# PETITION OR ZONING RE-CLASSIFICATION AND/OR SPECIAL EXCEPTION

TO THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY:

That the comprehensive zoning map is in error, in that, the property

Sen attached Jescription

and (2) for a Special Exception, under the said Zoning Law and Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to use the herein described property, for ... Nr. office huilding

Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by Zoning Regulations.

Low we, agree to pay expenses of above re-classification and/or Special Exception advertising, posting, etc., upon filing of this petition, and further agree to and are to be bound by the soning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the Zoning Law for Saltimore

W. BURTON GIYECOMPANY, INC.

11 E. Chase Strust

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

James G. Stratakis

Contract purcha

Baltimore, Maryland 21204

William J. Blondell, Jr. 405 Eastern Avenue 21221

ORDERED By The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, this 27th day buly 197\_1, that the subject matter of this petition be advertised, as

required by the Zoning Law of Baltimore County, in two newspapers of general circulation throughout Baltimore County, that property be posted, and that the public hearing be had before the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County in Room 100, County Office Building in Towson, Raltimore County, Marik 77 1 Maria and an analysis of September 197 J. at 2,000 octoor

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(over)

By this time, the planning board had become involved in the production of the forthcoming comprehensive rezoning map. In that frame of reference, it had already approved the maps which proposed the D.R. 3.5 density; thus it had rejected any form of convertial zoning for the subject property. We shall see that the same dichotomy between the board and staff prevailed when this zoning case was considered at the planning level.

On July 27, 1971, four months after the property had been comprehensively rezoned, the subject application was filed by appellants, who were then contract purchasers, but are now owners of the property. The planning staff recommended approval stating:

"The Planning staff is recommending that D.R. 16 zoning with a special exception for offices be granted.

"The location of the property next to the Beltway entrance ramp makes it undestrable for residential use. The topography appears to make it difficult to develop in residential use."

The planning board recommended denial with this comment

"Since the Beltway acts as a physical barrier between the low-density development and the industrial uses on the west, it is Colt that D.R. 16 zoning would impinge upon the low-density development."

In rejecting the application, the zoning commissioner said:

"It is obvious ... that the ... County Council in its adoption of the Comprehensive Zoning Map intended to maintain the Beltway as a buffer between the commercial and industrial zoning to the west and the strictly residential area to the east. Further, it is obvious that it was the ... Council's intention to maintain the large area to the east of the Beltway as a strictly residential area with no commercial or quasi commercial uses, e.g., an office building.

"Without reviewing the evidence further in detail but based on all the evidence presented at the hearing, in the judgment of the Zoning Commissioner, the Comprehensive Zoning Map andopted by the ... County Council on March 24, 1971, is presumed to be correct, and the burden of proof is upon the Petitioner to show error in this map concerning the subject property.

The Petitioner has failed to do so,

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND
No. 268

September Term, 1972

JAMES A. STRATAKIS et al.

227

J. LYLE FEAUCHAMP et al.

Barnes Singley Smith Digges Levine,

JJ.

Opinion by Levine, J.

Filed: May 11, 1973

This appeal is from an order of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County (Proctor, J.) which reversed the granting of a resoning application and special exception sought by appellants. They are the owners of a 2.63-acre parcel of land located on the northwest corner of Grossell Bridge Read and Cowpens Avenue in the Ninth Election District of Baltimore County, contiguous to the northbound "en" ramp of the Baltimore Beltway. It is separated from the beltway by a portion of state-owned flood plain. The property is presently in the D.R. 3.5 zone (density residential, 3.5 dwelling units per acre). The application seeks reclassification to the D.R. 16 zone (density residential, 16 dwelling units per acre), and is accompanied by a request for a special exception for office-building use.

We shall demonstrate at the outset perhaps why, among the arguments advanced on appeal, no claim is made of a denial of procedural due procens. The application was first studied by the planning board staff which recommended its approval. The planning board, itself, recommended denial, whereupon it was heard by the zoning commissioner who denied the applications. The zoning commissioner's decision was appealed to the County Board of Appeals, which decided that the county council had erred in assigning the D.R. 3.5 classification as part of a recently-adopted comprehensive zoning map, and granted the application and special exception. 6. appeal to the circuit court, that decision was reversed. We hope this will be the final chapter in the current zoning history of this parcel.

As we have already suggested, the subject property acquired its present classification (D.R. 3.5) when the county council adopted a comprehensive zoning map for a large segment of Baltimore County on March 24, 1971. This was four months before appellants filed their zoning application. Prior to the comprehensive rezoning, the subject parcel had been in what was then known as the R-20 classification, which was a single-family residential zone allowing two units per acre. In 1970, while it was in that classification, the previous owners of the property had applied for reclassification to the R-A zone (apparently a form of apartment zoning, although the rector is unclear in this respect) with a special exception for office-building use. That application reached the stage of being denied by the zoning commissioner on January 12, 1971, prior to the comprehensive rezoning, and was then abandoned in favor of the subject application.

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In the processing of that first application, the matter was referred to the planning staff, the director of which was George E. Gavrelis, later to become a major witness for appellants in this case. The staff recommended approval of the zoning application and the petition for special exception. Its reasons were contained in a memorandum from Mr. Gavrelis to the zoning commissioner dated Jeptember 4, 1970. There, he said:

"a. the topography of the tract made it extremely difficult to develop it for single family residential surposes.

"b. the shape of the tract similarly made  $\underline{\text{such development difficult}}$ .

"c. the location of this property between relocated Compens Avenue, the Beltway on-rump, a widened Cromwell Bridge Road, and the new Loch Rawen Senlor High School suggested that single family residential development here would not be tenable.

The thrust of the board of appeals decision granting the application was that the planning staff recommendation, which it found persuasive, had not been made available to the county council when it acted on the comprehensive rezoning; and had the staff views then been known to the comprehensive rezoning; and had the staff views then been known to the council, the latter "[night] have acted differently." The circuit court reversed that decision on the ground that the action of the board of appeals constituted illegal "spot zoning." We shall affirm the judgment entered below since we think the result is compelled by a number of our prior decisions. We think, perhaps, that there are more apposite reasons than that cited by Judge Proctor, and we shall outlins them here. Before we do so, however, a word is in order concerning the property itself.

The parcel is all that remains from a larger holding, most of which was purchased for, and is now developed as, the new Loch Raven Senior High School. It is north of, or, as we prefer to say, "outside" the baltway; and is situated between relocated Compens Avenue, the baltway; on," ramp and a widened Cromwell Bridge Road. It is affected by a topographical problem in that it is at grade only at a point close to Cromwell Bridge Road; it then slopes down, in a northerly direction, on a 12% grade to a level of 18 feet below the bed of Cowpens Avenue. To the northwest of the property, separated by another segment of state-owned flood plain, is the Lutheran High School. Across the street, on the northeast corner of Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue, in the Loch Raven Senior High School.

Beyond this immediate area, and north of the beltway, there are residential developments called Brook Meadows, Chatterleigh and Hunt Club Farms. This segment of the county is characterized mainly by single-family development in a density of one and two units per acre. It is likewise apparent from the record that the subject property, which, as we have previously noted, had been in the R-20 zone (two residential units per acre), was singled out for special treatment by the planning board and county council because of the physical characteristics mentioned earlier. Indeed, it appears that the council took a bus trip to visit the subject property. In consequence, the property was assigned a density of 3.5 units per acre, and thus became one of the few parcels in this particular area, outside the beltway, to be so treated.

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The reasons for reclassification alleged by appellants in their application are: "that the comprehensive zoning map is in error, in that, the property has no reasonable use under the existing zoning." They have consistently adhered to the same position throughout the entire proceedings, and do so here. In their presentation to the board of appeals, they produced four expert witnesses: Mr. Gavrelis, a traffic specialist, an engineer-planner and a real estate appraiser. The testingny of the traffic expert is not material to this case and

Nor is it necessary to summarize Mr. Gavrelis's views, since they are reflected in the two plunning staff memoranda from which we quoted earlier. He did explain, however, the differences in terminology and substance between the new comprehensive rezoning map and its predecessor. He pointed out, for example, that the current equivalent of the R-20 zone previously applicable to the subject property, is D.R. 2 (two residential units to the acre) as compared to the D.R. 3.5 now in effect. More importantly, he explained that under the new comprehensive map, in the D.R. 3.5 zone the singlefamily restriction is removed and development is measured in terms of density, i.e. number of residential units per acre. The principal purpose, of course, is to promote greater flexibility in development; and to allow property owners to adjust or compensate for what might otherwise have been insurmountable hurdles under the "old" zoning map.

Mr. Gavrelis further explained the functioning of the new plan, as applied to the subject property, by demonstrating that appellants could include as part of their available acreage, in addition to the actual 2.63 acres, thirty feet of the width of both Compens Avenue and Cromwell Bridge Road. Further, since there is no private dwelling within a distance of 30° feet, they are permitted to build apartments or tromhouses - some ten or fifteen in number, depending upon the calculations to be ultimately made - without any constraints upon lot sizes or widths. When asked to compare the prior classification of R-20 with the current D.R. 3.5, Mr. Gavrelis summed it up aptly: "The new zoning, the present zoning regulations offer ever so much more flexibility and possibilities of use than they did. It is like applec and bananas."

It is evident from the testimony of the engineer-planner that his studies of the subject property did not take into account the flexibility outlined by Mr. Gavrells, since he addressed himself to the property solely in terms of whether it could be developed for single-lamily homes. Also, he labored under the notion that appellants would be limited to 3.5 units per acre. Apart from resting his testimony on what was essentially an incorrect premise, he nevely made the general statement that: "It would not be recaible to develop

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this as 3.5." (emphasis added). He conceded that he had not made comparable studies of the property based on utilization for town-houses or apartments to determine whether such development would be feasible or profitable. He concluded his testimony by basing his opinion that the county council had erred - in placing the property in D.R. 3.5 - upon the reason that: "This is an ideal location to

The appraisal expert opined that the property was "not suitable" for development in the 3.5 category for apartment or townhouse use, but when asked to give his reasons for that opinion, lapsed into the "single-family" syndrome, saying: "It is very difficult [because of the topography] to develop in a single-family engineeringwise." [sic]. He added:

"The location of this property, located in Compens Avenue, the Beltway on ramping, the widening of Gromwell Bridge Road, and the new Loch Hawn Senior High School, certainly suggest to me that suggest the method of the suggest that the suggest of the suggest of

Other statements also reflecting the generalizations employed in his testimony are:

"When you build apartment , lo to 15 units, this is a very very difficult project to finance, because the break-even point very difficult project to finance, because the break-even point of the project of the project

"A. Yes, I think they erred. I think they should have followed the recommendations of the Director of Planning.

"Q In making your study to testify in this particular case, did you give any consideration to the economics of an office building, as opposed to the development in 3.5, did

you make any studies, or did your research conrist of any studies along those lines? A When I was on the subject site itself, when I clinded down the hill and stood there and looked, in my own mind I recognized this could not be developed for 3.5. Therefore I make no economic analysis."

In this Court, appellants cling to their original contentions that there was error in the comprehensive rezoning of March, 1971, and that the D.R. 3.5 classification is confiscatory as applied to their property; and thus, that the decision of the board of appeals should have been affirmed since the evidence on either of these issues was fairly debatable.

Appellants are correct in citing the test to be applied here. Where a legislative body, or a board of county officials, pursuant to authority conferred upon it, has granted a rezoning of property, the question on judicial review is whether or not such action is arbitrary and discriminatory or fairly debatable, Montgomery County v. Pleasants, 266 Md. 462, 295 A.2d 216 (1972); Himmelheber v. Charnock, 258 Md. 636, 267 A.2d 179 (1970); Chevy Chase Village v. Mont. Co., 258 Md. 27, 264 A.2d 861 (1970); Smith v. Co. Commirs of Howard Co., 252 Md. 280, 249 A.2d 708 (1969). We shall follow that test in considering this appeal.

While, in recent years, we have had occasion to enunciate a number of important principles applicable to the law of zoning, perhaps none is more rudimentary than the strong presumption or the correctness of original zoning and of comprehensive rezoning. To sustain a piecemeal change in circumstances such as those present here, <u>strong</u> evidence of mistake in the original zoning or comprehensive rezoning or evidence of substantial change in the character of the neighborhood must be produced, <u>Mayor and Council of Rockville</u>

v. Henley, Md. , A.2d (1973) [No. 198, September Term, 1972, decided March 29, 1973]; Heller v. Prince George's Co., 264 Md. 410, 412, 266 A.2d 772 (1972); Creswell v. Baltimore aviation, 257 Md. 712, 721, 264 A.2d 838 (1970). Since, as we have also said, this burden is onerous, Cabin John Ltd. v. Montgomery Co., 259 Md. 661, 271 A.2d 174 (1970); Creswell v. Baltimore Aviation, supra; Wella v. Piergont, 253 Md. 554, 253 A.2d 749 (1969), the task confronting appellants, whose application followed the comprehensive rezoning by merely four months, is manifestly a difficult one.

The first question posed, then, is whether on the issue of mistake in the comprehensive rezoning of March 1971, the evidence in support of that contention was sufficiently "strong" to make the issue fairly debatable. We think not. There are bald allegations, to be sure, but these are unsubstantiated by facts sufficient to overcome the presumption of correctness which attaches with the adoption of a comprehensive rezoning, Mayor and Council of Rockville v. Kenley and Smith v. Co. Comm'rs of Howard Co., both supra.

Somewhat to the contrary, the evidence shows that the dominant land use in this general area, outside the beitway, is single-family residential, with particular emphasis on one and two units per acre. The subject property had been in the R-20 zone (two units per acre) under the prior ordinance for some fifteen years, and instead of retaining it in its counterpart under the new map (D.R. 2), the county council placed it in the denser category of D.R. 3.5. This category will yield from two to three times as many units as was formerly possible. In addition, there may now be apartment or townhouse use rather than single-family development.

As the evidence reveals, this treatment was hardly accidental.

Because of its location and topography, the property was carefully
studied by the county council. That the latter was acutely aware
or the "problems" confronting the owners is desconstrated by the action
it took in placing the property in a zone which afforded greater
density than that previously allowed, and which permitted an adjustment to the topography.

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It 'i true, as appellants point out, that there are numerous commercial uses allowed by the zoning map within walking distance of the property. Without exception, however, these uses are "inside" the bolizary. Again, we note that this did not result from more happenstance, but is part of a carefully-conceived plan which seems to have been faithfully observed. We have consistently recognized that wide major highways may be utilized as dividing boundaries between zones of different classifications, Goucher College v. DeWolfe, 251 Md. 638, 288 A.24 379 (1968); Brown v. Mimpross, 250 Md. 200, 205, 242 A.24 157 (1968); Montageary Sounty v. Shiontal, 249 Md. 194, 236 A.24 912 (1968); Loroux v. Faltimore, 248 Md. 106, 236 A.24 747 (1967).

Appellants' came for reversal is bottomed principally on the argument that the subject property cannot be developed in the D.R. 3.5 zone. The evidence does not support that contention and, more importantly, it is insufficient to make the issue fairly debatable. In order to obtain a rezenting on the basis of an uncenstitutional confiscation, an applicant must show that he has been deprived of all reasonable use of his property end that it cannot be used for any of the permitted uses in the existing zone, <u>Mayor and Council</u>

of Rockville v. Herley; Cabin John Ltd. v. Montgomery Co., both augra;
Montgomery Co. Council v. Kacur, 253 Md. 220, 252 A.2d 832 (1969).
The testimony presented on this issue consists of the same generalizations of economic infeasibility that are relied upon to support the "mistake" argument. It is well-recognized that such general claims are insufficient to establish that there it to reasonable use for property under a particular zoning classification, Henley, Supra;
Phil v. County Ed. of Appeals, 237 Md. 294, 206 A.2d 245 (1965);
DePaul v. Board, 237 Md. 221, 205 A.2d 805 (1965).

It must not be supposed that, in considering whether the evidence on the issue of "mistake" and "confiscation" is fairly deceatable, we have ignored the testimony of the three expert witnesses referred to earlier. But, as we have held, an opinion, oven that of an expert, is not evidence strong or substantial enough to show error in the comprehensive rezoning or confiscation unless the reasons given by the expert as the basis for his opinion or other supporting facts relied upon by him are, themselves, substantial and strong enough to do so, Creswell v. Baltimore Aviation, Supra, at 721; Westview Park v. Hayes, 256 Nd. 575, 582, 261 A.2d 164 (1970); Smith v. Co. Commirs of Howard Co., Supra, at 284.

Viewed in this light, the expert testimony here simply does not pass muster. Mr. Gavrelis's testimony did not enlarge significantly upon what had already been expressed in the two staff reports. Moreover, the further testimony he gave, which we reviewed earlier, negated error in the comprehensive rezoning. The engineer-planner's testimony, as we have already stressed, was couched in general references to "reasibility" and "profit." Such characterizations are

insurficient to make the issues fairly debatable, Henley; Pahl v.

County Bd. of Adpeals; DeFaul v. Board, all supra. Furthermore, it is clear that his studies - even in that tenuous frame of reference - were confined to a development of the property for single-family use, and totally ignored the flexibility theme fostered by the comprehensive rezoning. The testimony of the appraisal expert, as we have previously suggested, fares no better. His evidence is devoid of any reason for his opinion of "mistake" other than that he could tell by looking at the property that it could not be developed in D.R. 3.5. He did venture to say the property was "not suitable" for development in D.R. 3.5 because of the topography, but a fair reading of his testimony reveals that he confined his views principally to single-family development.

Lastly, we consider whether the planning staff reports are, in themselves, sufficient to make either issue relied upon by appellants fairly debatable. We have held in some cases that a report of the planning staff recommending approval of an application may alone be sufficient to make the issue fairly debatable, Montgomery v. Bd. of Co. Commirs, 263 Md. 1, 280 A.24 901 (1971); Messenger v. Bd. of Co. Commirs, 259 Md. 693, 271 A.24 166 (1970); Stephens v. Montgomery County, 248 Md. 256, 235 A.24 701 (1967).

The reasons contained in the two reports - which we quoted earlier - introduce nothing that is new or different. In essence, the first report recommended approval of the rezoning application then being pursued for the reasons that topography, shape and location made the property "extremely difficult" to develop for single-family residential pursoses. Clearly, any validity this report may have had when made was erased by the adoption of the comprehensive resoning

that allows apartment-house development on this property. The second report is perhaps more dupicus than the first. Although it -seommended that the application be granted in the context of the new comprehensive resoning, the reasons given are merely: "the location of the property next to the Beltway entrance ramp makes it undesirable for residential use. The topography appears to make it difficult to develop in residential use." (exphasis added).

Thus, appellants' case comes down to those two meahingless generalizations in the second staff report. In addition to what we said earlier concerning the opinions of expert witnesses, we think dispositive of the staff-report issue the following language from Heller v. Prince George's Co., supra, where we quoted from Habliston v. City of Salisbury, 258 Md. 350, 361-62, 265 A.2d 885 (1970), in which Judge McVilliams wrote for the Court:

"'Appelles attach sign'ifcance to the Planning Commission's adoption of the staff report recommending the reclassification from "Industrial" to "Residential B" and the Commission's like the property of the

We think that the probative force of the reports, as with the opinions of the expert witnesses, is measured by the soundness of the staff's reasons. In the totality of this record, the reports are no more probative than those referred to in <u>Heller v. Prince George's Co.</u> and <u>Hellistor v. City of Salisbury</u>, both <u>supra</u>. Hence, the staff reports here are not sufficient to make the issues of "mistake" or "confincation" fairly debatable.

Under all these circumstances, the evidence before the board of appeals that there was a mirtake in the comprehensive rezoning, or that the reclassification to the D.R. 3.5 zone constituted a conficatory action, was insufficient to make either of those issues fairly debatable. Judge Procor was therefore correct in reversing its decision. Our disposition of this case makes it unnecessary for us to consider whether the special exception was properly granted.

ORDER AFFIRMED;
APPELLANTS TO PAY COSTS.

RE: .ETITION FOR RECLASSIFICATION:
FROM D.R. 3.5 to D.R. 16
AND SPECIAL EXCEPTION:
FOR AN OFFICE BUILDING
NM CORNER CROMBELL BRIDGE ROAD:
AND COMPENS AVENUE. CIRCUIT COURT EOD D COMPENS AVENUE District - Central Sector : BURTON GUY & CO, INC. BALTIMORE COUNTY AT LAN Petitioner JAMES G. STRATAKIS, Contract Misc. Docket, No. 9 Folio No. 201 File No. 4847 Purchaser Zoning File No. 72-52-RX J. Lyle Beauchamp, et al Protestants- Appellants

#### ORDER OF APPEAL

up CLEDK.

Kindly enter an appeal to the Court of Appeals from the Order in this action entered on September 28, 1972.

> William J. Blondell, Jr. 405 Eastern Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21221 687-7878 637-7878 Attorney for James Stratakis Catherine Strakes, and Mary Antonakas, Appellants

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25th day of October, 1972, a copy of the foregoing Order of Appeal was nailed to James D. Nolan, Esquire, Nolan, Plumhoff & Williams, 204 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204, and R. Bruce Alderman, County Solicitor for Baltimore County, 308 County Office Building, Towson, Maryland 21204.

> "Ollian I Blondell Jr Attorney for James Stratakis, Catherine Strakes and Mary Antonakas, Appellants

-PETITION FOR MECLASSIFICATION FROM D.R.15 NO D.R.16 AND SPECIAL SECURITION FOR AN OPPOSITE BUTLETING AND COMPERS AMERICA, The Deletic Control Sector, W. Burton Guy & Co., Inc., Petitioner James G. Stratakis, Contract TN THE CIRCUIT COURT FCR BALTHADE COLUMN AT LAM Purchaser 53 Zoning File No. 72-52-RX J. Lyle Beauchamp, et al, Protestants-Appellants

ORDER

The above-entitled administrative appeal having oma on for a hearing before this Court, the parties by counsel aving been heard, and counsel for the parties having submitted emoranda horoin, it is this 2715 day of September, 1972, by the Circuit Court of Baltimore County

ORDERED, that for the reasons given in the aforepoing Opinion the decision of the County Board of Appeals of Saltimore County in Case No. 72-53-RX should be, and is hereby reversed, and the matter is remanded to the County Board of Appeals of Baltimore County for the entrance of an Order consiscont herewith. Such opinion

Truo Copy Test ELMER H. KAHLINE, JR., Clerk

NOLAN, PLUMHOF

property owner had prevailed past the planning stage, through the Planning Board and County Council, so that this property had been laid out on the map, as requested here, as D-R 16, such classification, in my judgment, would have constituted spot zoning, just exactly the same as the B.L. zoning in Hevitt (supra). The only difference would be that in Hewitt, the spot was zoned B.L., whereas have the spot would have been zoned D-R 16, and that distinction, in my judgment, is one without Attference.

Rezoning, such as we have here, must be reconcilable with a comprehensible soning plan. The comprehensive plan for a very large area north of the Beltway is for low density residential development, in the main individual cottages, until recent changes in the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County under which slightly higher density is permitted. To zone this land for apartments, D-R 16, would lead down the comparatively easy road to a special exception such as ic sought here. This would be, in my judgment, irreconcilable with the comprehensive plan for this area. It is true that the planning staff recommended the use here sought. On the other side of the coin, however, is the fact that efforts to have this land moned for apartments failed before the Zoning Commissioner, just before the case was rendered most by the adoption of the new maps.

In the present case the Zoning Commissioner ruled against the reclassification. The Planning Board has on two occasions recommended against any change in the D-R 3.5 classification, and, most important, the County Council, by the adoption of the map, at least ignored and probably rejected the request for high density zoning. In my judgment the reclassifi-

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carrion granted by the County Board of Appeals is invalid as it constitutes illegal spot zoning.

Brief reference should be made to the adjoining land, part of which is developed by two high schools, one a private school of the Lutheran Church, the other Loch Boven Junior-Senior High School, a public school. In Shadynook Improvement Pasociation, Inc. v. Mollov, 232 Md. 265, the Court said that such a use was an insignificant factor in determining whether or not R-6 land should be rezoned to R-A land under the old decision of the Zoning Commissioner on the previous application for rezoning of this land of Burton Guy constitutes a bar because of res judicata, as was true in Lambert, et al v. Seabold et al, 246 'd. 562, and Whittle v. Board of Zoning Appeals, 211 MG. 36, for the reason that the administrative route had not been fully traversed, through no fault of Petitioner but ...the because of the intervention of a new map.

It is, as stated above, my conclusion that the action of the County Board of Appeals was invalid because of illegal spot zoning. For that reason I'll sign an order reversing the County Board of Appeals

Hennich C Practice

Dictated - Sept. 18, 1972 Revised - Sept. 28, 1972

J. LYLE BEAUCHAMP, at al. Protestants-Appellants. CIRCUIT COURT EVOP TOWN A STOWER of al DATESTHONE COLDISTS being and comprising THE COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, Misc. Case No. 4847 Annelless Docket 9. Folio 201 ......

OPINION

This is an appeal from the County Board of Appeals by Protestants who object to the requested reclassification of the subject tract of land from D-R 3.5 to D-R 16, with a special exception for an office building. Zoning Commissioner S. Eric DiNonna denied the requested reclassification, holding that there was no error in the comprehensive zoning map adopted by the County Council in 1971. This ruling was overruled by the County Board of Appeals by order dated May 30, 1972. The Board granted the request for zoning reclassification and special excaption, subject to three restrictions set forth in its order.

If the only question presented to the Court by this appeal was the sufficiency of evidence before the Board to support its conclusion, this Court would be bound to determine first whether the ruling of the Board was reasonably debatable. Under those circumstances, the Court would be inclined to affire the action of the Board for the reason that from the testimony the ruling would appear to be reasonably debatable.

However, the real hurdle in this case, which Petitioner faces, is whether reclassification would constitute illegal spot

Fowble properties, located at the southwest corner of the Baltimore-Harrisburg Expressway and Timonium Road, had been classified on the map as Business, Local (B.L.), the only land goned for business uses north of the Beltway and west of the Baltimore-Harrish to ... pressway. A bill in equity was filed to enjoin the use of property for commercial purposes, and to require the County Commissioners to resident the land to a residential use classification. The Court of Appeals discussed the question of spot zoning ac length, among other cases, citing Cassel v. City of Baltimore, 195 Mai. 348, 355, "It is, \* \* \*, universally held that a 'spot toning' ordinance, which singles out a parcel of land within the limits of a use district and marks it off into a separate district for the benefit of the owner, thereby permitting a use of that parcel inconsistent with the use permitted in the rest of the district, is invalid if it is not in ce with the comprehensive zoning plan and is merely for private gain. \* \* \* ". The Court then stated that the principal question for their consideration and decision was whether the legislative action of the County Commissioners in soning or rezoning the Fowble and Gill properties as Business-Local was arbitrary, capricious, discriminatory or illegal. The Court held that "the action of the County Commissioners in classifying the Fowble and Gill properties falls within the description of invalid 'spot zoning' given in the Case: case, and largely restated in the Huff case, as an arbitrary and unreasonable devo-

soning. In Hewitt v. Baltimore County, 220 Md. 48, the Gill and

Drawing an analogy between that case and this, if the

tion of a small area to a use inconsistent with the uses to

which the rest of the district is restricted."

J. LYLE BEAUCHAMP AND MILDRED R. BEAUCHAMP 1103 Green Agre Ruad Towson, Maryland 21204 ROBERT J. RAUSCHER NID RUTH ANN RAUSCHER CIRCUIT COURT l Helm Court Towson, Maryland 21204 FOR RICHARD L. ANDERSON AND PHYLLIS L. ANDERSON Helm Court Towson, Maryland 21204 BALTIMORE COUNTY and JOHN W. PFEIPER AND AT LAW New Porest Powson, Maryland 21204 an 1 BAYNE R. DUDLEY AND ELISE W. DUDLEY 1103 Concordia Drive WILLIAM F. TEBHARDT AND PHYLLIS M. GEBHARDT 1215 Brookmeadow Drive Towson, Maryland 21204 CHARLES RINAUDO AND and JOHN P. J. CONNELL, JR. 930 Ereezewick Circle Towson, Maryland 21204

JOHN A. SLOWIK, MALTER A. REITER, JR. AND JOHN A. MILLER, Being and comprising THE COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS OF BALTHOME COUNTY

Appeliaes

RE: PETITION FOR RECLASSIFICATION from D.R. 3.5 to D.R. 16 and SPECIAL EXCEPTION for an Office Building 8% corner Crossell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue, 9th District-Central Sector W. Burton Guy & Company, Inc. Petitioner James G. Strataki Contract Purchase Case No. 72-53-RA es G. Stratakis.

#### ORDER POR APPEAL

Please enter an appeal on behalf of J. LYGE BEAUCHAMP, MILDRED R. CRAUCHAMP, ROPERT J. RAUSCHER, RUTA ANN RAUSCHER, RICHARD L. ANDERSON, PHYLLIS L. ANDERSON, JOHN W. PFEIPER, WAITRAUD S. PFEIFER, BAYNE R. DUDLEY, GLISE W. DUDLEY, MILLIAM P. GERHARDT, PHYLLIS M. GEBHARDT, CHARLES RINAUGO, LITA S. RINAUDO and JOHN P. J. CORRELL, JR., Protestants - Appellants, from the Opinion and Order of the County Board of Appeals of Baltimore County dated May 30, 1972, and each and every part thereof, in Case Number 72-53-RX, granting the requested reclassification an special exception sought therein.

Protestants - Appellants

NOLAN, PLUMHOF A WILLIAMS

-2-

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PlumboHo Will Plumpoff & Williams

### CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

I hereby certify that a copy of the Order For Appeal to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County and Petition on Appeal fro the decision of the County Board of Appeals for Baltimore County dated May 30, 1972 in Case Number 72-53-RX, was delivered to the Board prior to the filing of this Order, as shown below.

Service of a copy of the Order for Appeal in Case Number 72-53-RX is admitted this 2/at day of June, 1972 by: County Board of Appeals

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Order of Appeal and Petition on Appeal was mailed to William J. Miondell, Esquire, Attorney for W. Burton Guy and Company, Inc., Petitione and James G. Stratakis, Contract Purchaser, on the June, 1972.

0

6 W. Burton Guy & Co., Inc. - #72-53-RX

The property has easy access to the Beltway. It is also within a quarter mile of an industrial complex on Cromwell Bridge Rd.

RECOMMENDATION: D.R. 16 with a S.E. (special

As to the petition for a special exception: In accordance with the Zoning ions of Baltimore County, special exceptions, for any purpose, must be obtained through the zoning patition process and not through action of the County Council Special exceptions cannot be granted by the process of adopting a comprehensive zoning However, before a special exception may be granted by the petition process, Section 502.1 of the Zoning Regulations must be satisfied. Section 502.1 states

"Before any Special Exception shall be granted, it must appear that the use for which the Special Exception is requested will r

- a. Be detrimental to the health, safety, or general
- welfare of the locality involved;
  b. Tend to create congestion in reads, streets, or alleys therein; Create a potential hazard from fire, panic or
- dangers; o overcrowd land and cause undue concentration of population;
  e. Interfere with adequate provisions for schools,
- parks, water, sowerage, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences, or improve Interfere with adequate light and r'r."

From the testimony and evidence presented, the Board finds that the requirements of Section 502, I have been satisfied. Also, while recognizing that the recomndations of the Planning Office are not controlling upon action by the County Council, the County Council may have acted differently in zoning this property when it adopted the comprehensive zoning map had it been given the benefit of Planning's comments. Board believes that the recommendations of the Planning Office, cited herein, are ent with good zoning practice for the area and should be permitted.

For these reasons and from all the testimony and evidence presented, the Board concludes that the comprehensive zoning map, adopted March 24, 1971, is in error in designating a D.R. 3.5 zone for the subject property and, therefore, will hereby grant the subject petition

RE: PETITION FOR RECLASSIFICATION BEFORE from D.R. 3.5 to D.R. 16, and SPECIAL EXCEPTION for an COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS

do.

Office Building
NW corner Crom all Bridge koad
and Cowpens Avenue,
9th District-Central Sector
W. Burton Guy & Co., Inc., OF BALTIMORE COUNTY Petitioner James G. Stratakis No. 77-53-RX

> OPINION

This case comes before the Board on an appeal by the Petitioner from an Orde of the Zoning Commissioner, dated December 31, 1971, denving the referenced netition The Petitioner seeks a reclassification from a D.R. 3.5 zone (Density Residential, 3.5 dwelling units per acre) to a D.R. 16 zone (Density Residential, 16 dwelling units per acre), along with a special exception request for office use.

The property is located on the northwest corner of Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue, in the Ninth Election District of Baltimore County. It is contiguous to the northbound "on" ramp of the Baltimore County Beltway, being separated from it by a seame t of a State owned flood plain. The property consists of 2.63 acres of vacant land (see plat, Patitioner's Exhibit \*4). It was described as being a hole in the ground, being at grade only at a point close to Cromwell Bridge Road then sloping down, in a northerly direction, on a 12% grade to a descent of 18 feer below the bed of Cowpens Avenue (see photos Petitioner's Exhibits 6-C and 8-C). To the northwest of the subject seconder by another segment of the aforementioned State owned flood plain, is the Lutheran High School. Across the street from the subject, on the northeast corner of Cramwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue, is the Loch Raven Senior High School. Beyond this, fanning out in a portherly direction, are the residential developments of Brook Mandows, Chatter leigh and Huns Club Forms

If successful in his petition, the Petitioner plans to construct a modern office building having two stories above and one story below the grade of the streets. The bassize of the proposed building is 90 feet by 180 feet. Off-street parking would be provided below grade of the streets in back of the building. To satisfy recommendations of

W. Burton Guy & Co., Inc. - #72-53-RX

the State Highway Administration, there would be no curb cuts on Cromwell Bridge Road. and only one curb cut on Cowcens Avenue to accommodate vehicular traffic in and out of

Briefly summarized, several highly qualified expert witnesses testified on behalf of the Petitioner regarding satisfying the requirements of Section 502, 1 of the Zonin-Regulations to the effect that sewer and water utilities are available and adequate; that traffic generation is no major problem, and that granting the petition will not adversely affect the community. They further testified that the County Council had erred by placing the subject in a D.R. 3.5 zone when it adopted the new comprehensive zoning ma

The Protestants in turn stated that granting the petition would result in conditions which would adversely affect their neighborhood, and that they were apposed to any change north of the Beltway. They testified, however, that they had encouraged the construction, north of the Beltway, of the Loch Rayen Senior High School and the Lutheran High School with the subject property left sandwiched between them. They conceded that the traffic that would be generated by the subject proposal would be regligible compared to the

The Board was particularly impressed with the testimony of the Baltimore County Director of Planning, Mr., George E., Gayrelis, who stated that his professional staff twice had recommended the granting of the petition to the Planning Board of Baltimore County, but that the Planning Board chose instead to recommend D.R. 3.5 zoning to the County Council preceding the adoption of the comprehensive zoning map, and to the Zoning Commissioner in the f \* cycle zoning hearings. He did not believe that th County Council had ever been given the benefit of the Planning Staff's comments and recommendations regarding the subject property for it to consider in its deliberations when it adopted the zoning map. Specifically, on September 4, 1970, Mr. Gavrelis recommended to the Zoning Commissioner the following, entered as Petitioner's Exhibit \$\frac{1}{2}\$:

> "The Staff of the Office of Planning and Zoning has reviewed the subject petition for reclassification from R-20 to R.A. zoning, to-gether with a special exception of office building. We note that the Planning Staff has recommended to a committee of the

W. Burton Guy & Co., Inc. - #72-53-RX

Planning Board that the subject property be reclassified from R-20 to R.A. zoning and that the concept of an office building here, through special exception proceedings, would be opproximate. This represents a proposed departura from maps approved by the Planning Board law winter. The Striff and the committee were persuaded that apartment zoning here, with the special exception for offices, was convertible because of the processing the second of the committee were persuaded that apartment zoning here, with the special exception for offices were processingly approximate to the contract of the second of the processing the pr offices, was appropriate because:

A

- a. the topography of the tract made it extremely difficult to develop it for single family residential purposes.
- the shape of the tract similarly made such development
- c. the location of this property between relocated Cowpens Avenue, the Beltway on-tramp, a widened Cromwell Bridge Road, and the new Lock Raven Senior High School suggested that single family residential development here would not be tenable.

The Planning Staff and Planning Board Committee were also con-vinced that public ownerships – the school site and the Beltway rights-of-way – a major flood plain, and institutional uses effectively blocked assification here from having an adverse or consequential zoning

The Planning Staff dous not agree that any changes in zoning have occurred which would affect a change of zoning here. We do believe the change has occurred relative to the relocation of Cawpens Avenue and the construction of a new senior high school across the street which does justify a flavorable consideration of the

With regard to the special exception, we endorse the concept of office use here and agree with other Crunty and State agencies that access ought to be secured by means of Compens Avenue to the parking facilities. The plan submitted by the petitioner does not provide sufficient information relative to grading, landscaping, and use to enable us to app this point in time, the development aign submitted as part of this

Again in prepared comments to the Plenning Bourd (see Petitioner's Exhibit

#### (3) we find the following

**6** 

"The Planning staff is recommending that D.R. 16 zoning with a special exception for offices be granted.

The location of the property next to the Beltway entrance ramp makes it undesirable for residential use. The topography appears to make it difficult to develop in residential use.

Existing development would not be adversely affected by offices here since they are buffered from the site by the Lutheron High School & Loch Roven Sr., High School.

64 W. Burton Guy & Co., Inc. - #72-53-RX

ORDER

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5.

For the reasons set forth in the aforegoing Opinion, it is this 30th of May, 1972, by the County Board of Appeals, ORDERED that the reclassification from D.R. 3.5 to D.R. 16 petitio ed for, be and the same is hereby GRANTED; and

IT IS FURTHER OR DERED that the special exception for office use petitioned for, be and the same is hereby GRANTED, subject to the following restrictions:

- 1. The building height shall be limited to three levels with a base size not exceeding 90 feet by 180 feet
- There shall be no curp out on Cromwell Bridge Room for vehicular ingress and/or egress
- The site plan shall be subject to approval by the State Highway Administration, the Baltimore County Bureau of Public Services, and the Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning.

Any appeal from this decision must be in accordance with Chapter 1100, subtitle B of Maryland Rules of Procedure, 1961 edition.

> COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

E -

RE: PETITION FOR RECLASSIFICA-TION AND SPECIAL EXCEPTION NW/corner of Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue -9th District W. Burton Guy & Company, In corporated - Fetitioner NO. 72-53-RX (Item No. 7)

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di.

ZONING COMMISSIONER h District
Burton Guy & Company, In-BALTIMORE COUNTY

... ... ...

DEPODE THE

The Petitioner requests a Reclassification from a D.R.3.5 Zong to a D.R.16 Zone with a Special Exception for an office building on a parcel of property located on the northwest corner of Cromwell Bridge Road and Cowpens Avenue, in the Ninth District of Baltimore County, comprising 2.63 acres of land, more

Testimony showed that since the filing of the Petition, James Stratakis purchased the property from W. Burton Guy & any, Incorporated, in fee simple.

Testimony on behalf of the Petitioner indicated that the subject property, consisting or 2.63 acres of land, is adjoined the west, by the Baltimore County Beltway Ramp, on the south by Cromwell Bridge Road and a large steep hill to its south, to the east, Cowpens Avenue, and the Loch Raven Senior High School and property, and to the north, the community known as Chatter-

The property was described as "a hole in the ground" b Frederick P. Klaus, appraiser and consultant on zoning matters, who testified for the Petitioner. It was described as having poor topography, being approximately sixteen (16') feet to eighteen (18') feet below grade level. It was conceded by the Petitioner that the property could be developed in a residential capacity but this would be a more expensive proposition than what he pro-

The property is the residual of a taking by Baltimore County in its acquisition for the public high school. The argument on behalf of the Petitioner, as to error, consisted of the

we mentioned topography of the land, its proximity to the Beltway Ramp and the Beltway, and the economic difficulty of developing in single family dwellings.

The testimony also indicated that the planning staff had recommended to the Planning Board the requested zoning prior to the recommendations of the Planning Board to the Baltimore County Council. In fact, the Planning Board recommended that the subject property remain in its residential D.R.3.5 capacity. The Baltimore County Council, in its adoption of the Comprehensive Zoning Map on March 24, 1971, agreed with the Planning Board.

Residents of the area, in protest to the subject Petition, indicated that they felt the Baltimore County Council's action was not in error, in that, it further established the Balti more County Beltway as a buffer between commercial and industrial uses to its west and strictly residential use to the east. It was also noted that there is no commercial or quasi commercial zones east of the Beltway and north of Cromwell Bridge Road, except several small non-conforming uses. Furthermore, they indicated that there were still single family dwellings being developed northwest of the property or terrain similar to the subject property. There was considerable testimony concerning traffic that would emanate from the property if the subject Petition were

It is obvious to the Zoning Commissioner that the Baltimore County Council in its adoption of the Comprehensive Zoning Map intended to maintain the Beltway as a buffer between the commercial and industrial zoning to the west and the strictly residential area to the east. Further, it is obvious that it was the Baltimore County Council's intention to maintain the large area to the east of the Beltway as a strictly residential area with no commercial or quasi commercial uses, e.g., an office building.

Without reviewing the evidence further in detail but based on all the evidence presented at the hearing, in the judgmont of the Zoning Commissioner, the Comprehensive Zoning Map as

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED by the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County this /3 day of December, 1971, that the above Reclassification be and the same is hereby DENIED and that the shows described property or area he and the same is hereby continued as and to remain a D.R.3.5 Zone and the Special Exception for an office building be and the same is hereby DENIED.

PETITION OF W. BURTON GUY & COMPANY, INC., OWNER

#### MEMORANDUM

The Petitioner seeks a zoning reclassification on the subject property from DR-3 5 to "R-16 and a Special Expention for an Office Building

The subject property has no mesonable use under the zoning designation of DR-3.5 in that the topography, shape and location make it entirely unsuitable for single residential development.

The amments has hamitafore been increated and reviewed by the rianning staff which has issued an oninion that the property is unsuitable for a 3.5 development. The Petitioner calls attention to Petition No. Planning, to Edward D. Hardesty, Zoning Commissioner, dated September 4, 1070 in this Mr. Countie is combine for the Dispuise Chaff and Dispuise Board Cogmittee stated that the property had no reasonable use for single family development but was suitable and recommendable for an office building

It is suggested that the subject property should not be used to country a "no man's land" between coning among and to do so would be to consistency Shaid w Board of County Commissioners, 259 MD 369, 269 A2d 797 The Betitioner also intends to walk upon Northwest Manchantis Tarminal Inc. v. O'Pourrice 191 MD 171, 60 A2d 743; Hoffman v. Marcon, 197 MD 294, 79 A2d 367; in which it was stated that a zoning ordinance which permanently restricts the use of property so that it cannot be used for any reasonable purpose soci beyond permissable regulation, and must be regarded as a taking of pru, orty without compensation

MCA FIOR

#### DESCRIPTION

2.63 ACRE PARCEL, NORTH SIDE OF CROMWELL BRIDGE ROAD, WEST SIDE OF RELOCATED COWPENS AVENUE, NINTH ELECTION DISTRICT. BALTIMORE COUNTY MARYIAND

## This Description is for DR-16 Zoning (R-A)

Beginning for the same at the intersection of the west side of Cowpens Avenue, seventy feet wide, as shown on Baltimore County Bureau of Land Acquisition Plans HRW 60-254-1 and 2, and the north side of Cromwell Bridge Poad, as shown on State Roads Commission of Maryland Plat No. 10624. running theree binding on said north side of Cromwell Bridge Road. (1) southwesterly 323 feet, more or less, to a point in the center of Cowpens Road, as originally laid out and as referred to in the deed from William B. Guy, Jr. and others to Guy Incorporated, dated January 22, 1958 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber G. L. B. 3303, page 489, thence binding on said center feet, thence still binding on the outlines of the land described in said deed. (4) N 70 no! E 50. 67 feet, and /5) N 79\* 19! 30" E 60 feet, more or less, thence binding on the west side of Cowpens Avenue, as shown on the aforementioned plans, (6) southerly

520 .eet, more or less, to the place of beginning.

Containing 2.63 acres of land, more or less.

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DICamel

J.O. #63238

April 12, 1971



JAMES A. STRATAKIS, et al

VED FOR FILING

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J'esta

OF MARYLAND Appellants

J. LYLE BEAUCHANP. et al Appellees IN THE COURT OF APPEALS Sentember Term. 1972

12-53-RX

No. 268

JAN 12 1973

II II II II II II II OFFICE OF LAW HOTION

Appellants, by William J. Blondell, Jr., their attorney, move to have Protestants' Exhibit "C" incorporated into the record as said exhibit was omitted at time of forwarding to this Court

William J. Blondell, Jr. 405 Eastery Soulevard Baltimore, Maryland 21221 637-789

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANTS

ORDER

Leave granted as prayed this day of January, 1973.

JUDGE.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY this day of January, 1973, that a copy of the foregoing Motion and Order was mailed to James D. Molan, Esq. and R. Bruce Alderman, Esq., Attorneys for Appellees.

1/15/73

Received from the County Board of Appeals, Protestants' Exhibit "C", case No. 72-53-RX - W. Burton Guy.

William J. Blondell, Jr.

0 0 THE COURT OF APPEALS-ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21404



OFFICE OF LAW

January 18, 1973

William J. Blondell, Jr., Esquire Attorney at Law 405 Esstern Boulevard Baltimore, Maryland 21221

Re: James A. Stratekis et al. v. J. Lyle Beauchamp et al. No. 268 - September Term, 1972

Dear Mr. Blonde 1.

Your motion to have Protestants' Exhibit "C" incorporated into the record of the above entitled case has been granted by the Court on January 17th. The exhibit will be incorporated in the record when it is received by this office.

Very truly yours.

JAMES H. NORRIS, JR.

cc: James D. Holan, Ecq. JR. Bruce Alderman, Esq.

LAW OFFICES M J. BLONDELL



S. Eric DiNenna, Zoning Commissioner County Office Building Towson, Maryland 21294

Pe: Petition for Peclassification and Special Exception No. 72-53-RK (Item No. ") James G. Stratkis, Catherine Strakes

My clients, James G. Stratakis, Catherine Strakes and Mary Antonakos, aggrieved at your decision on the above captioned Petition desire that an appeal be noted to the Board of Appeals.

Enclosed please find check in the amount of Seventy (\$70.00) Dollars.

cc: James D. Nolan, Esquire Nolan, Plumhoff & Williams 204 West Pennsylvania Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21204

LAW OFFICES OF NOLAN, PLUMINOPP & WILLIAMS 204 WEST PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE TOWSON MARYLAND 21204

May 6 1971



Honorable Edward D. Hardesty Zoning Commissioner Baltimore County, Maryland County Office Building Towson, Maryland 21204

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Re: Petition of W. Burton Guy & Company, Inc. Legal Owner, and Jam's G. Stratakis. Contract Purchaser, N'W Corner Cowpens Avenue and Cromwell Bridge Road, 2,63 acres, Request for reclassification from D. R. 3.5 to D. R. 16 with a special exception for offices

3

Dear Commissioner Hardesty:

Please enter my appearance and the appearance of Nolan, Flumhoff and Williams on behalf of the Chatterleigh Association and aggrieved area residents affected by the requested relief.

James D. Maien

James D. Nolan

cc: William J. Blondell, Jr., Esq. Mr. Robert Laubach John W. Pfeifer, Esq.



JUN 27 1973

COUNTY OFFICE BLIN

MEMBERS BUREAU OF

STATE ROADS COM BUREAU OF 

BROWNERS OF THE PARTY. NEW PRINT DE LA CENTRALINA

OLIVER L. SYERS

DEPARTMENT OF

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

May 18, 1971

Hr. George E. Gavrelis, Director Office of Planning & Zoning 301 Jefferson Bullding Towson, Maryland 21204

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BEI Item #7 (April - October Cycle 1971)
Preperty Conert W, Burton Guy and Co,
Location IN/L corner Compana Avanua and
Gromuell Bridge RG,
Present Zonings Q.R. 3.5
Proposed Zenings Q.R. 16 with S.E. for offices
District SCW, Sector Central District 944 Se

The Zoning Advisory Committee has reviewed the plans submitted with the above referenced petition and has made an on site field inspection of the property. The following comments are a result of this review and inspection.

community are a result of this review and inspection.

The subject property is presently an unicorroad tracet of land, which is bounded on the south by Cronnell Bridge Road, while on the west by the form the south by Cronnell Bridge Road, while on the west by the form the south of the Bridge Road and the Beithoy rang. The property or the east is improved with Compons Avenue. The property to the morth is bounded by a large storm drain reservation, which runs off the westing Beithoy rang. The property on the east side of Compons Avenue is protently being improved with the Loth Raws South Right School. The property to the north is improved with subject things from the south is formed with the worm land, some dealling - improved to 20 years of age, in excellent rapair. Compons Avenue is improved innofer as concrete curb and system are concerned, and a parties of Comment of the Comment of the August Compons Avenue is improved innofer as concrete curb and system are concerned, and a parties of Comment o

The following comments are furnished in regard to the plot submitted to this effice for review by the Zoning Advisory Committee in connection with the subject item.

The Sattimore Seltway and that portion of Cromosii Bridge Road along the frontage of this site are State reads;

Item #7 Page 2 May 18, 1971

therefore, all improvements, and entrances will be subject to State Roads

Access to the subject site shall be from Compens Avenue which has been improved as a 44-foot closed section on a 70-foot right-of-way. Although further road improvements will be required, the petitionar will be reaponsible for the construction of sidewalk along the frontage of this site.

Highway improvements for Crowell Bridge Road will be required in connection with the proposed development of this property and construction drawings are presently being reviewed by the Bureau of Engineering. For more specific details in regard to the proposed improvements, the patitioner's engineer should contact the Davelopers Dasign Approval Section of the Bureau of Engineering.

The proposed entrance as shown on the plan in the vicinity of the old read bed of Compans Avenue will not be permitted due to the close proximity of the Beltvay ramp and traffic signal with the Loch Reven Bullevard Interchange.

#### Store Drafest

The Baltimore Belimay and Crowell Bridge Road are State roads. Therefore, drainage requirements as they affect the roads come under the jurisdiction of the Maryland State Roads Commission.

(temperaty or perminent) to prevent creating any nulsances or damages to edited any or perminent) to prevent creating any nulsances or damages to edited any perminent by the concentration of surface sators, Correction of any problement of the surface sators, correction of any problement of desirance facilities, would be the full responsibility of the patitioner.

#### Sediment Control:

Development of this property through stripping, grading and stabilization could result in a sediment pollution problem, damaging private and public holdings downstream of the property. A grading parent is, therefore, measury for all grading, including the stripping of top soil.

Grading studies and sediment control drawings will be necessary to be reviewed and approved prior to the issuance of any grading or building permits.

Item #7 Page 3 May 18, 1971

#### Vater and Sewers

Public water and public solitary sewerage is available to serve this property.

#### PROJECT PLANNING:

This office has reviewed the subject site plan and offers the

- This office concurs with Statz Roads Commission and the Bureau of Engineering and will not permit an entrance on Crommell Bridge Road.
- A grading plan will be required to prove that the parking will physically function.

#### DEPT. OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING:

The subject position was reviewed as Item 71-91R and provious communit coming with a life. Those communit were: The subject position is requesting a change from 98 5,5 to 81 R of with special exception for offices, with access to Crownell Bridge Road at the provious intersection of Compana Avenue. This intersection is undistrable because of its close provinity to the Beltiny rempt and lock favor bouleverd, and should not be allowed.

As presently zoned, the pireal could generate 100 trips par day, while as an office building, 500 trips a day. Providing no access is allowed to Crossell Bridge Road, the subject patifies should not create any subject ref

#### FIRE PREVENTION STREAUS

fire hydrants for the proposed site are required and shall be in accordance with Baltimare County Standards. The hydrants shall be spaced at 300 feet for the office and 500 feet spacings for the spattments.

The owner shall be required to comply with all applicable requirements of the 101 Life Safety Code, 1967 edition, and the Fire Prevention Code when construction plans are substitute for approval.

#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

Public water and sewer are available to the site.

Item #7 Page 4 May 18, 1971

Air Follution Comments: The bulldin, or buildings on this site may be subject to registration and compliance with the Maryland State Maulth Air Follution Control Regulation: Additional information may be obtained from the Division of Air Follution, Baltimore Co. ty

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Would result in a loss of approximately two pupils.

### STATE ROADS COMMISSION:

The close proximity of the proposed entrance from the subject site to the Beltmay ramp will cause a conflict of traffic; therefore, it is our opinion that all access to the site should be from relocated Compans Avenue.

### ZONING ADMINISTRATION DIVISION:

It appears that the politiceer will be required to provide all access off of Compens Avenue and none from Crossell Bridge Road, since this will create a terrific traffic hazard.

Very truly yours,

aller I. Min OLIVER L. MYERS, Chairman

#### AL H . 10

cc: Edward D. Hardesty

William J. Blondell, Jr. Esq. 405 Eastern Avenue (21221)

## BALT. JORE COUNTY, MARYLA.D

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date .... May 5, 1971 ... TO Edward Hardesty FROM Ellsworth N. Diver, P.E.

Item #f (April - October Cycle 1971)
Property Owner: W. Burton Guy and Co.
Location: N/W corner Compens Avenue and Croswell Bridge Rd.
Present Zoning: D.R. 3.5
Proposed Zoning: D.R. 1.5 With S.E. for offices
District: SQL Sector: Central
No. Acres: 2.65

The subject property is essentially the same property previously reviewed by the Zoning Advisory Committee and known as Item \$222 (1969-1970), Zoning Order \$71-91 RX. The comments furnished by this office in connection with Item \$222\$ remain valid and in effect. We are employing herewith a

SWORTH N. DIVER. P.E.

BALT ORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FATTY Oliver L. Yors Date April 2h, 1970

Ellsworth N. Diver, P.S.

Then 222 (1969-1970)
Property Union: W. Burton Guy and Company
M/S Cremell Pridge Road, M/S Compans Avenue
Frount Zoning: R-20 Proposed Zoning: R-20
Proposed Zoning: Reclassification R-20 to RA,
Special Exception for office building District: 9th

We following comments are furnished in regard to the plat substitude to this office for review by the Zening Advicating Countities in connection with the subject tien.

the Beltimere Beltumy and that portion of Grommell Bridge Road along the frontage of this alte are State Roads; therefore, all improvements, and entrances will be subject to State Roads Commission approval

Focuse to the subject cits shall to from Coupens Avenue which has been improved as a blacked closed scatter on a 70-foot right-of-cay. Tableugh no further road improvements will be required, the politicar will be responsible for the construction of eldermik along the frontogo

Highway improvements for Green'll Indice Read will be required in consistion with the proposed development of this property and construction drawings are presently being reviewed by the Bureau of Engineering. For more specific details in regard to the proposed improvements, the pattitions's engineer should contact the Developers Bodga Approval Section of the Bureau of Engineering.

The proposed entrance as shown on the plan in the vicinity of the eld read ted of Compons Avenue will not be permitted due to the clear produity of the Feltuny ramp and traffic signal with the Loch Raven Boulevard Inter-

The Faltimore Belizzy and Gressell Bridge Read are State Reads. Therefore, drafting requirements as they affect the readscene under the jurisdiction of the Heyland Schute Beads Countains.

Item 222 (1966-1970) Property Camer: Burton Guy and Company Pego 2 April 2a, 1970

#### Stora Drotno: (Cont'd)

The publificant must provide necessary desirage facilities (temporary or personne) to prevent creating any missances or descent to adjacent proporties, expectably by the communication of curies vators. Correction of any problem todes not provide a temporar grading or improper installation of desirage facilities, would be the full responsibility of the printedness.

### Sediment Control:

Development of this property through chrisping, grading and stabilization could result in a scaling reliant reliation problem, descripe private and public holdings demanters of the property. A creding point is, therefore, necessary for all grading, including the stripping of top soil.

Orrding studies and sediment control drawings will be necessary to be reviewed but approved prior to the incusance of any grading or bailding possite.

### Water and Semme:

Public water and public conitary sewerage is available to serve this

Escan to Diver ELISTORTH N. DEVER, P.E. Chief. Burery of For

#### END-EAN-DES-un

N-NW Key Sheet 39 M.F. 10 Position Sheet NO: 10-C Topo

BALT, MORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Edward D. Hardesty PROV Project Planning Division

SUBJECT Zoning Advisory Agenda Item #7

April 27, 1971 W. Burton Guy & Co.
N/W Cor. Cowpens Ave. &
Cromwell Bridge Road

Date May 10, 1971

This office has reviewed the subject site plan and offers the following comments:

- 1) This Office concurs with the State Roads Commission and the Bureau of Engineering and will not permit an entrance on Cromwell Bridge Road.
- 2) A grading plan will be required to prove that the parking will physically

## BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

PARTMENT OF TRAFFIC ENGINEER JEFFERSON BUILDING TOWSON, MARYLANG 21204 INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Edward D. Hardesty Attn: Oliver L. Hyers

Hay 11, 1971

C. Richard Moore FROM:

SUBJECT: Item 7 - Cycle Zoning
Property Ownur: W. Burton Cuy & Co.
NM corner Compens Avenue & Cromwell Bridge Road
DR 16 with SE for offices

The subject petition was reviewed as Item 71-91R and previous' comments remain valid. Those comments were: The subject petition is requesting a change from RR 3.5 to RR is with special acception for offices, with access to Crommell Bridge Road at the previous intersection of Compers Avenue. This intersection is undesirable because of its close proximity to the Beltway ramps and Loch Raven Boulevard, and should not be allowed,

As presently zoned, the parcel could generate 100 trips per day, while as an office building, 500 trips a day. Providing no access is allowed to Crawell I bridge Road, the subject petition should not create any major traffic problems.

DATE: 5/6/71 70: Mr. Edward D. Hardesty, Zoning Commissioner

FROM: Plausing Division

SUBJECT: Property Owner;

W. Burton Guy & Company

Location: M/W corner Cowpens Avenue & Crossell Bridge Road

Zoning Amenda

Fire hydrants for the proposed site are required and shall be in accordance with Baltimore County Standards. The hydrants shall be spaced at 300 feet for the office and 500 feet opacings for the apartments.

The owner shall be required to comply with all applicable requirements of the 101 Life Safety Code, 1967 edition, and the Fire Prevention Code when construction plans are submitted for approval.

Respectfully submitted

Thomas Kell Planning Division

### BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO Mr. Oliver Myers Date. May 13, 1971 FROM. Ian J. Forrest SUBJECT Item 7

7. Property Owner: W. Burton Guy & Co.
Location: N/W Cor. Coupens Ave. & Cronwell Bridge Rd.
Present Zoning: D.R. 3.5
Proposed Zoning: D.R. 16 with SE for offices
District: 9th Sector: Central
No. Acres: 2.63

Public water and sewer are available to the site.

Air Pollution Comments: The building or buildings on this site may be subject to registration and compliance with the Maryland State Realth Air Pollution Control Regulations. Additional information may be obtained from the Division of Air Pollution, Baltimore County Department of Health.

Chief Water and Sewer Section SUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

9

IJF/ca

Proposed Zoning: Da IL word S.E. For one ices No. of Acres: 2.63

ZOHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

location who can Compens the & Crommen Baince Ro.

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OF Apail 27 4.28 (CYCLE ZeviNG)

Present Zoning: Da 35

District: 9

BALTIMORE COUNTY BO. OF EDUCATION

Petitioner: W. Beares Goy & Co.

Comments: Where Resent in A Less of APPROX 2 Pooles

STATE OF MARYLAND STATE ROADS COMMISSION BALTIMORE, Mp. 21201 ----

April 27, 1971

Mr. Edward U. Hardesty Zoning Commissioner County Office Bldg. Towson, Maryland 2120

21204 Att: Mr. O. L. Myers

ITEN 7.

RI Z.A.C. Meeting 4/27/71
Owners W. Burton Guy & Co.
Least W. Burton Guy & Co.
Least W. Burton Guy & Co.
Crownell Bridge Rd,
Present Conings D.R. 3.
Froposed Zonings D.A. 16 with SE
for offices Sectors Central
No. Acres 2.65 Dear Mr. Hardesty:

The close proximity of the proposed entrance from the subject site to the Beltway ramp will cause a conflict of traffic; therefore, it is our opinion that all access to the aite should be from relocated Goupens Avenue.

Very truly yours,

Charles Lee, Chief Development Engineering Section Solan 60 Nayon (My Charles Lee, Chief

by: John E. Neyers
Asst. Svelopment Engineer

CLIJENIBE

## BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Edward D. Hardesty, Zoning Commission Tale September 4, 1970

FROM Mr. George E. Gavrelis, Director of Planning

SUBJECT Patition #71-91-RX. Northwest sorner of Cromwell Bridge Rd. and Cowpens Ave. Patition for Reclassification from R-20 to R.A.

Petition for Special Exception for Office Building W. Burton Guy and Co., Inc. - Petitioners

9th District

HEARING: Thursday, September 10, 1970 (1:00 p.m.)

The Staff of the Office of Planning and Zoning has reviewed the subject patition for reclassification from R-20 to R.A. zoning, together with a special exception of office building. We note that the Planning Staff has recommended to a committee of the Planning Board that the subject property be reclassified from R-20 to R.A. zoning and that the concept of an office building here, through special exception proceedings, would be appropriety. This represents a proposed departure from maps approved by the Telanning Board last winter. The Staff and the committee were persuaded that apartment zoning hore, with the special exception for offices,

- a. the topography of the tract made it extremely difficult to develop !t for single family residential purposes.
  - b. the shape of the tract similarly made such development difficult.
- c. the location of this property between relocated Cowpens Avenue, the Beltway on-ramp, a widened Cramwell Bridge Road, and the new Loch Raven Senior High School suggested that single family residential development here would

The Planning Staff and Planning Board Committee were also convinced that public ownerships - the school site and the Beltway rights-of-way - a najor flood plain, and institutional uses effectively blocked a reclassification here from having an observation of the properties of the p

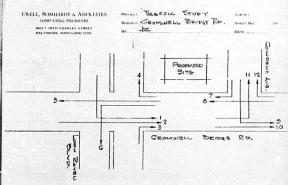
The Planning Staff does not agree that any changes in zoning have occurred which would affect a change of zoning here. We do believe the change has occurred relative to the relocation of Cowpens Avenue and the construction of a new sentoning to those consideration of this services.

0 Mr. Edward D. Hardesty, Zoning Commissioner

Re: Petition #71-91-RX. W. Burton Guy and Co., Inc. - Petitioners

With regard to the special exception, we endorse the concept of office use here writh regard to the special exception, we embore are concept of ortics use never ond agree with other County and Shee agencies that crease agoly it to be secured by means of Compans Avenue to the parking facilities. The plan submitted by the patitioner does not provide sufficient information relative to grading, screening, landscoping, and use so as to anothe us to approve, at this point in time, the development plan submitted as part of this patition.

GEG:msh



WED. SEPT. 9, 1970

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INTERIOR FOR MANAGEMENT AND ADDRESS AND AD

OFFICE OF

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THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the annexed advertisement of
The Zoning Commissioner of bultimore County

was interted in THE TOWSON TIMES, a weekly newspaper published in Balitimore County, Maryland, once a week for one wascrashe weeklybefore the 23 day of August 1971 that is to say, the same was inserted in the issue/of August 19, 1971.

STROMBERG PUBLICATIONS. Inc.

B, Butt Morgan

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

THIS IS TO CEATIFY, that the annexed advertisemen

published in THE JEFFERSONIAN, a weekly newspaper printed and published in Towson, Baltimore County, Md., osser'in osch of the control of the

Cost of Advertisement. \$

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

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Location of Signs 2 S. on. 100 Conference Rd. 100 Grammalle Backgr. Rd.

Remarks.

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Militan J. Hondell, Jr. 20 TAPORE COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNI 5 ZONING Reclassification

JOS Basters Avenue

County Office Building
111 W. Chesapsake Avenue
Townon, Naryland 21204

Your Petition has been received and accepted for filing
this 27 July 1978

Limit D. Hardet J. St. Billy M. Renna
Zoning Commissioner

W. Burton Ony and Co.

Petitioner's Attorney Militan J. Riondell, Jr.
Reviewed by Minital Myses
Chairmen of Advisory Committee

EPHONE 4-2413	BALTI O	RE COUNTY, MARY IN	No. 74024
	OFFI	CE OF FINANCE	DATE 7/7/72
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DEPOSIT TO	лессоинт No. 01.772	RETURN THIS PORTION WIT	TOTAL AMOUNT \$19.00 FOR YOUR RECORDS COST
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