IN RE PETITION FOR VARIANCE 3/8 Velvet Ridge Drive, 82° M of Park Heights Avenue (2317 Velvet Ridge Drive) 3rd Election District 3rd Councilmanic District

· Case No. 94-324-A

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FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAM

This matter comes before the Zoning Commissioner as a Petition for Variance filed by Paul and Susan Bloomberg, owners of the subject property, known as 2317 Velvet Ridge Drive located in the vicinity of Owings Mills in northern Baltimore County. Originally, the Petition was filed through the Administrative Variance process. However, at the request of an adjoining property owner, the matter was scheduled for a public hearing to determine the appropriateness of the relief requested. The Petitioners seek a variance from Section 1A04.3.B.5 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (B.C.Z.R.) (Section 202.3 of R.D.P.) to permit a side yard setback of 5 feet in lieu of the required 20 feet for a proposed garage. The subject property and relief sought are more particularly described on the plan submitted into evidence as Petitioner's Exhibit 1.

Bloomberg, property owners, and their attorney, Michael L. Schwartz, Esquire, Bernard Semon, Expert Real Estate Appraiser, and Dave Bichter Builder. Appearing as Protestants in the matter were Paul Trinkoff, the adjoining property owner who requested a public hearing, Pacey A. Oletsky, another adjoining property owner, and Margaret Morrall, Executive Director of the Valleys Planning Council. Mr. Trinkoff was represented by Newton A. Williams, Esquire. Additionally, there were a number of letters re-

Appearing on behalf of the Petition were Paul and Susan

ceived both in support of and in opposition to the Petitioners' reques which have been entered into the record in the case file.

Testimony and evidence offered revealed that the subject property consists of 1.2871 acres, more or less, zoned R.C. 5 and is improved with a single family dwelling and attached garage. It is to be noted that the subject dwelling is long and rectangular in shape and lies across the width of the lot. This property is located in the Velvet Ridge community, not far from Park Heights Avenue. Although it is in close proximity to the Baltimore Beltway, this is an upper-class community of large homes on large lots. The garage is proposed to be located on that side of the dwelling immediately adjacent to the Trinkoff property. The Petitioners are desirous of constructing a 15' x 33' addition to the existing garage in accordance with Petitioner's Exhibit 1. As shown on the site plan, the evisting dwelling is located 20 feet from the side property line on the side proposed for the garage addition. Under the old R-40 zoning which was in effect when the community was developed, a 20-foot setback was required however, under the present R.C. 5 regulations, a setback of 50 feet is required. Mr. Bloomberg testified that the proposed addition is needed t provide additional storage age space for household items as well as safe storage for an antique automobile. Testimony indicated that the dwelling originally belonged to Mr. Bloomberg's parents and that it lacks suffi cient storage space for him and his family. The proposed garage will be the same color and design as the existing dwelling and will have one win

- 2-

August 18, 1996

dow which will be compatible. Mr. Bloomberg testified that the building

the plane created by the front foundation line of the deelling.

relope will not extend further towards the front of the property than

Purther testimony revealed that Mr. Bloomberg considered other options, including closing off the existing garage to make it a room and adding a garage to the front of the dwelling but did not want to lose existing trees. Also there are existing wetlands in the front yard which would cause problems. He then considered placing a garage in the rear yard, however, there is not enough room to maneuver cars around the mide

the proposed location appeared to be the best compromise

David Richter, the Builder, reiterated the other options discussed Bloomberg and indicated that in his opinion, the proposed location was the best and most practical site for the addition.

of the house. Testimony indicated that there are also dry wells in the

rear yard. Mr. Bloomberg testified that due to these site constraints,

Bernard Semon, Real Estate Appraisar, appeared and testified or behalf of the Petitioners. Mr. Semon testified that he studied this commu nity to determine the impact of the proposed development on surrounding properties. He noted that the subject dwelling is set back from the road and as a result, he does not believe the proposed garage would result in any detriment to the adjoining properties. It was his opinion that the proposed garage addition will not result in any loss in property values and that additional landscaping and buffering could reduce any impact the proposed improvements might have on adjoining properties

Ms. Pacey Oletsky appeared and testified in opposition to the relief requested. Ms. Oletsky testified that ulthough there are some houses in this community that are close together, most of the 60 to 80 homes in this subdivision are far spart and she is opposed to the requested vertence

In opposition, Mr. Trinkoff testified that he has the same site constraints as the Petitioners and does not believe that the requested variance is necessary. He likes the woods and privacy between his home and the subject dwelling and believes that the requested variance is out of character. He voiced concerns over loss of property value, use and enjoyment of his property, and aesthetics, and believes that there are other ways the garage can be added without the requested variance.

Margaret Morrall, Executive Director of the Valleys Planning also appeared and testified in opposition. She concurred with the testimony of Mr. Trinkoff and testified that the Valleys Planning Council believes there are other alternatives to granting this variance without compromising the integrity o' this community.

Under the B.C.Z.R. there are three standards for the granting of variances pursuant to Section 307. First, the Petitioner must show that practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship would result if the relief requested were denied. Secondly, a variance can only be granted if same will not be detrimental to the surrounding locale; and, third, the variance request must be compatible with the spirit and intent of the B.C.Z.R.

As to the first standard, I believe the Petitioners have met the practical difficulty test. I am persuaded by the testimony presented by Mr. Bloomberg that it would be difficult to place the proposed garage at either the front or rear of the existing dwelling. In sum, I believe that the configuration of the lot, the placement of the existing dwelling and the features of the site constitute factors which meet the practical difficulty test. As to the second standard, i.e, whether there would be a detrimental impact upon the surrounding locale, clearly the. would be no adverse impact upon the neighborhood as a whole. This is a community of

- 4-

large homes on substantial lots. The subject dwelling is significantly set back from the road on a treed lot. It is possible that additional landscaping and buffering along the property line adjoining the Trinkoff lot would alleviate any adverse effects upon that property. Therefore, with additional landscaping, this standard could be met. The third standard requires that the variance be consistent with the spirit and intent of the B.C.Z.R. Unfortunately for the Petitioner, this test is not matis-As noted earlier, when the community was originally plotted, the old regulations required a 20-foot setback. The current R.C. 5 zoning of the property requires th. a 50-foot setback be maintained. This change in setback requirements indicates the County Council's intention to provide greater distances between R.C. 5 zoned properties. For this reason, I

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and public hearing on this Petition held, and for the reasons given above, the raliaf remested should be denied

believe that the requested relief is not within the spirit and intent of

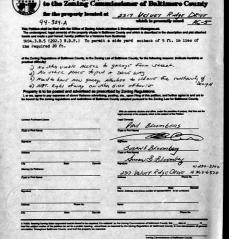
THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED by the Zoning Commissioner for Baltimore County this 18 bedge of August, 1994 that the Petition for Variance seeking relief from Section 1A04.3.B.5 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (B.C.E.P.) (Section 202.3 of R.D.P.) to permit a side yard setback of 5 feet in lieu of the required 20 feet for a proposed garage, in accordance with Petitioner's Exhibit 1, be and is hereby DENTED

- 5-

TAMENTE E. SCHILDT Zoning Commission

Enclosed please find a copy of the decision rendered in the bove-captioned matter. The Petition for Variance has been denied in coordance with the attached Order. In the event any party finds the decision rendered is unfavorable, any party may file an appeal to the County Board of Appeals within thirty [30] days of the date of this Green. For further information on filing an appeal, please contact the Zoning Administration and Development Management Office at 807-339; Very truly yours, Somma Shut ENCE. E. SCHNIDT LES>:bis cc: Mewton A. Williams, Esquire
210 M. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 700, Towson, Md. 21204 Mr. Paul Trinkoff, 2319 Velvet Ridge Drive, Owings Mills, Md. 21117 Ms. Pacey Oletaky, 2321 Velvet Ridge Drive, Owings Mills, Md. 21117 Ms. Margaret Morrell, Executive Director, Vaileys Planning Council, P.O. Box 5402, Towson, Hd. 21285 People's Counsel; Fixe

RE: PETITION FOR VALIANCE.
ASS VALVE LEAST Dates, 87° W of Park Heights Avenue
(2317 Valvet Ridge Drive)
128 Rection District - 3rd C-uncilmanic District
Paul Bloomberg, et ux - Petitioners
Case No. 34-334-4



Petition for Administrative Variance

Affidavit in support of Administrative Variance That the Affans (s) deceases presently reside at 2317 ValueT Ridge Daive Davings Mills Ad. That based upon personal knowledge, the following are the f) No other windle Access to gauge from street 2) No other place to put a dave way 3) had to AHAL A NEW grage to old one for continuity of Desgro +) ATET Right of way on other Sion of house I HUMBERY CHRISTY, the 17th day of February 1844 Court Manager States (County informate) personally appeared to the Court of the Cou rily identified to me as such Afficati(s), and made cuth in due form of Minner 2/17/94 - CLAL on Depires 3/5/95

LES:bis

the B.C.Z.R. and must therefore be dealed

(410) 887-4386

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Suite 112 Courthouse 400 Washington Avenu Towson, MD 21204

Michael L. Schwartz, Esquire 8850 Stanford Boulevard, Suite 2600 Columbia, Maryland 21045

* - R.Ti - 2/22/94 & ---

mus. 325

335

EXAMPLE 3 - Zoning Description - 3 copies 94-324-A

Three copies are required. Copies of deeds cannot be used in place of this description. Use this fill-in format provided whenever possible; otherwise, type or print on 8-1/2" x 11" sheet.

ZONING DESCRIPTION FOR	2317	VEIVET	RIDGE	Dewe
Election District 03		Councilno	Laddr	ess) _

Reginning at a point on the South side of (north, south, east or west) VENUET Ridgs Deve which is 50 (street on which property (ronts) (number of feet of right-of way width)

wide at a distance of S75 t WEST of the (number of feet) (north, south, east or west) centerline of the nearest improved intersecting street __ PAKE HEIGHTS AVENUE

which is 50 (number of feet of right-of-way width) wide. Being Lot • 9 Block $\underline{\beta}$, Section * \underline{Z} in the subdivision of

Section Two VENET Raige as recorded in Baltimore County Plat Book * OT9 #33 , Folio : 35 , containing

56,068 Sy ##. 1.287/ Acres ITEM# 325

"If your property is not recorded by Plat Book and Folio Number, then Do NOT attempt to use the Lot, Block and Subdivision learcrition as shown, instead state: "As recorded in Deed Liber ..., Folio ..." and include the measurements and directions fostes and bounds only) here and on the plat in the

Example of motes and bounds: N.87 12' 13" E. 321.1 ft., S.18 27' 03" F.87.2 ft. S.62 19' 00" W. 318 ft., and N.08 15' 22" W. 80 ft. to the place of beginning.

3-4 3/9/9 Peel + Susan Bloomby - Trong readway on preparty busy 2000 d 3/11/19

receipt 325 m 2/22/94 # 2817 VELVET FIDGE DR NO- VARIANCE - \$ 50,00 091 - SIGN - #35= TOTAL - \$ 85 =

R. COLGISC Requier too HEARING \$40,00

REQUEST FOR HEARING

mentances 24-324-A
mentances Variable Headers
2017 Valvet Radge D

Paul D. Trickett/ Alum M. Tombett 2319 Valvet Rile - Drive

Orning Hills, Wd 21117 363-1811 which is located approximately ______ feet from the request that a public hearing be set in this matter.

lel D.56/1 3/10/94

Baltimore County Governm-Office of Zoning Administra

94-224-A DUE DATE: CLOSING DATE OF HEARING DATE

Paul and Susan Bloomberg 2317 Velvet Ridge Drive Owings Mills, Maryland 21117

111 West Chesapeake Towson, MD 21204

CASE MUNISER/PROJECT NAME: 94-324-A

(1) Zoning Motice Sign and Post Set(s) @ \$60.00/set = \$60.00 Due*

(In lieu of payment, we ask that you make use of the following waiver)

CASE HUMBER/PROJECT HAME: 94-324-A Returned _____ Zoning Notice Sign and Post Set(a).

for ZADN

*Amount Due weived upon return of the COMPLETE sign and post set(s).

When you return same, bring this form with you.

0

The looking Commissioner of Baltimere County, by authority of the Smalog let and Sepulations of Baltimere County, will look a public bearing on the preparty industrial feed bearing to Soon 156 of the County of Office Baltimere 118. Commands some in Sourae, Septend 2004 of the County of County of

CASE MERGE: 94-204-6 (Nom 325)
2017 Foliest Ridge Rose,
3/5 Walvet Ridge Rose, 875' from c/l Fort Heights Sevens
3/4 Election Obstrict - 3rd Councilmanic
Futtlemen(s): Foul Sizoshery and Souse S. Nicoshery
MERGERITHEMEN, SWEIZ 2, 1998 of 1100 a.m., No. 118 Old Courthouse.

Pariance to permit a mide yeard methods of 5 feet in lieu of the required 20 feet.

LABORICE E. SCHOOL CONTRO CORRESSIONER FOR MALTINERE COUNTY

HOTES: (1) HEARINGS ARE NAMESCAPPED ROCESSIERS; FOR SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS PLEASE CALL 607-3383.

(2) FOR IMPORTATION CONCURRENCE THE FILL MENORS REGALIN, PLEASE CALL 607-3391.

111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204 NACE 24, 1994

Dunber of Signer __

(410) 887-3353

820028011761080E

NOTICE OF HEARING

The loning Commissioner of Bulliance County, by authority of the Emning hat and Sepalations of Smillance County, will shall a public bearing on the property identified herein in Soun 106 of the County office Smillation, 111 S. Champaine Serves to Sween, Smilland 2004 County County

CAST MINERS \$4-124-5 (Time 325) CASE NUMBERS 34-234-5 (Then Stri)
2217 Palvet Hidge Erics
2/5 Selvet Hidge Stads, 675' from c/1 Fack Heights Sweeze
2/6 Selvetion Sistrict: "246 Conscriments
Petitioner(e): Then Michaelery and Bases 8. Boundary
MERITER(TRESCORY, SPIEZ 27, 1994 et 11:00 a.m., No. 138 Old Constituents

feriesce to servit a side ward setback of 5 feet in lies of the required 20 feet

111 West Chesspeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204

March 17, 1994

Mr. and Mrs. Bloomberg 2317 Velvet Ridge Drive Owings Hills, Maryland 21117

RE: Case No. 94-324-A, Item No. 325 Petitioner: Faul Blocaberg, et ux. Petition for Administrative Variance

The Social Plans Adoptory Committee (IMC) has reviewed the plans admitted with the above refressed pattion. The attended commute from each reviewing space; are not intended to indicate the appropriateness of the soning action respected, but to assure that all parties, i.e., soming commissioner, attorney soffer the pattitioner, are made seare of plans or expect to the proposed improvements that may have a hearing on this case.

Exclosed are all comments scientised than far from the numbers of EAC that offer or request information on your partition. If additional comments are resolved from other making of EAC that the comments of t

The following comments are related only to the filing of future going switting and are sized at expediting the petition filing process with this office.

The director of Soning Administration and Development Encapasars has instituted a system whereby executed soning attempts the system of the state of the system of the system of the all aspects of the soning regulations and puttiess filling requirements can file their patitions with this office without the secosatity of prolinknary review by soning personnel.

BALTIMORE COUNTY. MARYLAND
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Arnold Jablon, Director DATE: March 14, 1994 Zoning Administration and Development Management

FROM Cobert W. Bowling, F.E., Chief evelopers Engineering Section

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting for March 14, 1994 Item No. 325

The Developers Engineering Section has reviewed the subject soning item. An existing 20-foot desimage and utility camerat runs along the west property line of lot #9, which storm devile seasonate beyond the property line. A 27-inch atorm devile was seasonated beyond the property line. A 27-inch atorm devile was seasonated by the property line. A 27-inch atorm devile was seasonated by the property line. A 27-inch atorm devile was seasonated by the property line. A 27-inch atorm devile was seasonated by the property line. A 27-inch atorm developed was seasonated by the property line of the property line. A 27-inch atorm developed was a set when the property line is a season at large season at large line in the property line of the prope

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O. James Lighthize

Hal Kassoft

3-1-94

Baltimore County

Maryland Relay Service for Impaired Hearing or Speech 1-809-735-2258 Statewide Toll Free

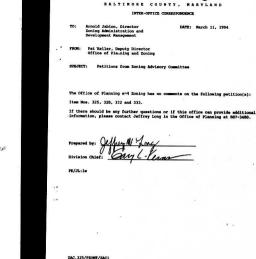
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 717 - Baltimore, MD 21203-0717 Street Address: 707 North Calvert Street - Baltimore, Maryland 21202

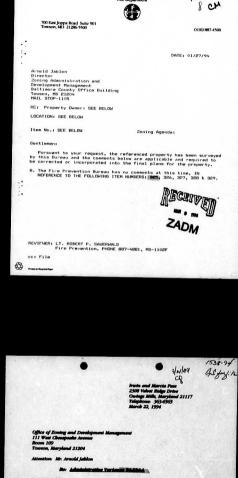
94-324-A

NOTICE OF CHEE PARKET RESERVE

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT ON THE DATE AFTER THE POSTING PERIOD, THE PROCESS IS NOT COMPLETE. THE FILE RUIST OO THROUGH FIRM, REVIEW. ORDERS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION VIA PICK-UP. MEEN READY, THE ORDER WILL SE FORMERED TO YOU VIA PIRST CLASS WALL.

Item No.: A 325 (ET)





3/9/44

TO WIL

111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204

Paul and Susan Bloomberg 2317 Velvelt Ridge Drive Owings Milis, Maryland 21117

Re: Case Number: 94-324-A

Dear Petitioners:

Very truly yours,

(410) 887-3353

MARCH 18, 1994

A formal REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING has been filed in your case. Formal notification of the hearing date will be forwarded to you shortly.

As you recall, it now becomes necessary to repost the property and run notice of the hearing in a mesapaper of general circulation. This office will ensure that the legal requirements for posting and advertising are astisifed; the policy change will effect to whom and when these fees are paid.

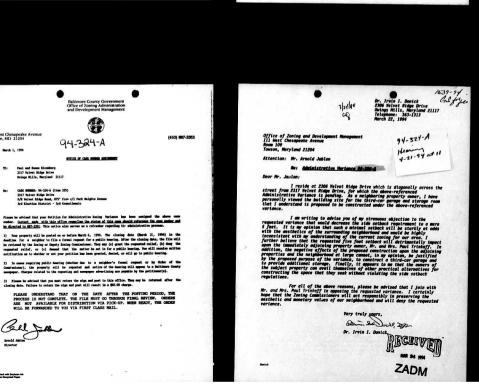
Posting charges in the amount of \$ 35.00 are now due. Your check in this amount should be made payable to "Baltimore County, Maryland" and immediately mailed to this office.

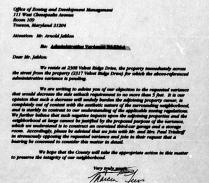
Billing for legal advertising, due upon receipt, will come from and should be remitted <u>directly</u> to the newspaper.

Please be further advised that non-payment of fees will stay the issuance of the Zoning Commissioner's Order. If you have any questions concerning this letter, you may contact Gwen Stephens at 887-3391.

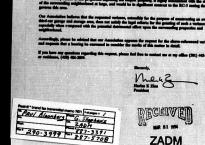
VELVET VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, INC. 10608 PARK HERCHTS AVERS IN

OWINGS MILLS, MARYLAND 21117





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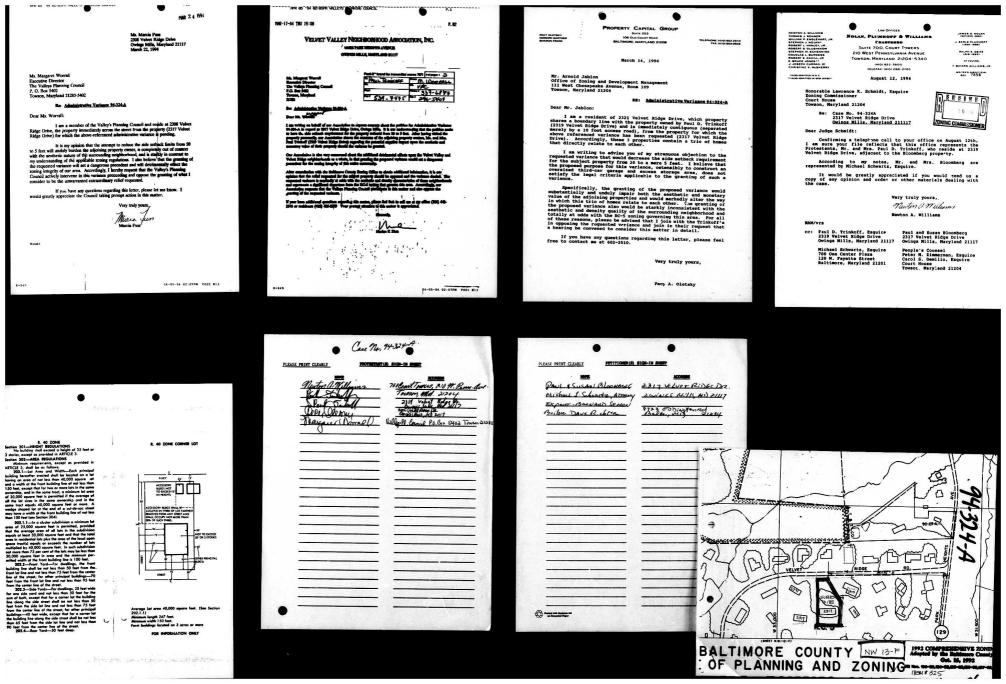


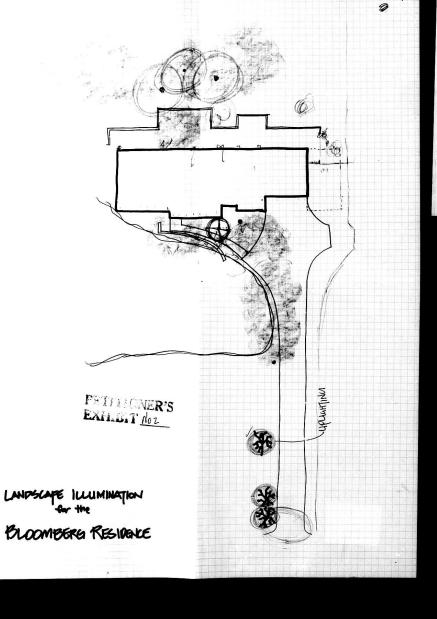
111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204

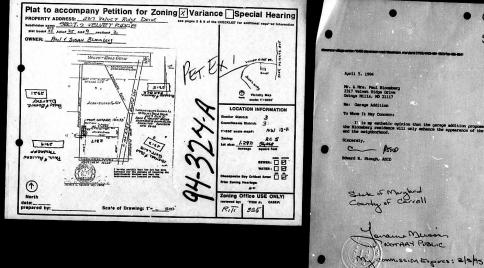
Paul and Summ Bloomberg 2317 Velvet Ridge Drive Owings Hills, Maryland 21117

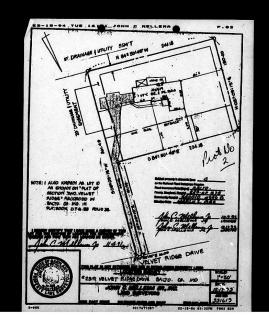
CASE MEMBER: 94-324-8 (Item 325) 2317 Valvet Ridge Strive 5/8 Valvet Ridge Rond, 875° from c/l Part Malghta Avenue Ard Election District - 3rd Commitments

Barch 1, 1994











April 20, 1994

eawardstough

Soning Board of Baltimore County 400 Washington Avenue Towson, ND 21204

RE: Variance Application Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bloomberg 2317 Volvet Ridge Drive Owings Mills, MD 21117

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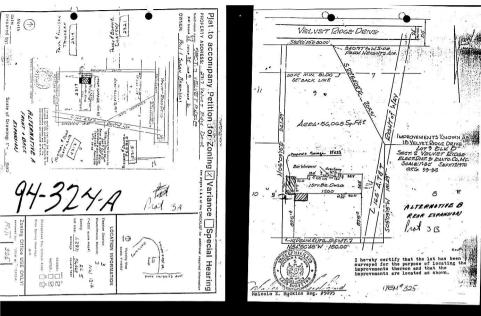
Due to an unexpected medical emergency, I am unable to atte the bearing variance hearing scheduled for April 21, 1994 relatito tealing variance hearing scheduled for April 21, 1994 relatito tealing the second scheduled to the satisface. Mr. sed form. Bloomberg have been scoolists neighbor participancy in how no run property. In Impaccable condition

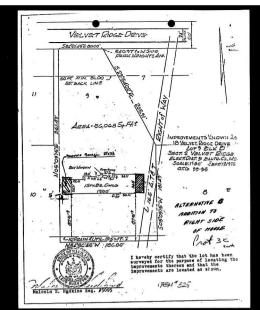
uild detract from the value of residences in the neighborhood.

I would be pleased to appear in person in automatical in the residences in the residences in the residences in the residence of the value of the valu

Sincerely,
Souther Leiber

PA NO8





Doctor and Mrs. Jerbert Gottlieb 2327 Velvet Ridge Drive Owings Mills, Maryland 21107 Tel.: (410) 363-3644 April 19, 1994

Office of Zoning and Development Management 111 West Chemapeake Avenue Room 109 Towson, Maryland 21204

Attention: Mr. Arnold Jablon

Re: Administrative Variance No. 94-324h

Dear Mr. Jablon

is severally husband and I live at 2227 Velvet Ridge Drive which is several masses resoved from the property for which the above-reference from the property for which the above-reference from the velvet quarted. I am also a frequent stroller through the Velvet quarted. I am also a new property of the velvet of the velvet quarted from the ve

that it his you were to visit this neighborhood, you would note that it his you were to visit this neighborhood, you would note specious a samy special characteristics. This is an area of specious as any special characteristics. This neighborhood has a studed on large, mostly wooded though it is only 3 siles outside the beltway—as feel solo, even though it is only 3 siles outside the beltway—as feel solo, the control of th

to show the second seco

THE VALLEYS PLANNING COUNCIL, INC. 212 Washington P.O. Box 5402 Towner Maryland 21285-5402

April 21. 1994

Mr. Lawrence Schmidt Zoning Commissioner 400 Washington Avenue Tow on, MD 21204

Re: Case No. 94-324-A (Item 325) 2317 Velvet Ridge Drive

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

On behalf of The Valleys Planning Council, I wish to support the concerns of our members on Velvet Ridge Drive and the Velvet Valley Neighborhood Association, Inc., with regard to the request for a veriance at 2317 Velvet Ridge Drive.

It is our understanding that the petitioners seek a reduction in the side setback from the required 20° to 5° .

We believe that there are alternatives to the placement of the garage which the petitioners wish to build, and that the granting of such a variance would be incompatible with the neighboring properties and set a poor precedent for the integrity of the

We oppose the granting of this variance and, respectfully, request that you deny the petition.

Thank you.

Sincerely. Margardt Worrall Executive Director











