

IN RE: PETITION ZONING VARIANCES N/S of Liberty Road, 330' NW of the centerline of Rolling * Road (8312 Liberty Road) -2nd Election District

Charles J. Balint.

OF BALTIMORE COUNTY Case No. 86-136-A

BEFORE THE

ZONING COMMISSIONER

. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Petitioner

The Petitioner herein requests a free-standing, illuminated sign of 17 3/4 square feet instead of the maximum permitted 8 square foot non-illuminated sign to be attached to a building, as more particularly shown on Petitioner's Exhibit 1.

The Petitioner appeared and testified and was represented by Counsel. Mary Ginn, appearing on behalf of the Association of Baltimore County Councils (Association), testified in opposition.

At the onset of the hearing, the Petitioner was advised that the Petition was filed incorrectly in that the requested relief included only one side of a multi-faced sign. Both sides must be counted, and therefore, the requested relief should be for a free-standing, illuminated sign of 35½ square feet instead of the requested 17 3/4 square feet.

Testimony indicated that the subject property, zoned R.O. in the front and D.R.16 in the rear, is located on Liberty Road near St. James Road. The R.Ozoned portion of the property is improved with a two-story frame building used as the Petitioner's law office. The Petitioner proposes to place a freestanding sign containing 17 3/4 square feet on each side, illuminated with two spdtlights, on the front lawn. He argued that the building has limited visibil-Ebecause it sits back off Liberty Road, a heavily traveled road, making it diffEcult for clients and potential clients to locate his office. The

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Petitioner has an 8 square foot sign attached to a post securing the porch roof, which is somewhat obscured by a rather large tree directly in front and which does not provide the visibility needed for a viable law office. He also cited potential safety problems created by clients slowing down to look for his of-

The Petitioner previously filed for a similar variance (Case No. 83-10-ASPH), wherein the Zoning Commissioner denied the request. Subsequent thereto, the Petitioner appealed the case to the Board of Appeals for Baltimore County (Board). On April 26, 1984, the Board upheld the Zoning Commissioner. The Petitioner then appealed to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County (Court). On December 5, 1984, the Court upheld both the Board's and Zoning Commissioner's decisions.

It is important to note that the reason behind the request for variance at that time was to legalize the existence of an illegal sign in a R-O Zone. During the long judicial sojourn traversed by the Petitioner, the sign remained standing. Sometime after the Court's decision, the Petitioner removed the sign, but in June, 1985, scarcely six months after the Court's decision became final, absent an appeal, the Petitioner re-erected a slightly smaller sign. After being cited for a zoning violation once more, the Petitioner again filed for a variance. This time, the sign was removed upon receipt of a zoning violation

The Petitioner seeks relief from Section 203.3.C, pursuant to Section 307, Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR).

It is equally important to note the comment offered by the Office of Planwhich opines that no variance can be granted to Section 203.3.C because the regulations do not provide for the granting of such a variance, and even if gid, a variance would not be within its spirit and intent.

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The former argument was also raised in the original case and both the Zoning Commissioner and the Board addressed it by rejecting the contention. In Re: Grossfeld, et al, Case No. 83-10-ASPH.

> The Board does not agree with the position asserted by People's Counsel because to so hold would mean that such requests would by their very nature be use variances as opposed to area variances. This Board is of the opinion that requests for variances concerning the size of signs could be

The Circuit Court affirmed.

classified as area variances.

Indeed, the Court of Special Appeals has noted the distinction between a use variance which changes the character of the zoning district and an area variance which does not. Anderson v. Bd. of Appeals, Town of Chesapeake Beach, 2? Md. App. 28 (1974). A use variance allows a landowner to use existing property in a manner not permitted by ordinance and inconsistent with uses in the surrounding area. Alumin Control Board v. City of Lincoln, 137 NW.2d 800 (Neb., 1965). An area variance authorizes deviations from restrictions upon the construction and placement of buildings and other structures; it allows modification of area, yard, height, floor space, frontage, density, setback, and similar restrictions. Bienz v. City of Dayton, 566 P.2d 904 (Ore., 1977); Ivancovich v. Tucson Bd. of Adj., 529 P.2d 242 (Ariz., 1974). An area variance does not affect the use of land and is not associated with the advent of an incompatible use; i.e., the use itself has already been determined to be permitted by right or by special exception. Assoc. for Pres. v. D.C. Bd. of Adj., 384 A.2d D.C., 1978). In contrast, a use variance generally allows land to be used for a purpose which is inconsistent with the basic character of the area. Con-. Town of Brookhaven Zoning Board of App., 353 NE.2d 594 (N.Y., 1976). It one which permits a use other than one prescribed by the zoning ordinance in particular district; it permits a use which the ordinance prohibits. An area variance authorizes deviations from restrictions which relate to a

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permitted use rather than limitations on the use itself, i.e., restrictions on the bulk of buildings or relating to their height, size, and extent of lot coverage; minimum habitable area; or the placement of buildings and structures on the lot with respect to required yards. Variances made necessary by the physical characteristics of the lot itself are area variances. An area variance permits deviation from strict compliance with the law, i.e., the physical characteristics of the premises as long as the purposes for which the premises are intended to be used are permitted by law. Croissant v. Zoning Bd. of Appeals, 442 NYS.2d 235 (1981). A use variance proposes a change in the character of the premises and involves a use not otherwise permitted. Croissant, supra.

It is clear that the instant request is for an area variance rather than a use variance. To deviate from Section 203.2.C, "Signs and Display", which is found under Section 203.3, "Use Regulations", does not create a use variance. To reach the opposite conclusion would be inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the BCZR when read in its entirety. A reading of the BCZR would find that Section 1801.1, "General Use Regulations in D.R. Zones", Subparagraph 1B01.1.A.13 also lists signs. Does this mean that any request for a sign variance, to the extent signs are permitted in the D.R. zone as limited by Section 413, BCZR, would be a request for a use variance?

Needless to say, Section 307, BCZR, prohibits the Zoning Commissioner and Board from granting use variances but provides them with the power to grant variatces from sign regulations. No limitation exists as to Section 413, BCZR. In words, whenever specific regulations pertaining to signs can be found, tion 307 is applicable and binding, Section 203.3.C is inclusive.

There is a strong presumption of the correctness of original zones and of perchaisive zoning. Howard County v. Dorsey, 438 A.2d 1339 (1982). There is

DiPiete, 448 A.2d 1271 (R.I., 1982). When interpreting the zoning regulations, the restrictive language contained must be strictly construed so as to allow the landowner the least restrictive use of his property. Mayor of Balto. v. Byrd, 62 A.2d 588 (1948); Lake Adventure, Inc. v. Zoning Hearing Bd. of Dingham Township, 440 A.2d 1284 (Pa. Cmwlth., 1982). When the language of a zoning regulation is clear and certain, there is nothing left for interpretation and the ordinance must be interpreted literally. Mongony v. Bevilacqua, 432 A.2d 661 (R.I., 1981). Section 413.2, BCZR, is clear and unambiguous.

The meaning of the plainest words in a statute may be controlled by the context. A statute should be so construed that all its parts harmonize with each other and render them consistent with its general object and scope. Pittman v. Housing Authority, 25 A.2d 466.

The basic principles of statutory construction were comprehensively set out by the Court of Appeals in State v. Fabritz, 276 Md. 416 (1975), cert. denied, 425 U.S. 942 (1976):

> The cardinal rule in the construction of statutes is to effectuate the real and actual intention of the Legislature. Purifoy v. Merc. Safe Dep. & Trust, 273 Md. 58, 327 A.2d 483 (1974); Scoville Serv., Inc. v. Comptroller, 269 Md. 390, 306 A.2d 534 (1973); Height v. State, 225 Md. 251, 170 A.2d 212 (1961). Equally well settled is the principle that statutes are to be construed reasonably with reference to the purpose to be accomplished, Walker v. Montgomery County, 244 Md. 98, 223 A.2d 181 (1966), and in light of the evils or mischief sought to be remedied, Mitchell v. State, 115 Md. 360, 80 A.2d 1020 (1911); in other words, every statutory enactment must be 'considered in its entirety, and in the context of the purpose underlying [its] enactment, Giant of Md. v. State's Attorney, 267 Md. 501 at 509, 298 A.2d 427, at 432 (1973). Of course, a statute should be construed according to the ordinary and natural import of its language, since it is the language of the statute which constitutes the primary source for determining the legislative intent. Grosvenor v. Supervisor of Assess., 271 Md. 232, 315 A.2d 758 (1974); Height v. State, supra. Where there is no ambiguity or obscurity in the language of a statue, there is usually no need to look elsewhere to ascertain the intention of the Legislature. Purifoy v. Merc.-

Safe Deposit & Trust, supra. Thus, where statutory language

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is plain and free from ambiguity and expresses a definite and sensible meaning courts are not at liberty to disregard the natural import of words with a view towards making the statute express an intention which is different from its plain meaning. Gatewood v. State, 244 Md. 609, 224 A.2d 677 (1966). On the other hand, as stated in Maguire v. State, 192 Md. 615, 623, 65 A.2d 299, 302 (1949), '[a]dherence to the meaning of words does not require or permit isolation of words from their context *** [since] the meaning of the plainest words in a statute may be controlled by the context ' In construing statutes, therefore, results that are unreasonable, illogical or inconsistent with common sense should be avoided whenever possible consistent with the statutory language, with the real legislative intention prevailing over the intention indicated by the literal meaning. B. F. Saul Co. v. West End Park, 250 Md. 707, 246 A.2d 591 (1968); Sanza v. Md. Board of Censors, 245 Md. 319, 226 A.2d 317 (1967); Height v. State, supra.

In applying these principles to the BCZR, particularly Section 413.2, the conclusion is inescapable that under the plain wording of Section 413.2, the policy as described above is in conflict and therefore wrong.

The intent of the BCZR must be determined as being construed as a whole. See Smith v. Miller, 249 Md. 390. Thus, the specific language delineating the use regulations in Section 413, BCZR, must be construed in light of all of the provisions concerning signs so that the several parts of those regulations are given their intended effect. Moreover, the relationship between those various provisions regulating signs must be reconciled as a whole. See Smith, supra; Bowie Vol. Fire Depart. & Rescue Squad, Inc. v. Bd. of County Commissioners, 255 Md. 381; Anderson, American Law of Zoning, Section 16.08.

"Zoning regulations are in derogation of common law rights and they cannot construed to include or to exclude by implication that which is not clearly their express terms." Yokely, Zoning Law & Practice, Sections 1-4 and Aspen Hill Venture v. Montgomery County, 265 Md. 3C3 (1972). Landay v. liams, 173 Md. 460 (1938) a/k/a Landay v. Bd. of Zoning Appeals. Zoning plations must be strictly construed and cannot be extended by implication to

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prohibit uses not clearly within their scope. Gino's of Maryland, Inc. v. Baltimore, 250 Md. 621 (1968); McQuillin, Municipal Corp., Section 25.72.

It would be totally incongruous to believe that the intent of the Baltimore County Council (Council) was to deny the authority to grant a sign variance in R.O Zones. In fact, if the Council had intended to prevent variances, it would have said so, as it did in Section 1801.1.B.1.b.7, BCZR, where it specifically stated Section 307 is not applicable to the requirements established by the Residential Transition Area (RTA), the only place in the BCZR where such a prohibition can be found.

The Zoning Commissioner concludes, as Zoning Commissioner Hammond and the Board already have, that any request for a variance to Section 203.3.C is a request for an area variance, not a use variance.

As to the requirement that all sides of a multi-faced sign must be computed when determining its square footage, this is a change in policy from when a variance was requested in Case No. 83-10-ASPH.

For many years, a Zoning Office policy permitted both sides of a multifaced business sign to be computed as one for the purpose of determining the size permitted. If a business sign such as the multi-faced, free-standing sign proposed here was computed to be 98 square feet on each side, past policy would have counted only one side. Section 203.3.C, BCZR, permits a sign with a total surface area of 8 square feet.

This interpretation does not comport to either the language or the intent of the BCZR. By their inherent nature, policies facilitate and improve the impentation of procedures, but they are equally subject to alteration, modificatton, or revision in accordance with the authority under which they are inisupplant or contradict the law. Official administrative interpretations

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of statutes in the form of policy that have long-continued and unvaried application should not be disregarded except for the strongest reason. Hofmeister v. Frank Realty Co., 373 A.2d 273, 281 (1977). As long as the rules and regulations adopted by the administrative official are reasonable and consistent with the statute, they should be applied. Farber's Inc. v. Comptroller of the Treasury of the State of Maryland, 266 Md. 44 (1972).

Applying the principles of statutory construction enunciated above, it is clear that both sides of a sign must be counted. Only Section 413.2.e, BCZR, permits a multi-faced sign to be considered as one and that is limited to an identification sign for a shopping center or other interpreted group of stores or commercial buildings. The introductory language of Section 413.2 does not provide the right to treat all business signs alike. The language is not all inclusive nor all permissive. It provides a preamble to the section's intent and conditions any permission to place a business sign of a particular size in only those business or industrial zones permitted in subsequent subsections. If all of the subparagraphs of Section 413.2 are read and their intent interpreted as a whole, any such interpretation must conclude that the Council intended each face of a sign to be counted, except for shopping center identification signs. Section 413.5.a, BCZR, buttresses this clear and unequivocal reading; i.e., the size of any sign is computed by determining its surface area, including the entire face or faces.

| An ordinance should be construed "so that no word, clause, sentence, or ohrase shall be rendered surplusage, superfluous, meaningless or nugatory." Sutisor v. Southgate Harbor, 279 Md. 586 (1977). Section 203.3.C must be read conjunction with Section 413, and if the requested multi-faced sign were to considered as one side, the use of the term "surface area", as found in Section 203.3.C, would be meaningless and would contradict the Council's obvious intent as indicated by the language used in Section 413.2.e and found nowhere

However, notwithstanding these hyperextended legal machinations, the requested variance shall be denied. To grant the variance at this time would fly in the face of two quasi-judicial opinions and one appellate affirmation. It would flaunt the system for all the wrong reasons; it would send the message that illegality begets legality, with no pause for reflection or contrition.

Although there is no equivalent restriction in the BCZR to that of Section 500.12, BCZR, which prohibits the filing of a special exception involving any property which had a special exception denied for 18 months from the date of a final order, certainly any Petition for Zoning Variance filed within seven months after a final order denying a similar request involving the same property requires exceptional reasons for its approval over and above the conditions precedent in Section 307. Refusal of a variance does not preclude a subsequent grant of a variance for the same land if there has been a subsequent substantial change in conditions incident to the land itself. Filanowski v. Zoning Board, 266 A.2d 670 (Pa., 1970); Serban v. Zoning Hearing Bd., 480 A.2d 362 (Pa., 1984); Costa v. Gagnon, 455 A.2d 310 (R.I., 1983).

Even if no exception a reasons were needed to overcome the comparative speed by which the instant Petition was filed, the Petitioner has not been able to satisfy the conditions precedent in Section 307.

An area variance may be granted where strict application of the zoning ation would cause practical difficulty to the petitioner and his property. 📬 n v. Soley, 270 Md. 208 (1973). To prove practical difficulty for an area variance, the petitioner must meet the following:

> whether strict compliance with requirement would unreasonably prevent the use of the property for a permitted purpose or render conformance unnecessarily burdensome;

2. whether the grant would do substantial injustice to applicant as well as other property owners in the district or whether a lesser relaxation than that applied for would give substantial relief; and

3. whether relief can be granted in such fashion that the spirit of the ordinance will be observed and public safety and welfare secured.

Anderson v. Bd. of Appeals, Town of Chesapeake Beach, 22 Md. App. 28 (1974).

It is clear from the testimony that if the variances were granted, such use as proposed would be contrary to the spirit of the BCZR and would result in substantial detriment to the public good.

After due consideration of the testimony and evidence presented, it is clear that a practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship would not result if the instant variances were not granted. It has been established that the requirement from which the Petitioner seeks relief would not unduly restrict the use of the land for its intended purpose nor would it render conformance unnecessarily burdensome. In addition, the requested variances would be detrimental to the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and public hearing on this Petition held, and for the reasons given above, the requested variances should not be granted.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED by the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, this 1541 day of October, 1985, that the Petition for Zoning Variances to permit a free-standing, illuminated sign of 35½ square feet instead of the maxim permitted 8 square foot non-illuminated sign attached to the building be and hereby DENIED from and after the date of this Order.

cc: Richard T. Bolan, Esquire Charles J. Balint, Esquire Mrs. Mary Ginn People's Counsel

PETITION FOR ZONING VALIANCE TO THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY:

1

The undersigned, legal owner(s) of the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the description and plat attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereby petition for a Variance from Section 203,3,C to permit a free-standing sign with spotlights of 17 3/4 square feet in lieu of the maximum permitted sign of 8 square feet attached to the building.

of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to the Zoning Law of Baltimore County; for the following reasons: (indicate hardship or practical difficulty) Practical Differences: Building sits far off of highway making visability limited. Highway is a heavily traveled arterial consisting of 5 lanes with a speed limit of 40 M.P.H.. Trees obscure vision of property. Numerous clients have complained about the inability to locate the building despite the 8 sq. foot permitted sign. A dangerous situation is created by my clients slowing traffic to look for the building which is located 0.06 miles from one of the 25th most dangerous intersections in the State of Maryland.

Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by Zoning Regulations. I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above Variance advertising, posting, etc., upon filing of this petition, and further agree to and are to be bound by the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the Zoning Law For Baltimore County,

> I/We do solemnly declare and affirm, under the penalties of perjury, that I/we are the legal owner(s) of the property which is the subject of this Petition.

> > ner of Baltimore County.

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86-136-A

MAP 28 Contract Purchaser Legal Owner(s): NW-G-H Charles J. Balint Type of Print Name) D. 2 Danie 1000 (Type or Print Name) City and State Attorney for Petitioner: 8312 Liberty Road (301)922-0900 Charles J. Balint, Esquire Baltimore, Maryland 21207 City and State 8312 Liberty Road Name, address and phone number of legal owner, contract purchaser or representative to be contacted Baltimore, Maryland 21207 City and State Attorney's Telephone No.: 301-922-0900 8312 Liberty Road, 21207, 922-0900 CORDERED By The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, this ____26th_ of August, 1985, 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 Expore County, that property be posted, and that the public hearing be had before the Zoning Compussioner of Baltimore County in Room 106, County Office Building in Towson, Baltimore on the 2nd day of October , 1985 , at 10:00 o'clock

as**. 2**ciates, inc. Surveyors-engineers

ALEXANDER P. RATYCH, PROF. L.S.

RICHARD J. TRUELOVE, P.E.

ZONING DESCRIPTION 8312 LIBERT ROAD SECOND ELECTION DISTRICT BALTIMORE COUNTY MARYLAND

BEGINNING FOR THE SAME at a point on the Mortheasterly side of Liberty Poad at the distance of 330 feet more or less, measured in the Northwesterly direction from the centerline of Rolling Road and being Lot 7 on Plat No.2 of George,s Park, recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Plat Book W.P.C.5, folio 50; being also known as 8312 Liberty Road.

1/25/1982

PETITION FOR VARIANCE 2nd Election District

LOCATION:

North side of Liberty Road, 330 ft. Northwest of the centerline of Rolling Road (8312 Liberty Road)

DATE AND TIME: PUBLIC HEARING: Wednesday, October 2, 1985 at 10:00 a.m.

Room 106, County Office Building, 111 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, Maryland The Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a public hearing:

Petition for Variance from Section 203.3.C to permit a free-standing sign with spotlights of 17-3/4 square feet in lieu of the maximum permitted sign of 8 square feet attached to the building.

Being the property of Charles J. Balint the plat filed with the Zoning Office.

In the event that this Petition is granted, a building permit may be issued within the thirty (30) day appeal period. The Zoning Commissioner will, however, entertain any request for a stay of the issuance of said permit during this period for good cause shown. Such request must be received in writing by the date of the hearing set above or made at the hearing.

> BY ORDER OF ARNOLD JABLON ZONING COMMISSIONER OF BALTIMORE COUNTY

RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE BEFORE THE ZONING COMMISSIONER N/S Liberty Rd., 330' OF BALTIMORE COMMITTEE OF PLANNING & ZIMES NW/Centerline of Rolling Rd. (8312 Liberty Rd.),

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2nd District CHARLES J. BALINT, Petitioner : Case No. 86-136-A

:::::::

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

Please enter the appearance of the People's Counsel in the above-captioned matter. Notices should be sent of any hearing dates or other proceedings in this matter and of the passage of any preliminary or final Order.

> Phyllis Cole Friedman People's Counsel for Baltimore County

Peter Max Zimmerman Deputy People's Counsel Rm. 223, Court House Towson, MD 21204 494-2188

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 10th day of September, 1985, a copy of the foregoing Entry of Appearance was mailed to Charles J. Balint, Esquire, 8312 Liberty Road, Baltimore, MD 21207, Petitioner.

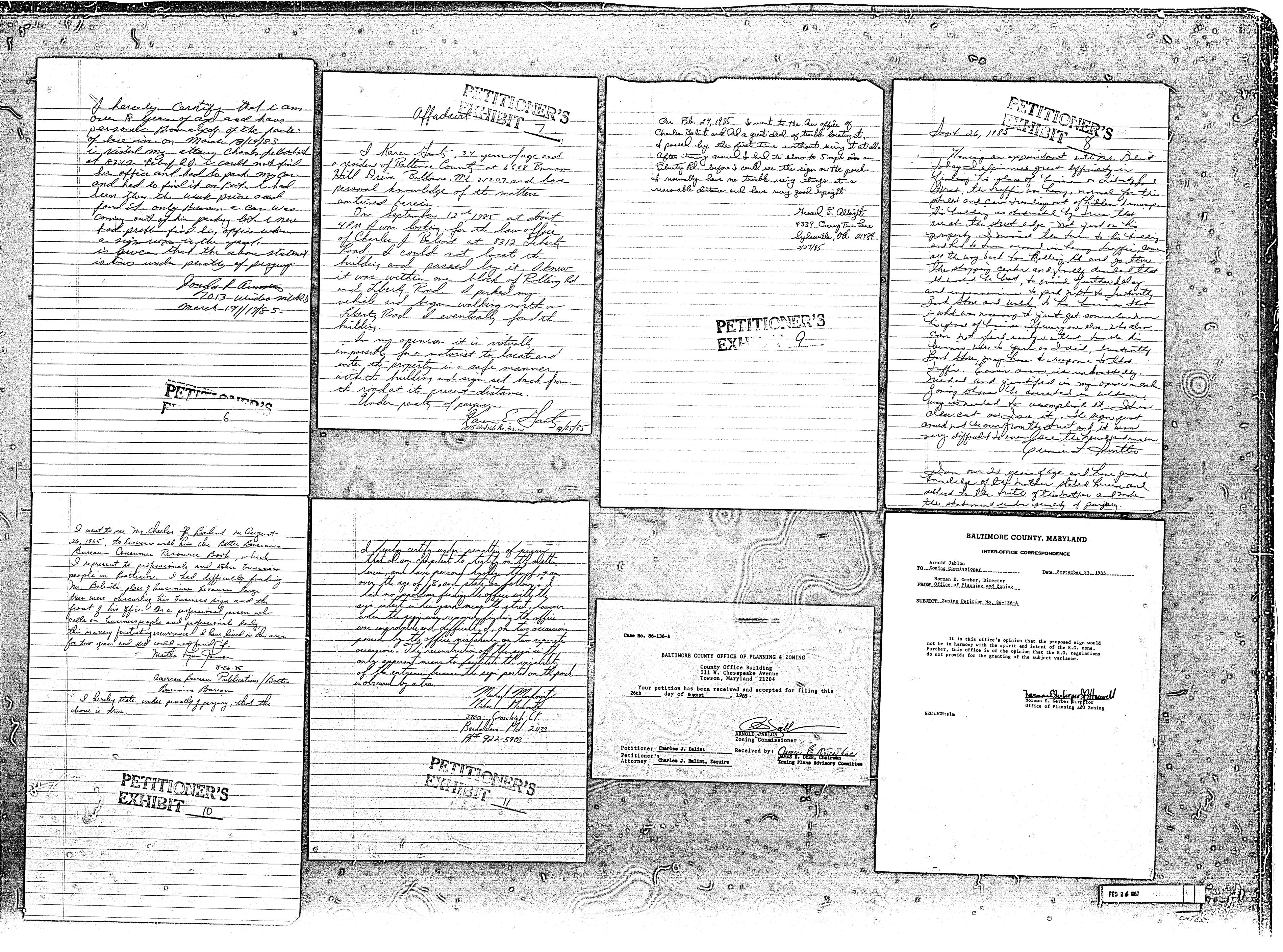
7427 harford road baltimore, md. 21234 tel: 301 444 4312 205 east main street elkton, md. 21921 301 398 7766

Charles J. Balint, Esquire 8312 Liberty Road Baltimore, Maryland 21207 CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION NOTICE OF HEARING TOWSON, MD., September 12 RE: Petition for Variance ●·86-136-A THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the annexed advertisement was N/S Liberty Rd., 330' NW/centerline of Rolling Rd. (8312 Liberty Road) OCATION: North side of Libert BALTIMORE COUNTY
OFFICE OF PLANNING & ZONING
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204
494-3353 Road, 330 ft. Northwest of the con-terline of Rolling Road (\$312 Libert 2nd Election District CELTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION ublished in THE JEFFERSONIAN, a weekly newspaper printed Charles J. Balint, Petitioner Case No. 86-136-A September 12 ARNOLD JABLON ZONING COMMISSIONER Fikesville, Md., Sept. 11 19 85 September 26, 1985 THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the annexed advertisment Wednesday, October 2, 1985 was published in the NORTHWEST STAR, a weekly PLACE: Room 106, County Office Building, 111 West Chesapeake THE JEFFERSONIAN, Charles J. Balint, Esquire 8312 Liberty Road newspaper published in Pikesville. Baltimore Baltimore, Maryland 21207 Avenue, Towson, Maryland Being the property of Cheries J. Bai int as shown on the plat filed with th County, Maryland before the 2nd day of In the event that this Petition is granted, a building permit may be isseed within the thirty (30) day appeal period. The Zoning Commissioner will, however, experiment any request for a stay of she issuance of said permit during this period for good cause shown. Such request must be received in writing by the date of the hearing set above or made at the hearing.

By Order Of ARNOLD JABLON,
Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County
Sept. 12. RE: Petition for VAriance N/S Liberty Rd., 330' NW/centerline of Rolling Road. (8312 Liberty Road) the first publication appearing on the 2nd Election District 11th cay of Sept. .19 85 Charles J. Balint, Petitioner Case 86-136-A the secend publication appearing on the No. 008590 BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND OFFICE OF FINANCE - REVENUE DIVISION the third publication appearing on the MISCELLANEOUS CASH RECEIPT K-01-615 220 7.16.87 This is to advise you that \$\frac{\$49.00}{}\$ is due for advertising and posting of the above property. This fee must be paid before an Order is issued. THE NORTHWEST STAR This fee must be paid and the zoning sign and post returned on the day of the hearing. Do <u>not</u> remove sign until day of the LEGAL NOTICE hearing. PETITION FOR VARIANCE Please make the check payable to Baltimore County, Maryland, and remit to Zoning Office, Room 113, County Office Building, Towson, Maryland 21204, before the hearing. 2nd Election District Cost of Advertisement_ \$22.00 3CATION: North side of Liberty Road, 330 ft. forthwest of the centering of Rolling Road CERTIFICATE OF POSTING 8141*****10000ta 817#F ZONING DEPARTMENT OF BALTIMORE COUNTY ATE AND Home.
at 19:00 a.m.
PUBLIC HEARING: Room 108, County Office
Building, 111 West Chasepeake Avenue, Tow-86-136-A BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND No. 012523 OFFICE OF FINANCE - REVENUE DIVISION Date of Posting Apt 13,1285 MISCELLANEOUS CASH RECEIPT Posted for: Petitioner: Charles & Balint g Commissioner Location of property: N/Side of Liberty Road, 336 NW of
the Cfl of Rolling Road (8312 Liberty Road)
Location of Signs: Con front of 8312 Liberty Road Being the property of Charles & Balint as in the event that this Petition is granted, a building permit may be leased within the thirty (30) day appeal period. The Zoning Commissioner will, however, entertain any request for a stay of the issuence of said permit during this period for good cause shown. Such request must be received in writing by the date of the hearing ast above or made at the hearing. Charles J. Balint . . Advertising and Posting'. 86-136-A 8 8 059*****4900:a 2048F Number of Signs: march op, 1985 Kimbuly Muelles came by charles Balisa office on 8312 Liberty Rd and could not scatte his office because I could not see PETITION OF APPROVAL FROM Carefree Landscaping and Construction his sign on his building I have been to PETITIONERS' EXHIBITS 5203 Gwynn Oak Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21207 his office before and did not have any I hereby certify that I am aware of the hearing for a petition to allow a 17.5 sq. foot free-standing sign at 8312 Liberty Road. I will not be present at the hearing on October 2, 1985 at 10:00 a.m. I have seen the proposed sign and find it compatible with this neighborhood and I have no objection to the approval. differently finding his office. Exhibit 1: Plat of Property **Proposal Submitted To** Work To Be Performed At 1. Allen KAR Gordon / KAPAN 8316 Liberty Rd. I have personal knowledge of the Exhibit 2: Video Exhibit - In possession of Petitioner. Nome Charles J. Balint, Esquire Street 8312 Liberty Road Exhibit 3: Proposal from Carefree Landscaping & Construction City____Baltimore State Maryland Exhibit 4: Petition of Approval elephone Number 922-0900 3. Victoria L. FOX Victoria L. Fox 8318 LIBERTY Road Exhibit 5: Letter in Support of Petition I certifeing under penalty of perjuey that 4. Mondas 11 McCullin Nondas MARIE 8320 Liberty Rd.
5. 12 2 Whele McCubbin Com. I do not recommend the removal of your tree in the front of 8312 Liberty Road.

This tree helps relieve the drainage problem you have in the corner of the building near the driveway. In my eight years, I have found removal of trees can also create erosion problems in this type of situation. Exhibit 6: Letter in Support of Petition 6. Daniel Ecford DANIEL Cheetham 8309 Liberty Rd
7. Willer haves Systeming 87305- Liberty Rd
8. James Cappenella James R. Cappenella F308 LIBERTY DV
9. Ernest A Seiler ERNEST H SEILER 8310 LIBERTY RD Exhibit 7: Letter in Support of Petition Exhibit 8: Letter in Support of Petition Bimbuly Mueller Exhibit 9: Letter in Support of Petition Exhibit 10: Letter in Support of Petition *AN 4306 morris DR. Exhibit 11: Letter in Support of Petition 10. Inthe Smelà Timothy & Mosslein 8315 Cherty Rd. Sykes wille, MD 31774 301-795-1619 PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT 4 ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSAL

(5)



August 5, 1985

Re: Item #23

J. Balint

Property Owner: Charles

Liberty Road (Route 26) 330' NW from centerline

Existing Zoning: R.O.

Proposed Zoning: Var.

sign with spotlights

of 17 3/4 sq. ft. in

lieu of the maximum

Bureau of Engr. Access Permits

permitted sign of 8 sq.

ft. attached to the building

to permit a free-standing

Location: NE side

of Rolling Road

and D.r. 16

Acres: 17,226

District 2nd

Very truly yours,

Chal Ce Charles Lee, Chief

by: John Meyers

We are referring the subject plan to Mr. Morris Stein, Chief of State Highway Administration Highway Beautification.

My telephone number is 301-659-1350

Teletypewriter for Impaired Hearing or Speech
383-7555 Baltimore Metro — 565-0451 D.C. Metro — 1-800-492-5062 Statewide Toll Free

P.O. Box 717 / 707 North Calvert St., Baltimore, Maryland 21203 - 0717

He will review and respond directly to you.

Hal Kassoff

Maryland Department of Transportation

Mr. A. Jablon

Dear Mr. Jablon:

Zoning Commissioner

County Office Building

Towson, Maryland 21204

FROM & OF ROLLING RD.

There are no site planning factors requiring comment. (**)A County Review Group Meeting is required.

(A County Review Group Meeting was held and the minutes will be forward by the Bureau of Public Services.

(b) This site is part of a larger tract; therfore it is defined as a subdivision. The plan must show the entire tract.

)A record plat will be required and must be recorded prior O issuance of a building permit.)The access is not satisfactory.)The circulation on this site is not satisfactory, The parking arrangement is not satisfactory.

Parking calculations must be shown on the plan.)This property contains soils which are defined as wetlands, and development on these soils is prohibited.

Construction in or alteration of the floodplain is prohibited under the provisions of Section 22-98 of the Development Regulations.

Development of this site may constitute a potential conflict with the Baltimore County Master Plan.

The amended Development Plan was approved by the Planning Board Capacity Use Certificate has been issued. The deficient service The property is located in a traffic area controlled by a *D* level intersection as defined by Bill 178-79, and as conditions change traffic capacity may become more limited. The Basic Services Areas are re-evaluated annually by the County Council.

AGRICON COMMENTS:

AFREE STANDING SIGN IS SUBJECT TO COMPOTIBILITY

REVIEW, ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED

SUCH AS TYPE OF ILLUMINATION, SIGN MATERIALS

COLORS ETS. FOR COMPATIBILITY REVIEW

Eugene A. Bober Chief, Current Planning and Development

Mr. Arnold Jablon Zoning Commissioner County Office Building Towson, Maryland 21204

SEPTEMBER 9, 1985

Re: Zoning Advisory Meeting of JULY 30, 1985
Item # 23
Property Owner: CLARLES J. BALINT
Location: NE/SIDE LIBERTY RD. 330 NW
FROM & REPORTS

The Division of Current Planning and Development has reviewed the subject petition and offers the following comments. The items checked below are

On

(X) Landscaping: Must comply with Baltimore County Landscape Manual.

The property is located in a deficient service area as defined by B111 178-79. No building permit may be issued until a Reserve

(X)Additional comments:

COUNTY OFFICE BLDG. 111 W. Chesapeake Ave. Towson, Maryland 2120

Bureau of

Bureau of

Industrial

Engineering

Department of

Fire Prevention

Health Department

Building Department

Board of Education

Project Planning

Traffic Engineering

State Roads Commission

BALTIMORE COUNTY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204-2586
494-4500

PAUL H. REINCKE CHIEF August 6, 1985 Mr. Arnold Jablon

Zoning Commissioner Office of Planning and Zoning Baltimore County Office Building Towson, Maryland 21204

Item No.: 23

Attention: Nick Commodari, Chairman Zoning Plans Advisory Committee

RE: Property Owner: Charles J. Balint

Location: NE side Liberty Rd., 330' NW from centerline of Rolling Road Zoning Agenda: Meeting of 7/30/85

BALTIMORE COUNTY ZONING PLANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Charles J. Balint, Esquire

Baltimore, Maryland 21207

8312 Liberty Road

Dear Mr. Balint:

the requested zoning.

scheduled accordingly.

JED:nr

Enclosures

September 24, 1985

The Zoning Plans Advisory Committee has reviewed the plans sub-

mitted with the above-referenced petition. The following comments

are not intended to indicate the appropriateness of the zoning action

requested, but to assure that all parties are made aware of plans or

problems with regard to the development plans that may have a bearing

on this case. The Director of Planning may file a written report with

the Zoning Commissioner with recommendations as to the suitability of

Enclosed are all comments submitted from the members of the

petition. If similar comments from the remaining members are received, I will forward them to you. Otherwise, any comment that is not inform-

ative will be placed in the hearing file. This petition was accepted

Very truly yours,

JAMES E. DYER

Chairman

for filing on the date of the enclosed filing certificate and a hearing

James E. Dycs, bee

Zoning Plans Advisory Committee

Committee at this time that offer or request information on your

RE: Item No. 23 - Case No. 86-136-A

Variance Petition

Petitioner - Charles J. Balint

Pursuant to your request, the referenced property has been surveyed by this Bureau and the comments below marked with an "X" are applicable and required to be corrected or incorporated into the final plans for the property.

() 1. Fire hydrants for the referenced property are required and shall be located at intervals or ____ feet along an approved road in accordance with Baltimore County Standards as published by the Department of Public Works.

() 2. A second means of vehicle access is required for the site.

() 3. The vehicle dead end condition shown at

EXCEEDS the maximum allowed by the Fire Department.

() 4. The site shall be made to comply with all applicable parts of the Fire Prevention Code prior to occupancy or beginning of operation.

() 5. The buildings and structures existing or proposed on the site shall comply with all applicable requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Standard No. 101 "Life Safety Code", 1976 edition prior to occupancy.

🏅 () 6. Site plans are approved, as drawn.

(x) 7. The Fire Prevention Bureau has no comments, at this time.

REVIEWEF: Cot Develly 8685 Approved: Roy W. Kemmer)
Planing Group Fire Prevention Burners Special Inspection Division

CL-JM:es

cc: M. Stein w/plan

G. Wittman

BALTIMORE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS & LICENSES DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS & LI TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

August 26, 1985

TED ZALESKI, JR.

Comments on Item # 23 Zoning Advisory Committee Heeting are as follows: Charles J. Valint

NE side Liberty Road, 330' NW from c/l of Rolling Road

All structures shall conform to the Baltimore County Building Code as adopted by Council Bill #17-85, the Maryland Code for the Handicapped and Aged (A.M.S.I. #117-1 = 1980) and other applicable Codes and Standards.

(B) A building and other miscellaneous permits shall be required before the start of any construction.

C. Residential: Two sets of construction drawings are required to file a parmit application. The seal of a registered in Maryland Architect or Engineer is/is not required on plans and technical data.

D. Commercial: Three sets of construction drawings scaled and signed by a registered in Maryland Architect or Engineer shall be required to file with a permit application. Reproduced scale are not acceptable. B. All Use Groups except R-4. Single Family Detached Dwellings require a minimum of 1 hour fire rating for entrior walls closer than 6'-0 to an interior lot line. R-4. Use Groups require a one hour wall if closer than 3'-0 to an interior lot line. Any wall built on an interior lot line shall require a fire or party wall. See Table 401, Section 1407, Section 1406.2 and Table 1402. No openings are permitted in an exterior wall within 3'-0 of an interior lot line.

F. The structure does not appear to comply with Table 505 for permissable height/area. Reply to the requested variance by this office cannot be considered until the necessary data pertaining to height/area and construction type is provided. See Table 101 and 505 and have your Architect/Engineer contact this department

G. The requested variance appears to conflict with Section(s) _______, of the Baltimore County Building Code.

I. The proposed project appears to be located in a Flood Plain, Tidal/Eiverine. Please see the attached copy of Section 516.0 of the Building Code as adopted by Bill #17-85. Site plans shall show the correct elevations above sea level for the lot and the finish floor levels including basement.

J. Comments: Signs shall comply with Article 19, and its amendments in Council Bill #17-85. The floor plans as shown will not comply with the exiting requirements of the Code. Also, show Handicapped Code compliance

K. These abbreviated comments reflect only on the information provided by the drawings submitted to the Office of Planning and Zoning and are not intended to be construed as the full extent of any permit. If desired he applicant may obtain additional information by visiting Room 122 of the County Office Building at 11)

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO Zoning Advisory Committee Chairperson Date August 26, 1985 FROM C. E. Burnham, Chief, Building Plans Review C. S.P.

SUBJECT Item #23 - Meeting Scheduled 7/30/85

R. O. OCCUPANCIES: "R-3" to "B"

() 1. A change of occupancy, alteration, and other miscellaneous permits are required.

(/) 2. Floor loading of 50 pounds live load design are required.

Have a registered in Maryland structural engineer provide a letter of certification. See Section 903.0, 904.0, 905.0, Table 906.0, 907.0.

() 3. Office buildings with a single exit shall comply with Table 809.3 or two independent exits shall be required. See Sections 809.2, 807.0, 810.0, 811.0, 816.0, 819.0, as alternative requirements.

() 4. Interior stairs shall be enclosed with one hour rated assemblies and "B" label one hour doors.

() 5. Tenant demising walls, floor/ceiling assemblies shall have a minimum 1 hour rating. See Table 401 amended by Bill 4-82.

() 6. Exterior walls shall be a minimum of 1 hour rating and no openings are permitted within 3'-0 of an interior lot line.

() 7. See Section 1702.12, 1702.13, 1702.16 for sprinklers that may be required.

() 8. Exit stairs, handrails, etc. shall comply with Section 816.0.

(/) 9. Plan does not show the following handicapped requirements under the State Handicapped laws:

> ✓) A. Parking (correct number of spaces, locations) C. Parking lot accessibility (paving, etc.)
> D. Building accessibility (entrance)

E. Required ramps F. Interior access and useability, (elevators, toilet rooms, etc.) G. Curb cuts, etc.

() 10. Interior finishes shall comply with Tables 1421.5 and 1421.7.

() 11. Ventilation of toilet rooms, work areas shall comply with the B.O.C.A. Mechanical Code, Article 10. Section M312.4.3 and Section 315.0 where rated assemblies are penetrated with ducts, diffusers,

> This is not intended to be a complete list of Code requirements. The above comments are for use by the designing architect/engineer. The above comments may not be applicable in all cases and are for informational purposes at this time. A full review of construction plans will be made when the plans are submitted for permits as noted in Item #1 above.

Case No. 86-136-A Item No. 23

DEPARTMENT OF TRAFFIC ENGINEERING TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

STEPHEN E. COLLINS DIRECTOR

Mr. Arnold Jablon

Zoning Commissioner

County Office Building Towson, Maryland 21204

Property Owner:

Existing Zoning:

Proposed Zoning:

fo item numbers 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27.

Location:

Acres:

Dear Mr. Jablon:

MSF/ccm

District:

N/S of Liberty Road, 330' NW of the centerline of Rolling. Road (8312 Liberty Road) -2nd Election District Charles J. Balint, Petitioner

Traffic Engineering Assoc.

July 31, 1985

Item No. (23) 24,25,26, and 27 ZAC- Meeting of July 30, 1985

The Department of Traffic Engineering has no comments

November 6, 1985 Var.-Free standing sign w/spotlights.

X 1. Copy of Petition

X 2. Copy of Description of Property Copy of Certificate of Posting (1 Sign)

Copy of Certificates of Publication Copy of Zoning Advisory Committee Comments Copy of Comments from the Director of Planning

Planning Board Comments and Accompanying Map X 8. Copy of Order to Enter Appearance

X 9. Copy of Order - Zoning MONEYXWXX ZXXXXXXX Commissioner-10/15/85, x 10. Copy of Plat of Property (Petitioner's Exhibit 2)

11. 200' Scale Location Plan 12. 1000' Scale Location Plan

____13. Memorandum in Support of Petition

____14. Letter(s) from Protestant(s)

___15. Letter(s) from Petitioner(s)

16. Protestants' Exhibits _____ to ____ __17. Petitioners' Exhibits _ 1 to _ 11 (See attached for

18. Letter of Appeal, 11/7/85 by Richard Bolan, Esq., on behalf of Petitioner. *Richard T. Bolan, Esquire Attorney for Petitioner Law Offices of

Charles J. Balint 8312 Liberty Road Baltimore, Md. 21207

Charles J. Balint, Esquire Petitioner 8312 Liberty Road Baltimore, Md. 21207

Mrs. Mary Ginn Protestant Association of Baltimore County Councils 606 Horncrest Road Towson, Md. 21204

Phyllis C. Friedman, Esquire People's Counsel Norman E. Gerber Request Notification James Hoswell Request Notification Arnold Jablon

Request Notification Jean M. H. Jung Request Notification James E. Dyer Request Notification

CHARLES J. BALIN 8312 Liberty Road County Board of Appeals of Baltimore County Baltimore, Maryland 21207 Charles J. Balint Case No. 86-136-A BEFORE IN THE MATTER OF Room 200 Court Mouse Appellant THE PETITION OF COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS CHARLES J. BALINT Towson, Maryland 21204 Any appeal from this decision must be in accordance with (301) 494-3180 COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY July 15, 1986 Rules B-1 thru B-13 of the Maryland Rules of Procedure. BALTIMORE COUNTY BALTIMORE COUNTY Room 200, Courthouse RD. - (8312 LIBERTY RD.) No. 86-136-A COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS Towson, Maryland 21204 2nd DISTRICT OF BALTIMORE COUNTY THE ZONING COMMISSIONER Appellee OF BALTIMORE COUNTY OPINION CASE NO.: 86-136-A Villiam R. Evans, Acting Chairman The above captioned matter comes before this Board on appeal from a decision of the Zoning Commissioner denying the requested variance to Harry E. Buckluster. Harry El Bughheister, Jr. Richard T. Bolan, Esq. | permit a $63\frac{1}{2}$ by 41 inch sign on the subject property. 8312 Liberty Rd. Baltimore, Md. 21207 TO THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGE OF SAID COURT: Evidence received at trial indicates an area in which several Re: Case No. 86-136-A Charles J. Balint, through his attorney, Richard T. Bolan, pursuant to Charles J. Balint Dear Mr. Bolan: commercial and/or advertising signs exist. However, the legality or Maryland Rules B1 through B12, respectfully represents that on October 15, 1985 Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Opinion and appropriateness of the existing signs are not before this Board. Order cassed today by the County Board of Appeals in the above the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County denied the Appellant a variance to entitled matter. Petitioner contends that he has encountered a practical permit him to have a sign measuring 63 ½ inches by 41 inches on his property difficulty because his clients encounter difficulty locating his office. How-Very truly yours, at 8312 Liberty Road and that this decision of the County Board of Appeals was ever, Petitioner conceeds that his law practice continues to grow. 1. Against the weight of the Competent, material and substantial This Board is sympathetic to the position in which Petitioner June Holmen, Secretary evidence in view of the entire record. finds himself. However, Petitioner was aware of the R.O. zoning when he cc: Charles J. Balint, Esq. 2. Arbitrary, capricous and erroneous in that the Zoning Commissioner purchased the property. The purpose of an R.O. Zone is to permit office use Mrs. Mary Ginn Phyllis C. Friedman, Esq. while maintaining the residential character of the property and neighborhood. pisapplication of the law concerning Norman E. Gerber BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND James Hoswell OFFICE OF FINANCE - REVENUE DIVISION id not consider all relevant facts It is this Board's opinion that the Petitioner has not Arnold Jablon MISCELLANEOUS CASH RECEIPT Jean Jung if the state of the ring herein. sustained the burden of establishing a hardship or practical difficulty and, James Dyer therefore we shall affirm the decision of the Zoning Commissioner. including misinterpretation of AMOUNT \$80.00 ORDER RECEIVED Charles J. Balint, Esquire For the reasons set forth in the aforegoing Opinion, it is g Commissioner against the Appellant this 15th day of July, 1986, by the County Board of Appeals, ORDERED that Appeal fee for Case No. 86-136-A n at the hearing herein. the variance petitioned for be and the same is hereby DENIED. B 105********** 15aF VALIDATION OR SIGNATURE OF CASHIER County Board of Appeals of Baltimore County Room 200 Court House (Hearing Room #218) CHARLES J. BALIN WHEREFORE, Appellant prays: Towson, Maryland 21204 8312 Liberty Road 3/5/86 - Following were notified of hearing set for The May 2, 1986, at 10 a.m.: Baltimore, Maryland 21207 A. That the decision of the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County (301) 494-3180 Appellant APPEALS be reversed and Appellant be granted a variance permitting a free standing Richard Bolan March 5, 1986 Charles Balint sign in his yard measuring 63 ½ inches by 41 inches. NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT Phyllis Friedman COUNTY BOARD OF APPEALS * BALTIMORE COUNTY B. That this Honorable Court grant such other and further relief as N. Gerber, J. Hoswell OF BALTIMORE COUNTY Arnold Jablon, J. Jung, J. Dyer NO POSTPONEMENTS WILL BE GRANTED WITHOUT GOOD AND SUFFICIENT REASONS. REQUESTS FOR POSTPONEMENTS MUST BE IN WRITING AND IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD RULE 2(b). ABSOLUTELY NO POSTPONEMENTS WILL BE GRANTED WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS OF SCHEDULED HEARING DATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 2(c), COUNTY COUNCIL BILL \$59-79 Room 200, Courthouse BEFORE the nature of the cause may require. Towson, Maryland 21204 THE ZONING COMMISSIONER OF Appellee BALTIMORE COUNTY CASE NO. 86-136-A CHARLES J. BALINT N/s Liberty Rd., 330' NW of c/l of Rolling Rd. (8312 Liberty Rd.) I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this Uxh day of November ORDER FOR APPEAL Please note an Appeal (Pursuant to Maryland Rules B1 through B12) on a copy of the aforegoing Petition on Appeals and the annexed Order thereto were 2nd District behalf of the Appellant, Charles J. Balint, from the Zoning Commissioner of mailed, postage prepaid to Arnold Jablon, Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore Var.-Free standing sign w/spotlights Baltimore County's denial of Variance dated October 15, 1985. County, P.O. Box 6754, Towson, Maryland 21204-0754. 10/15/85 - Z.C.'s Order - DENIED CERTIFICATE OF POSTING ASSIGNED FOR: WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1986, at 10 a.m. 86-136-A CC: Richard T. Bolan, Esq. Counsel for Petitioner Charles J. Balint, Esq. Petitioner Date of Posting 11-25-85 Mary Ginn Protestant Phyllis Friedman Chister J. Balint People's Counsel Location of property: N/S of Luberty Brad, 330' N/N/ of Stilling Ad. (8312 Liberty Brad) Norman Gerber James Hoswell Location of Signe Che front y 8312 Liberty Prad Arnold Jablon Jean Jung James Dyer Date of return: 11-29-55 Number of Signe: LAW OFFICES CHARLES J. BALINT 6912 LIBERTY ROAD CHARLES J. BALINT

CO

