)(3).
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. In order to be approved, the Application must also meet the general review and decision criteria in IDO Subsection 14-16-6-4(M).
18. Applicant appeared at the October 20, 2026 ZHE hearing on the Application and gave evidence in support of the Application.
19. 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 Subject Property is an historic property with historic structures built very close to the public right of way on and around Central Ave. SE, an area of high vehicular and pedestrian activity, regularly trafficked by unhoused persons and potential trespassers onto the Subject Property. These historic structures and their proximity to the public right of way make strict application of the standard landscaping requirements impossible.

20. 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).
21. 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).
22. 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).
23. 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).
24. The City Traffic Engineer and Historical Preservation staff submitted a report stating no objection to the Application.

DECISION:

APPROVAL of PR-2026-000182, VA-2026-00153 of a Variance to landscaping requirements for a wall taller than 3 feet in a Mixed Use zone district on the subject property for Lots 27, 31, 29, 30, 28, 26, Block 35, Tijeras Place Addition, located at 5715 Central Ave NE.

APPEAL:

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

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Robert Lucero, Esq.
Zoning Hearing Examiner

cc: ("Applicant") Julie Pham
phamjulie27@yahoo.com

ZHE File
Zoning Enforcement