



Department of Permits and Development Management

Development Processing County Office Building 111 W. Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204



Baltimore County

James T. Smith, Jr., County Executive Timothy M. Kotroco, Director

October 15, 2003

Frank J. Pollock 274 Montrose Avenue Baltimore, MD 21221

Dear Mr. Pollock:

RE: Verification-Dog Grooming Facility/Case # 02-323-SPH, Frank J. Pollock t/a Bark "N" Bubbles, 810A Back River Neck Road (fka 838 Back River Neck Road), Baltimore, MD 21221, 15th Election District

Your recent letter to Councilman Bartenfelder was forwarded to me for reply. Based on the information provided therein, my review of the available zoning records and after consultation with Zoning Commissioner Lawrence E. Schmidt and Zoning Review Supervisor Carl Richards, the following has been determined:

- A petition for special hearing under Case # 02-323-SPH requested approval to continue a dog grooming facility use pursuant to Section 500.7 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR).
- 2. The subject petition did not reference Section 103.1 (BCZR) nor Section 103.1.B of the Zoning Commissioner's Policy Manual (ZCPM) that set the standards for "Grandfathering in the ML Zone" (see enclosed standards). Therefore, relief was not requested pursuant to those sections. Thus, Section 103.1 (BCZR) and Section 103.1.B (ZCPM) were not considered by the Zoning Commissioner prior to his decision in the above referenced case.
- 3. Upon further review of the subject property's history, it was discovered that retail uses did occur on the site prior to 1970 (see attached permit plan from 1968), which would permit a dog grooming facility on the subject property pursuant to those sections as referenced above.
- 4. To document the property for approval under the grandfathering sections of the BCZR and ZCPM, a "Grandfathering in the ML Zone" plan for the subject property must be submitted for approval by this office prior to any use approvals. The grandfathering plan details must show a history of the subject property, including the 1968 permit information that confirms retail uses, a verbatim copy of the order in Case # 02-323-SPH and a verbatim copy of this response letter. Due to the complicated nature of this type of review/approval, it is highly recommended that your engineer or surveyor review the microfilm file of "Grandfathering in the ML" plans that were previously approved by this office. If our review confirms compliance with the grandfathering sections, then the use of the property for a dog grooming facility would be approved as being in compliance with the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR).
- 5. To eliminate any confusion or misconceptions regarding the approval, the "Grandfathering in the ML Zone" plan, if approved, will be made a permanent part of the zoning file in Case # 02-323-SPH and made part of the aforementioned microfilm file that is maintained for all grandfathered properties.



6. This response applies to the zoning regulations (BCZR) and policies (ZCPM) only, and does not apply to regulations enforced by other County and State regulations agencies.

I trust that the information set forth in this letter is sufficiently detailed and responsive to the request. If you need further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-887-3391.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey N. Perlow Planner II

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Zoning Review

JNP

Enclosures

c: Councilman Joseph Bartenfelder, Sixth District Zoning Hearing File 02-323-SPH File-Verification Letters
File-Grandfathering in the ML

Section 103 Application of Zoning Regulations [BCZR 1955]

103.1

These regulations shall apply as of the date of their adoption but the provisions pertaining to use, height, area and density of population shall not apply to any development, subdivision or parcel of land, the preliminary plan for which was originally submitted to the (then) Baltimore County Planning Commission (now Planning Board) and approved or tentatively approved (including any approval made subject to any condition or conditions) under the then existing official procedure in Baltimore County, prior to the adoption of these regulations.⁵ The Zoning Regulations applicable to any such development, subdivision or parcel of land as aforesaid shall be the Zoning Regulations in effect at the time such plan, as aforesaid, was originally submitted to the Baltimore County Planning Commission.

Provided further, however, that the use and development of land in M.L. Zones shall not be affected by the foregoing provision, but development is permitted in accordance with any preliminary development plan approved by the Office of Planning before the effective date of this further proviso, even though such development may be counter to then-current regulations for M.L. Zones, if, on the fifth anniversary of such effective date, construction either is completed or is substantially commenced and diligently being pursued to completion; otherwise, the regulations generally in effect at the time such use or development is to be established shall control. [Resolution, November 21, 1956; Bill No. 100-1970]

⁶ Editor's Note: M.L. Grandfather Clause. This provision (second paragraph) was added by Bill No. 100-1970, which provided (Section 20) that "any amendments herein...shall be effective only upon the adoption by the County Council of any new Zoning Maps on or before March 31, 1971." The subsequent Zoning Maps were passed by the County Council on March 24, 1971. However, the bill also states (Section 21) that "this act shall take effect forty-five days after its enactment." The bill was enacted on August 5, 1970, and the forty-fifth day thereafter was September 19, 1970.

103.1.B GRANDFATHERING IN M.L. zone shall be determined in a case by case review.

- Background: When Bill 100 was adopted in 1970, it established a separate category of 'grandfathering' under Section 103.1. It is somewhat akin to the nonconforming use concept in Section 104, but clearly different in both scope and implementation. The two concepts (nonconforming uses and grandfathering) are very different and this policy statement establishes the proper form of review for this unusual concept.
- 2. Eligibility: The specific intent of Section 103.1 was to grandfather the B.L., B.R., & B.M. uses allowed under the then Section 253.1 (1963 edition B.C.Z.R.). The right to use property in the M.L. zones for these commercial uses permitted in the M.L. zone prior to its amendment by Bill 100 is contingent on the applicant providing documentation of either of the following:

a. that said use existed prior to September 19, 1970; or

- b. a preliminary development plan was approved by the Office of Planning and Zoning for commercial use before September 19, 1970; and that construction either was completed or was substantially commenced and diligently being pursued to completion prior to September 19, 1975.
- c. The determination of eligibility for a grandfathered use may be subject to a special hearing at the discretion of the Zoning Commissioner.
- Conditions: If the eligibility criteria above is met theapplicant may as either of the following:
 - a. Expansion of Existing Use ~ if the same exact use is to remain and is to be intensified, no floor area restrictions as long as the parking requirements in effect at the time of expansion can be mot; or
 - b. Conversion to a New Use if the use is to be changed and/or converted the property is subject to the following:
 - c. Uses Allowed all the uses allowed as of right inthe B.L., B.M., & B.R. zones except, but not necessarily limited to, the following:
 - -Amusement Devices
 - -Duplicating Service Business
 - -Fortune Telling Establishment
 - -Temporary or Occasional Sales of Cut Flowers or Live Plants (these were not permitted uses in B.L., B.M., B.R. zones as

of the effective date of Bill 100)

- d. Floor Area Expansion all new construction of either separate buildings or additions must be incidental to the gross floor area of the building(s) which had County approval as of September 19, 1970. The determination of what is considered incidential may be subject to a special hearing at the discretion of the Zoning Commissioner.
- e. Parking Requirements when a change of use is proposed, the entire site must meet the parking requirements of Section 409 as they exist at the time of conversion.
- 4. <u>Interpretation:</u> The Zoning Commissioner retains the right under Section 500.6 B.C.Z.R. to interpret whether the spirit and intent ofthese regulations are being adhered to on a case by case basis; ie, (if a Drive-In which is a grandfathered M.L. wanted to convert to a shopping center, this may be more than this office could approve).

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