

KEVIN KAMENETZ County Executive LAWRENCE M. STAHL
Managing Administrative Law Judge
JOHN E. BEVERUNGEN
Administrative Law Judge

November 7, 2012

Stanley S. Fine, Esquire Caroline L. Hecker, Esquire Rosenberg, Martin and Greenberg, LLP 25 South Charles Street, 21st Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21201

RE: Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance

Case No.: 2013-0043-SPHA Property: 1472 Martin Boulevard

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed please find a copy of the decision rendered in the above-captioned matter.

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 Order. For further information on filing an appeal, please contact the Office of Administrative Hearings at 410-887-3868.

Sincerely,

JOHNE. BEVERUNGEN Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

JEB:dlw Enclosure RE: PETITION FOR SPECIAL HEARING *
AND VARIANCE
1472 Martin Boulevard; N/S Martin Boulevard*
At NW corner of Middle River Road
15th Election & 6th Councilmanic Districts *
Legal Owner(s): Martin Financial Associated
Ltd Partnership *

Contract Purchaser(s): McDonald's USA, LLC
Petitioner(s)

BEFORE THE OFFICE

OF ADMINSTRATIVE

HEARINGS FOR

BALTIMORE COUNTY

2013-043-SPHA

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

Pursuant to Baltimore County Charter § 524.1, please enter the appearance of People's Counsel for Baltimore County as an interested party in the above-captioned matter. Notice should be sent of any hearing dates or other proceedings in this matter and the passage of any preliminary or final Order. All parties should copy People's Counsel on all correspondence sent and all documentation filed in the case.

RECEIVED

SEP 13 2012

PETER MAX ZIMMERMAN
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

Peter Max Zummerman

Cook & Dente

CAROLE S. DEMILIO Deputy People's Counsel Jefferson Building, Room 204 105 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204 (410) 887-2188

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 13th day of September, 2012, a copy of the foregoing Entry of Appearance was mailed to Lee May, Area Construction Manager, 6930 Rockledge Drive, Suite 1100, Bethesda, MD 20817 and Stanley Fine, Esquire, 25 S. Charles Street, 21st Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201, Attorney for Petitioner(s).

Peter Max Zummerman

PETER MAX ZIMMERMAN
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

IN RE: PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL HEARING *

AND VARIANCE

15th Election District

6th Councilmanic District (1472 Martin Boulevard)

Martin Financial Limited Partnership,

Legal Owners

McDonald's USA, LLC, Lessee

Petitioners

BEFORE THE

OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

Case No. 2013-0043-SPHA

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for consideration of Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance filed by Stanley S. Fine, Esq., on behalf of the legal owners, Martin Financial Associated Limited Partnership, and the lessee, McDonald's USA, LLC ("Petitioners"). The Special Hearing was filed pursuant to § 500.7 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("B.C.Z.R."), to determine whether or not the Administrative Law Judge should approve the retention of a free-standing enterprise sign on the McDonald's pad site of the Martin Plaza Shopping Center. In addition, a Petition for Variance was filed pursuant to § 450.4 Attachment 1.5(b)(v) of the B.C.Z.R., to permit a free-standing enterprise sign having a face of 108.7 square feet in lieu of the required 75 square feet. The subject property and requested relief is more fully depicted on the site plan that was marked and accepted into evidence as Petitioners' Exhibit 1.

Appearing at the public hearing in support of the requests was Lee May with McDonald's Corporation, and Iwona Rostek-Zarska with Baltimore Land Design Group, Inc., the consulting firm that prepared the site plan. Stanley S. Fine, Esquire and Caroline Hecker, Esquire, both with Rosenberg, Martin and Greenberg, LLP, appeared and represented the Petitioners. The file reveals that the Petition was properly advertised and the site was properly posted as required by

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the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations. There were no Protestants in attendance, and the file does not contain any letters of protest or opposition.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received and are made part of the record of this case. A ZAC comment was received from the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS) on October 2, 2012, which indicates development of this property must comply with the Forest Conservation Regulations (§§ 33-6-101 through §§ 33-6-122) of the Baltimore County Code (B.C.C.).

The subject property is 4,372 square feet and is zoned BM-CCC. The property is improved with a McDonald's restaurant, which was recently reconstructed and modernized in appearance and environmental features. This case, like others recently, was necessitated by the sign abatement provisions of B.C.Z.R., which require the Petitioners to obtain variance relief in order to retain their existing freestanding enterprise sign. The sign will largely remain "as is," although (depending on whether covenants in the shopping center lease agreement prohibit such signs) the Petitioners propose to replace the existing "reader board" with an electronic reader board similar to that used in other McDonald's restaurants in the area. In addition, the new reader board (whether of the basic or electronic variety) will be positioned within one foot of the enterprise sign with the familiar McDonald's "arches," while at present there is 3 feet of air space between the signs.

Based on the evidence presented, I find that the variance can be granted in such a manner as to meet the requirements of Section 307 of the B.C.Z.R., as established in *Cromwell v. Ward*, 102 Md. App. 691 (1995). I find special circumstances or conditions exist that are peculiar to the land or structure which is the subject of the variance request. Indeed, the property is uniquely shaped, and though it has frontage on both Martin Boulevard and Middle River Road, it is

ORDER RECEIVED FOR FILING

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accessible from neither of these thoroughfares. Rather, patrons must enter through the shopping plaza entrance, which creates the need for the larger sign to steer customers in the right direction. I also find that strict compliance with the B.C.Z.R. would result in practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship, given that Petitioners would need to dismantle a sign that has been in place without complaint for over 30 years. Finally, I find that the variance can be granted in harmony with the spirit and intent of the B.C.Z.R., and in such manner as to grant relief without injury to the public health, safety, and general welfare. This is demonstrated by the absence of opposition from the community and County reviewing agencies.

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and public hearing, and after considering the testimony and evidence offered, I find that Petitioners' Special Hearing and Variance requests should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this 7th day of November, 2012, by this Administrative Law Judge, that Petitioners' request for Special Hearing filed pursuant to § 500.7 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("B.C.Z.R."), to approve the retention of a free-standing enterprise sign on the McDonald's pad site of the Martin Plaza Shopping Center, be and is hereby GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioners' Variance request from § 450.4 Attachment 1.5(b)(v) of the B.C.Z.R., to permit a free-standing enterprise sign having a face of 108.7 square feet in lieu of the required 75 square feet, be and is hereby GRANTED.

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

 Petitioners may apply for their appropriate permits and be granted same upon receipt of this Order; however, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until such time as the 30-day appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, Petitioners would be required to return, and be responsible for returning, said property to its original condition.

ORDER RECEIVED FOR FILING

Date______

Any appeal of this decision must be made within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

JEB/dlw

JOHN E. BEVERUNGEN Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

ORDER	RECEIV	VED	FOR	FILING
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Date 11-7-12

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PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

To be filed with the Departm To the Office of Administrative Law	
Address 1472 Martin Boulevard	which is presently zoned BM-CCC
Deed References: 5485/742 & 6705/241	10 Digit Tax Account # 2400011796
Property Owner(s) Printed Name(s) Martin Fina	ancial Associated Limited Partnership
(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING \underline{X} AT THE APPRO	PRIATE SELECTION AND PRINT OR TYPE THE PETITION REQUEST)
	in Baltimore County and which is described in the description hade a part hereof, hereby petition for:
or not the Zoning Commissioner should approve the rete	ning Regulations of Baltimore County, to determine whether tention of a free-standing enterprise sign on the McDonald's pad site Martin Plaza Shopping Center
a Special Exception under the Zoning Regulation	ns of Baltimore County to use the herein described property for
450. 4 Attachment 1.5 (b) (V)	VZ
	(v) to permit a free-standing enterprise sign having a face of 108.7
	e zoning law of Baltimore County, for the following reasons:
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DESCRIPTION TO ACCOMPANY PETITION
FOR ZONING VARIANCES
1472 MARTIN BOULEVARD
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
15TH ELECTION DISTRICT; 6TH COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT

August 15, 2012

Beginning at the point located on the north side of Martin Boulevard having a 150 feet width of the right-of-way, said point being located westerly 100 feet, more or less, from the intersection of centerlines of Martin Boulevard with Middle River Road, thence running the following courses and distances:

- 1. Along the curve to the right having a radius of 5,654.60 feet, 223.46 feet, thence,
- 2. North 01° 22' 26" West, 185.01 feet; thence,
- 3. Along the curve to the left having a radius of 5,469.60 feet, 201.69 feet; thence,
- 4. South 28° 24' 28" East, 56.99 feet; thence,
- 5. Along the curve to the right having a radius of 455.00 feet, 56.62 feet; thence,
- 6. Along the curve to the right having a radius of 70.00 feet, 92.73 feet; to the point of beginning.

Containing 43,680 square feet or 1.003 acres, more or less.

This description is intended for zoning purposes only and shall not be used for conveyance of land.



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FOR ZONING VARIANCES
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- 5. Along the curve to the right having a radius of 455.00 feet, 56.62 feet; thence,
- 6. Along the curve to the right having a radius of 70.00 feet, 92.73 feet; to the point of beginning.

Containing 43,680 square feet or 1.003 acres, more or less.

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DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

The <u>Baltimore County Zoning Regulations</u> (BCZR) require that notice be given to the general public/neighboring property owners relative to property which is the subject of an upcoming zoning hearing. <u>For those petitions which require a public hearing</u>, this notice is accomplished by posting a sign on the property (responsibility of the petitioner) and placement of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County, both at least fifteen (15) days before the hearing.

Zoning Review will ensure that the legal requirements for advertising are satisfied. However, the petitioner is responsible for the costs associated with these requirements. The newspaper will bill the person listed below for the advertising. This advertising is due upon receipt and should be remitted directly to the newspaper.

OPINIONS MAY NOT BE ISSUED UNTIL ALL ADVERTISING COSTS ARE PAID.

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CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

	NL. Case No	19-0049-31 HA
	Petitioner: <u>Lee N</u>	May, McDonald's Corporation
	Hearing / Closing D	Date: 10/26/12
Baltimore County Depart	ment of	
Permits and Developmen	t Management	
Room 111, County Office	Building	
111 W. Chesapeake Ave.		
Towson, Md. 21204		
1	472 Martin Boulevard on	10/6/12
	Sincere	ely,
		1000000
	11/	Med C H 10/6/17
	R	ichard E. Hoffman
		COC
		ichard E. Hoffman

Certificate of Posting

Case No. 2013-0043-SPHA



1472 Martin Boulevard

(posted 10/6/12)

Richard E. Hoffman

904 Dellwood Drive

Fallston, Md. 21047

(410) 879-3122

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

The Administrative Law Judges of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified herein as follows:

Case: #2013-0043-SPHA

1472 Martin Boulevard

M/s Martin Boulevard at the NW corner of Middle Biver.

N/s Martin Boulevard at the NW corner of Middle River

Road 15th Election District - 6th Councilmanic District Legal Owner(s): Martin Financial Associated Limited

Legal Owner(s): Martin Financial Associated Chinese Partnership Contract Purchaser: McDonald's USA, LLC
Special Hearing to approve the retention of a free-standing enterprise sign on the McDonald's pad site of the Martin Plaza Shopping Center. Variance to permit a free-standing enterprise sign having a face of 108.7 sq. ft. in lieu of the permitted 75 sq. ft.
Hearing: Friday, October 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 205, Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson 21204.

Towson 21204.

ARNOLD JABLON, DIRECTOR OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY NOTES: (1) Hearings are Handicapped Accessible; for special accommodations Please Contact the Administrative Hearings Office at (410) 887-3868.
(2) For Information concerning the File and/or Hearing, Contact the Zoning Review Office at (410) 887-3391.

10/008 October 4



501 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21278

October 4, 2012

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, that the annexed advertisement was published in the following newspaper published in Baltimore County, Maryland, ONE TIME, said publication appearing on October 4, 2012

appea	1111g 011 00t0bc1 4, 2012.
X	The Jeffersonian
	Arbutus Times
	Catonsville Times
	Towson Times
	Owings Mills Times
	NE Booster/Reporter
	North County News
	PATUXENT PUBLISHING COMPANY
	D. C. William

By: Susan Wilkinson

Susan Wilkinson



KEVIN KAMENETZ County Executive.

September 17, 2012

ARNOLD JABLON
Deputy Administrative Officer
Director, Department of Permits,
Approvals & Inspections

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

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CASE NUMBER: 2013-0043-SPHA

1472 Martin Boulevard

N/s Martin Boulevard at the NW corner of Middle River Road

15th Election District – 6th Councilmanic District

Legal Owners: Martin Financial Associated Limited Partnership

Contract Purchaser: McDonald's USA, LLC

<u>Special Hearing</u> to approve the retention of a free-standing enterprise sign on the McDonald's pad site of the Martin Plaza Shopping Center. <u>Variance</u> to permit a free-standing enterprise sign having a face of 108.7 sq. ft. in lieu of the permitted 75 sq. ft.

Hearing: Friday, October 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 205, Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson 21204

Arnold Jablon Director

AJ:kl

C: Stanley Fine, 25 S. Charles St., 21st Fl., Baltimore 21201 Lee May, 6903 Rockledge Dr., Ste. 1100, Bethesda 20817 Martin Financial Associated Ltd., Partnership, 2800 Quarry Lake Dr., Ste. 340, 21209

NOTES: (1) THE PETITIONER MUST HAVE THE ZONING NOTICE SIGN POSTED BY AN APPROVED POSTER ON THE PROPERTY BY SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2012.

(2) HEARINGS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE; FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASE CALL THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OFFICE AT 410-887-3868.

(3) FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FILE AND/OR HEARING, CONTACT THE ZONING REVIEW OFFICE AT 410-887-3391.

TO: PATUXENT PUBLISHING COMPANY

Thursday, October 4, 2012 Issue - Jeffersonian

Please forward billing to:

Stanley Fine

25 S. Charles Street, 21st Fl.

Baltimore, MD 21201

410-727-6600

NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

The Administrative Law Judge of Baltimore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Baltimore County, will hold a public hearing in Towson, Maryland on the property identified herein as follows:

CASE NUMBER: 2013-0043-SPHA

1472 Martin Boulevard

N/s Martin Boulevard at the NW corner of Middle River Road

15th Election District – 6th Councilmanic District

Legal Owners: Martin Financial Associated Limited Partnership

Contract Purchaser: McDonald's USA, LLC

<u>Special Hearing</u> to approve the retention of a free-standing enterprise sign on the McDonald's pad site of the Martin Plaza Shopping Center. <u>Variance</u> to permit a free-standing enterprise sign having a face of 108.7 sq. ft. in lieu of the permitted 75 sq. ft.

Hearing: Friday, October 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 205, Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson 21204

Arnold Jablon
Director of Permits, Approvals and Inspections for Baltimore County

NOTES: (1) HEARINGS ARE HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE; FOR SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS OFFICE AT 410-887-3868.

(2) FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FILE AND/OR HEARING, CONTACT THE ZONING REVIEW OFFICE AT 410-887-3391.



KEVIN KAMENETZ County Executive

ARNOLD JABLON
Deputy Administrative Officer
Director, Department of Permits,
Approvals & Inspections

October 17, 2012

Martin Financial Associated Limited Partnership Beverly Dobrochauski 2800 Quarry Lake Drive Suite 340 Baltimore MD 21209

RE: Case Number: 2013-0043 A, Address: 1472 Martin Boulevard

Dear Ms. Dobrochauski:

The above referenced petition was accepted for processing **ONLY** by the Bureau of Zoning Review, Department of Permits, Approvals, and Inspection (PAI) on August 23, 2012. This letter is not an approval, but only a **NOTIFICATION**.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC), which consists of representatives from several approval agencies, has reviewed the plans that were submitted with your petition. All comments submitted thus far from the members of the ZAC are attached. These comments are not intended to indicate the appropriateness of the zoning action requested, but to ensure that all parties (zoning commissioner, attorney, petitioner, etc.) are made aware of plans or problems with regard to the proposed improvements that may have a bearing on this case. All comments will be placed in the permanent case file.

If you need further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the commenting agency.

Very truly yours,

U. Cal Richal D

W. Carl Richards, Jr. Supervisor, Zoning Review

WCR: jaf

Enclosures

c: People's Counsel

Lee May, Area Construction Manager, 6930 Rockledge Drive, Ste. 1100, Bethesda MD 20817 Stanley S. Fine, Esquire, 25 S. Charles Street, 21st floor, Baltimore MD 21201

Debra Wiley - ZAC Comments - Distribution Mtg. of 9/24

From:

Debra Wiley

To:

Kennedy, Dennis; Lanham, Lynn; Livingston, Jeffrey; Lykens, David; M...

Date:

9/18/2012 9:45 AM

Subject: ZAC Comments - Distribution Mtg. of 9/24

Good Morning,

Please see the cases listed below and the hearing date, if assigned. If you wish to submit a ZAC comment, please be advised that you must do so before the hearing date. If it's not received by the hearing date, it will not be considered in our decision.

2013-0043-SPHA - (Floodplain) 1472 Martin Blvd.

2013-0048-A - Administrative Variance - Closing Date: 9/24

825 Queens Park Drive

2013-0049-SPHA

734 Essex Ave.

2013-0050-A - Administrative Variance - Closing Date: 9/24 (Critical Area & Floodplain)

1907 Cape May Road

2013-0051-A - Administrative Variance - Closing Date: 9/24

12220 Dover Rd.

2013-0052-A

15815 Falls Rd.

2013-0053-SPHA

9401, 9403, 9405, 9407, 9409, 9411 Silver Charm Dr.

2013-0055-A - Administrative Variance - Closing Date: 10/1

2909 Knoll Acres Dr.

2013-0056-A (Critical Area & Floodplain)

6920 River Drive Rd.

2013-0057-A - Administrative Variance - Closing Date: 10/1 (Critical Area & Floodplain)

3 Kingston Cove Rd.

2013-0058-A - Administrative Variance - Closing Date: 10/1

6523 Darnell Rd.

2013-0059-A - Administrative Variance - Closing Date: 10/1

119 Williams Ave.

2013-0060-SPH



Martin O'Malley, Governor Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor Darrell B. Mobley, Acting Secretary Melinda B. Peters, Administrator

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Date: 9-11-12

Ms. Kristen Lewis
Baltimore County Office of
Permits and Development Management
County Office Building, Room 109
Towson, Maryland 21204

RE: Baltimore County

Item No 2013-0043-5PHA Special Heaving Variouse MD mard's USA LLC 1472 Montin Boulevard.

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Thank you for the opportunity to review your referral request on the subject of the above captioned. We have determined that the subject property does not access a State roadway and is not affected by any State Highway Administration projects. Therefore, based upon available information this office has no objection to Baltimore County Zoning Advisory Committee approval of Item No. 2013-0043-5PHA.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Richard Zeller at 410-545-5598 or 1-800-876-4742 extension 5598. Also, you may E-mail him at (rzeller@sha.state.md.us).

Sincerely,

Steven D. Foster, Chief

Access Management Division

SDF/raz

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Arnold Jablon, Director

DATE: September 17, 2012

Department of Permits, Approvals And Inspections

FROM:

Dennis A. Kennedy, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT:

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

For September 24, 2012

Item Nos. 2013-0043, 0048,0049,0050,0051,0052,0053,0055,0057, 0058,

0059 and 0060.

The Bureau of Development Plans Review has reviewed the subject-zoning items, and we have no comments.

DAK:CEN cc: File

G:\DevPlanRev\ZAC -No Comments\ZAC-09242012-NO COMMENTS.doc

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Inter-Office Correspondence

OCT 0 2 2012

RECEIVED



TO:

Hon. Lawrence M. Stahl; Managing Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

FROM:

David Lykens, Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability

(DEPS) - Development Coordination

DATE:

October 2, 2012

SUBJECT:

DEPS Comment for Zoning Item

2013-0043-SPHA

Address

1472 Martin Boulevard

(Martin Financial Associated Ltd Partnership Property)

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of September 10, 2012.

 \underline{X} The Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability offers the following comments on the above-referenced zoning item:

X Development of this property must comply with the Forest Conservation Regulations (Sections 33-6-101 through 33-6-122 of the Baltimore County Code).

Reviewer: Regina Esslinger – Environmental Impact Review

Post-it® Fax	Note 7671	Date \ O - → pages \	
To Caroli	in Marcher	From OAY	
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #	ZAC	Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #2013 -0043 - SPHF	1

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Real Property Data Search (vw2.2A) BALTIMORE COUNTY Go Back
View Map
New Search
GroundRent
Redemption
GroundRent
Registration

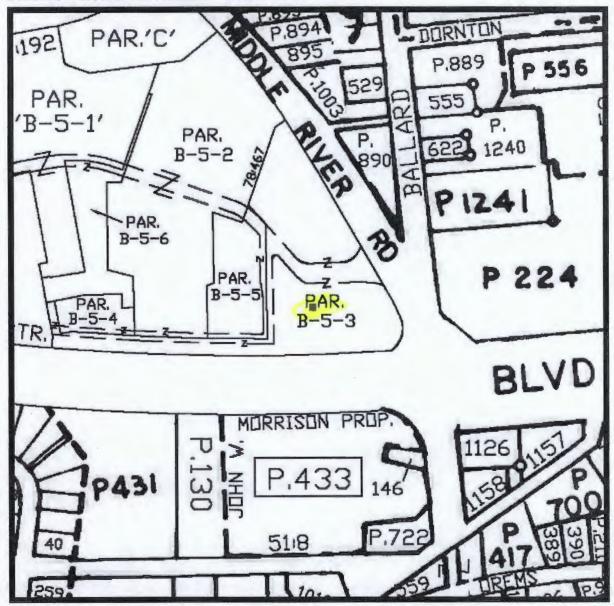
			Owner Inform	ation				
Owner Name:		FINANCIAL ASSOC	CIATED	U	se:		COMM	IERCIAL
	LIMITED	PARTNERSHIP		P	rincipal	Residence:	NO	
Mailing Address:		ARRY LAKE DR STE	E 340	D	eed Refe	erence:	1) 2)	
	BALITAN		ion & Structure	Informatio	n			
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BALTIMORE MD 21220-00	000			DLE RIVE				
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Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation BALTIMORE COUNTY Real Property Data Search

<u>Go Back</u> View Map New Search

District - 15Account Number - 2400011796



The information shown on this map has been compiled from deed descriptions and plats and is not a property survey. The map should not be used for legal descriptions. Users noting errors are urged to notify the Maryland Department of Planning Mapping, 301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore MD 21201.

If a plat for a property is needed, contact the local Land Records office where the property is located. Plats are also available online through the Maryland State Archives at www.plats.net.

Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2011. For more information on electronic mapping applications, visit the Maryland Department of Planning web site at www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/OurProducts.shtml

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

December 12, 2012

TO:

Zoning Review Office

FROM:

Office of Administrative Hearings

RE:

Case No. 2013-0043-SPHA - Appeal Period Expired

The appeal period for the above-referenced case expired on December 7, 2012. There being no appeal filed, the subject file is ready for return to the Zoning Review Office and is placed in the 'pick up box.'

c: Case File

Office of Administrative Hearings

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CASE NAME 1472 Mortin Berd CASE NUMBER 2013 - 0043 - SPILA DATE 10/26/12

PETITIONER'S SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	ADDRESS alse II	CITY, STATE, ZIP	E- MAIL
Caroline Hecker	25 S. Charles St. Ste. 2115, F	Backmore MD 21201	Checker prosenbergmann
STANLEY FINE	25 S CHARLES ST. BIST floor	BALTIMORE NI) 21201	Spece spenkymater con
Rebucea Smith	25 s. Charus st, 21st flr	Bathmane, MD 21201	1. SMith@ Rosenbuynai .ca
IWONA ZARSKA	230 SCHILLING/CIECUE STE 364	HUNT VALLEY, NO 21031	Lee. May eus, mcd, com
Lee May, McDonald's Corp.	6903 Rockledge Drive, Suite 1100	Bethesda, MD 20817	Lee May eus, med, com
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CASE NO. 2013- 0043 - SPHA

CHECKLIST

Comment Received	<u>Department</u>	Support/Oppose/ Conditions/ Comments/ No Comment
9-17	DEVELOPMENT PLANS REVIEW (if not received, date e-mail sent)	NC
10-2	DEPS (if not received, date e-mail sent)	
	FIRE DEPARTMENT	
.	PLANNING (if not received, date e-mail sent)	· · · · · · ·
9-11	STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	No objection
<u> </u>	TRAFFIC ENGINEERING	
	COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
ZONING VIOLA	TION (Case No	
PRIOR ZONING	(Case No.)
NEWSPAPER AI	DVERTISEMENT Date: 10-4	
SIGN POSTING	Date: 10-6	by Hofoman
	NSEL APPEARANCE Ves No No No No No No No No No N]
Comments, if any		

Case No.: 2013-0043-5PHP

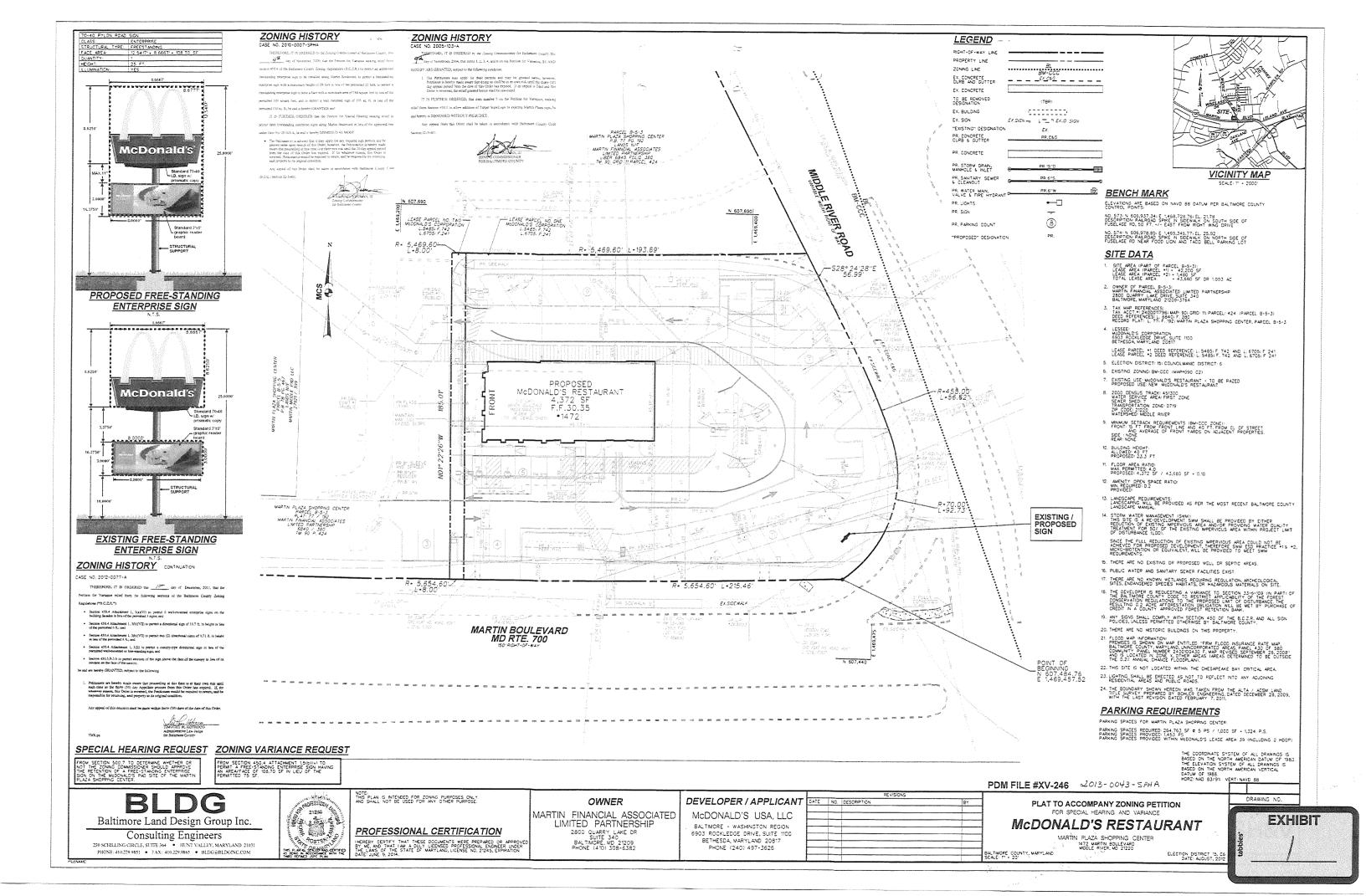
Exhibit Sheet

Petitioner/Developer

Protestant

167 1-13 60 3-1313

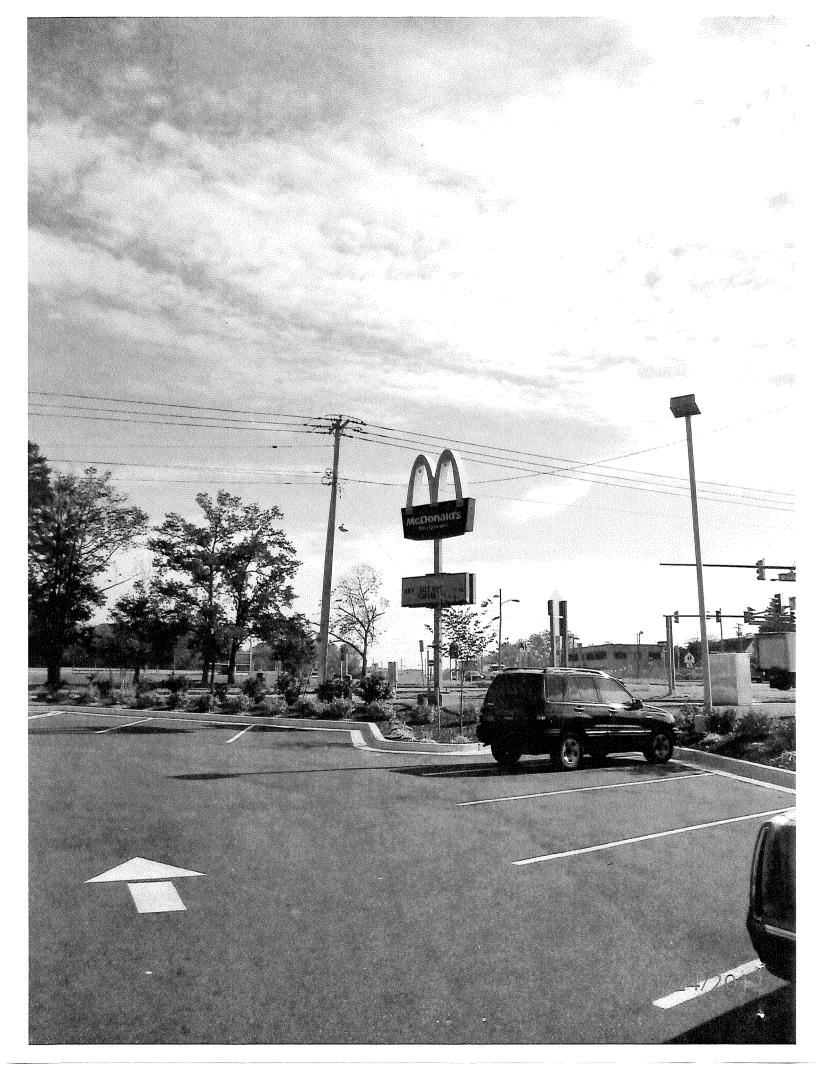
No. 1	Site Plan	
No. 2	Color Photos	
No. 3	Opinion 2012-0077-A	
No. 4	Opinion 2012-0231- 5PHA	
No. 5	Zoning Hearing Ootline	
No. 6		
No. 7	de temperatura de la constanta magazione del	St. Harman Cales, Ma
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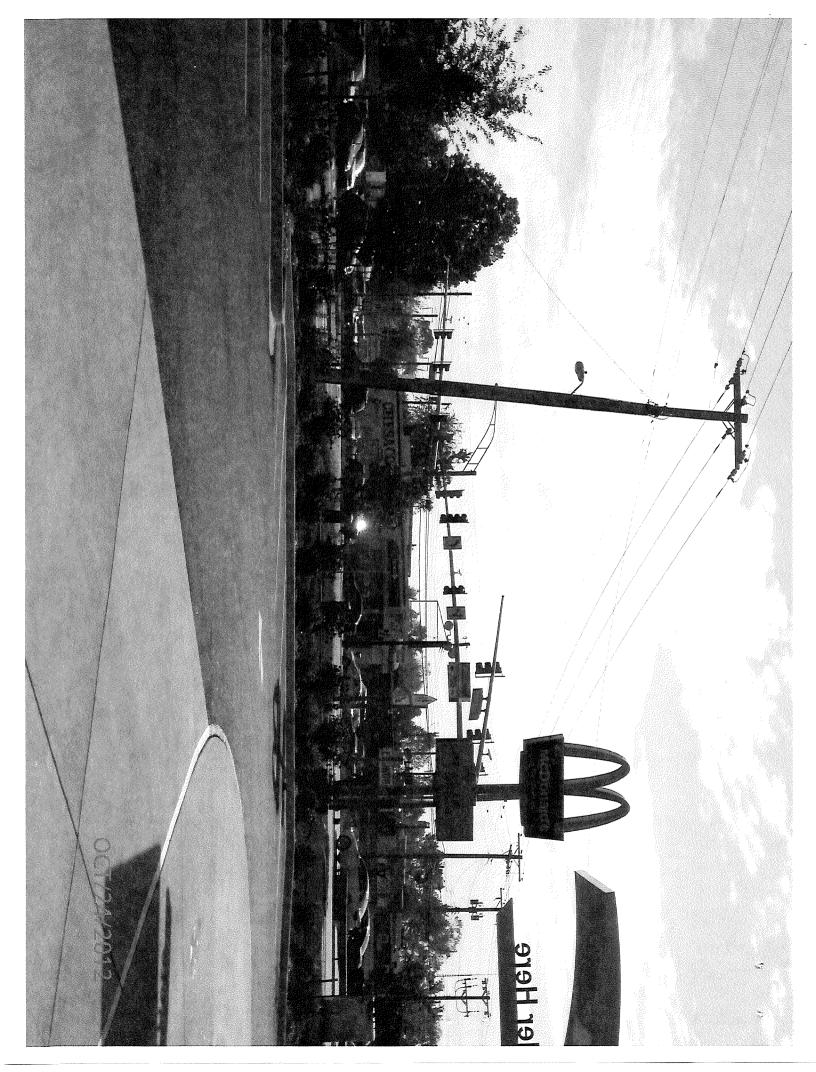


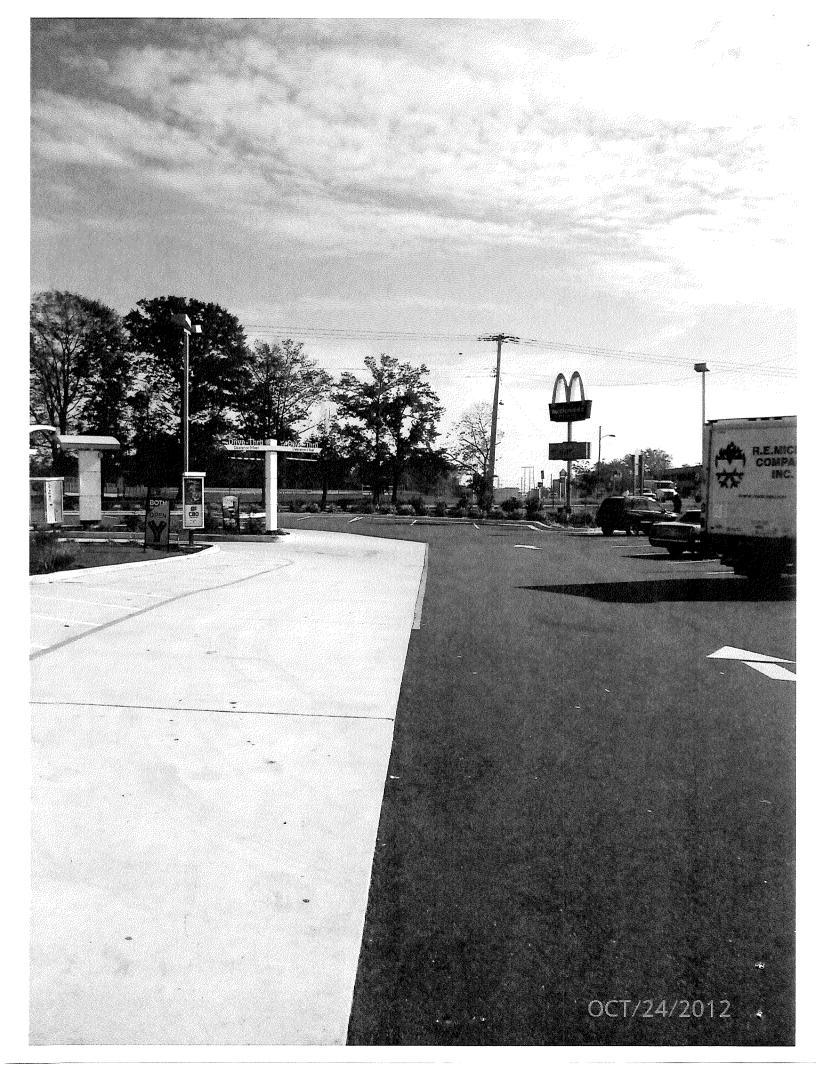


McDonald'S
Restaurant

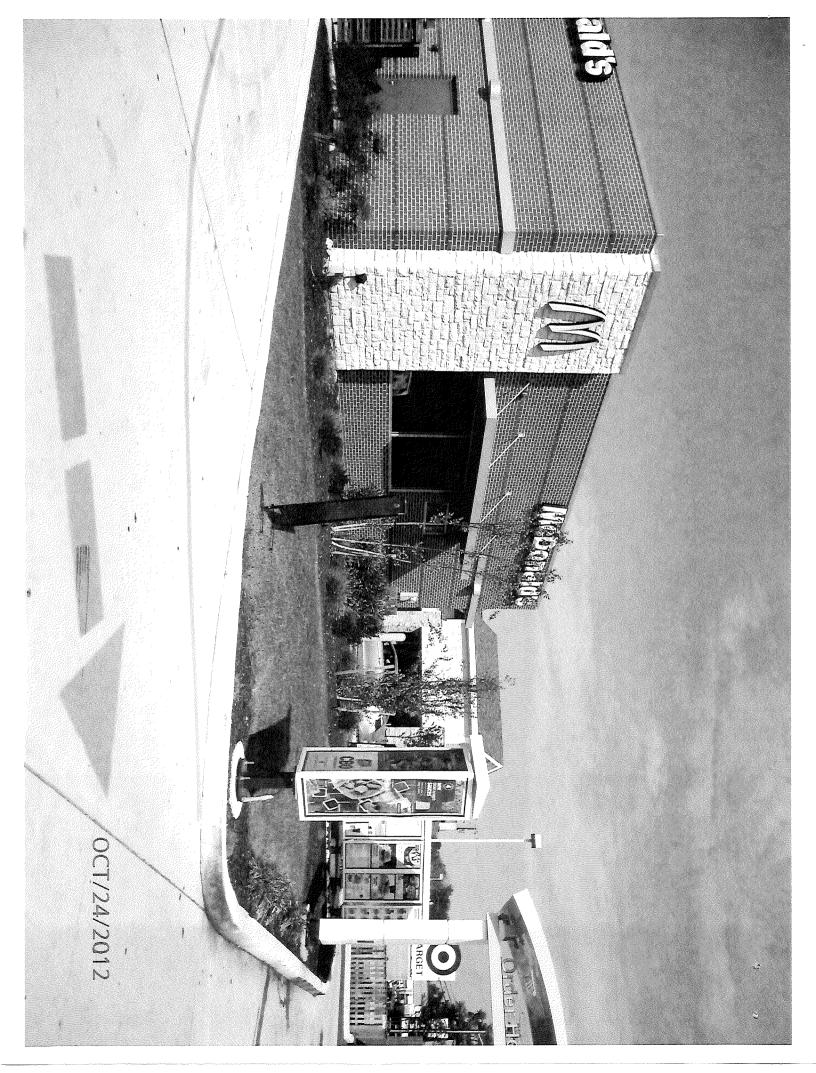
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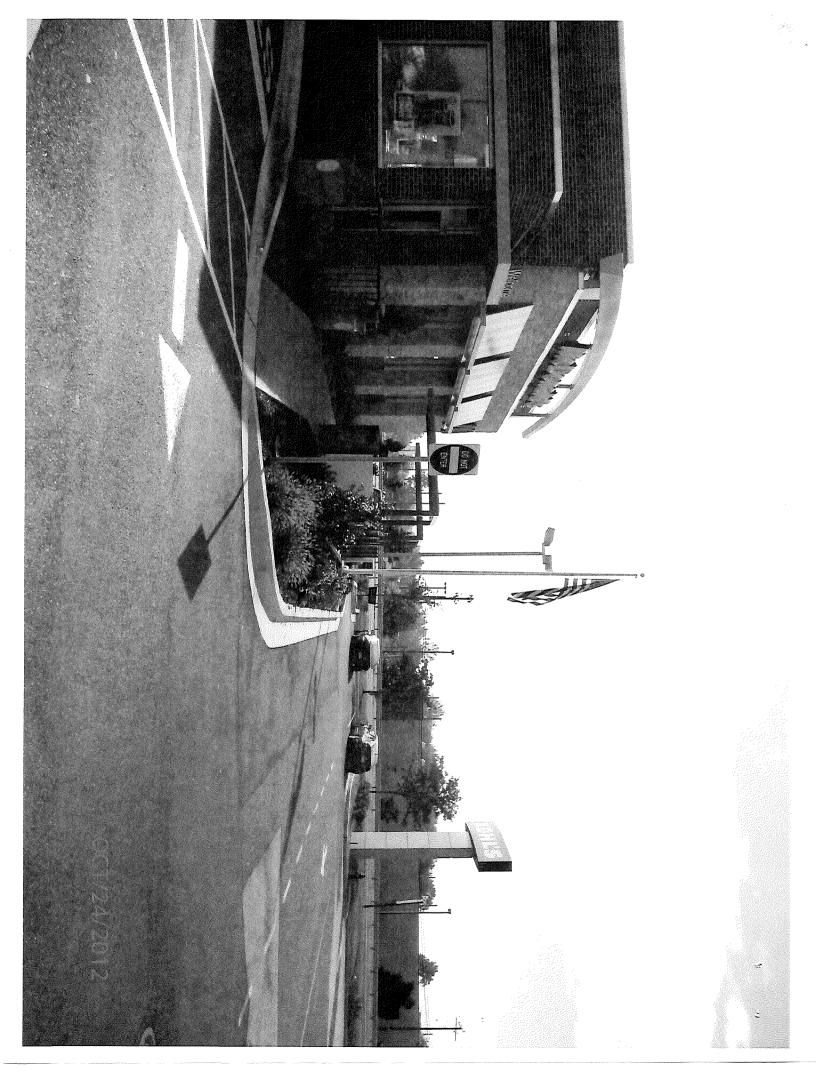






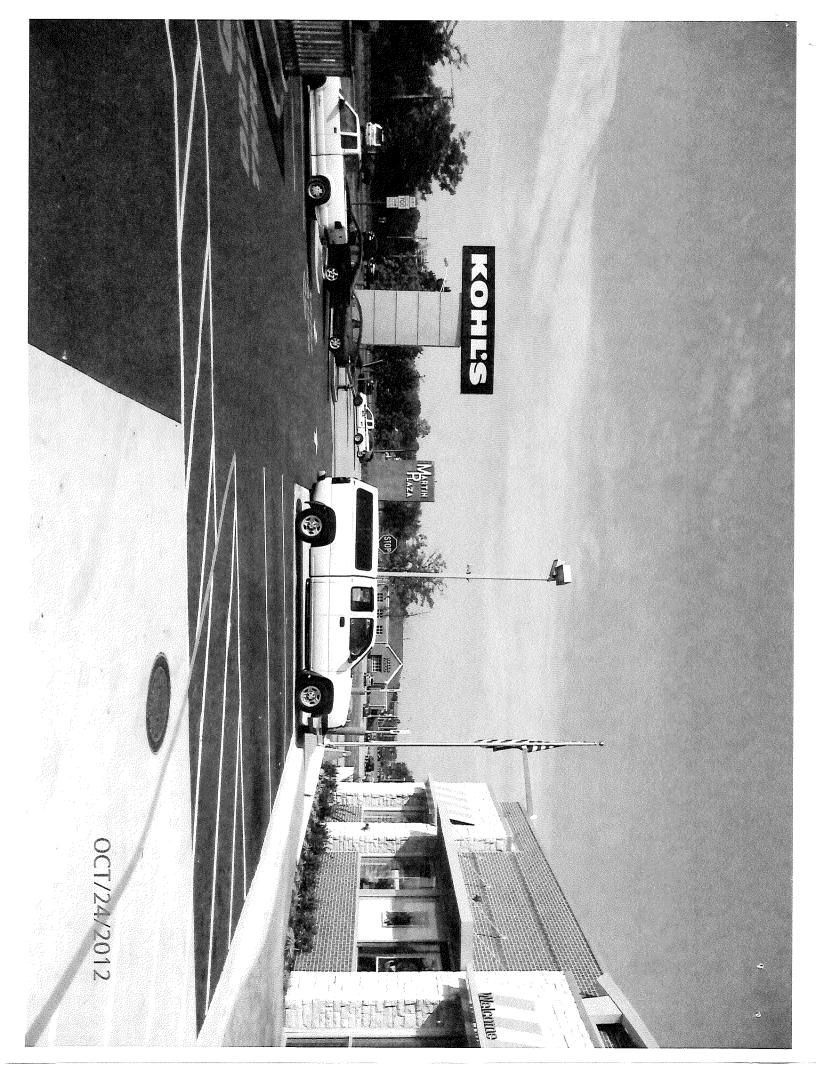






ISO FILES

OCT/24/2012



IN RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE

N/S Martin Boulevard; 100' W of c/l of Middle River Road (1472 Martin Boulevard) 15th Election District 6th Council District

Martin Financial Associated, LLLP

Legal Owner

McDonald's Corporation

Contract Purchaser

Petitioners

.BEFORE THE ...

* OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE

* HEARINGS FOR

BALTIMORE COUNTY

CASE NO. 2012-0077-A

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings for consideration of a Petition for Variance filed by the lessee of the subject property, McDonald's USA, LLC ("McDonald's" or "Petitioner"), through its attorneys, Stanley S. Fine, Esquire, and Caroline L. Hecker, Esquire, for the property located at 1472 Martin Blvd. The Petitioner requests relief from the following sections of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("B.C.Z.R."):

- Section 405.4 Attachment 1, 5(a)(VI) to permit 6 wall-mounted enterprise signs on the building facades in lieu of the permitted 3 signs; and
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 10.7 ft. in height in lieu of the permitted 6 ft.; and
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit two (2) directional signs of 9.71 ft. in height in lieu of the permitted 6 ft.; and
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(II) to permit a canopy-type directional sign in lieu of the permitted wall-mounted or free-standing sign; and
- Section 450.5.B.3.b to permit erection of the sign above the face of the canopy in lieu of its erection on the face of the canopy.

The subject property and requested relief are more particularly described on the Plat to Accompany Zoning Petition submitted and the color sign elevation drawings which were accepted into evidence as Petitioner's Exhibits 1 and 3, respectively.

Appearing at the requisite public hearing in support of the request were Caroline L. Hecker, Esquire, attorney for McDonald's; Lee May, Area Construction Manager for McDonald's Corporation; and Iwona Rostek-Zarska of Baltimore Land Design Group, Inc., the engineer who prepared the site plan for this property. No protestants or other interested persons appeared at the hearing.

Testimony and evidence presented at the hearing discloses that McDonald's is the current lessee of a pad site in the Martin Plaza Shopping Center, which is owned by Martin Financial Associated Limited Partnership. The existing structure is over 30 years old and has become operationally inadequate. As a result, McDonald's has demolished the existing structure and is rebuilding a new restaurant in its place. The new structure will be approximately 500 sq. ft. smaller than the former structure, as it will not have a basement. In addition, the new restaurant will have approximately 78 seats, whereas the former restaurant had approximately 95 seats.

Ms. Rostek-Zarska was accepted as an expert in site engineering and testified that the unique size and shape of the site impose certain constraints on the proposed construction that make the requested variances necessary. The McDonald's site, shown on the photographs submitted by Petitioner (Petitioner's Exhibit 2), is located in the Martin Plaza Shopping Center at the intersection of Martin Boulevard and Middle River Road. Although the site fronts on two busy streets, it does not have direct access to either one. Rather, patrons must enter the Martin Plaza Shopping Center in order to reach the McDonald's site. Ms. Zarska testified that the small size and irregular shape of the McDonald's pad site, and the fact that it is located at an intersection with frontage on two busy streets, make this property unique. Due to these unique features of the site, the requested signage variances are necessary in order to identify the McDonald's restaurant to passing motorists and to safely direct traffic in and around the site.

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Retitioner seeks variances from B.C.Z.R. Section 405.4 Attachment 1, 5(a)(VI) to permit six (6) wall-mounted enterprise signs on building facades in lieu of the permitted three (3) signs; from B.C.Z.R. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 10.7 ft. in height in lieu of the permitted 6 ft.; B.C.Z.R. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit two (2) directional signs of 9.71 ft. in height in lieu of the permitted 6 ft.; B.C.Z.R. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(II) to permit a canopy-type directional sign in lieu of the permitted wall-mounted or free-standing sign; and B.C.Z.R. Section 450.5.B.3.b to permit erection of the sign above the face of the canopy in lieu of its erection on the face of the canopy. Although the site is located at the busy intersection of Martin Boulevard and Middle River Road, patrons must enter the Martin Plaza Shopping Center parking lot in order to access the site as there is no direct access from the McDonald's pad site to either Martin Boulevard or Middle River Road. As a result, these variances are necessary in order for the restaurant to be visible to passersby and in order to safely direct traffic in and around the McDonald's pad site. In addition, these signs are McDonald's standard signage plan, and the restaurant at this location would deviate from the standard style of other McDonald's restaurants if the proposed signs were not permitted.

After due consideration of the testimony and evidence presented, it is clear that the requested variances meet the standards set forth in B.C.Z.R. § 307. The Property is unique by virtue of its small size and irregular shape. In light of these unique features of the Property, I find that the Petitioner has satisfied its burden at law. The constraints imposed by these features would create a practical difficulty for the Petitioner if strict compliance with the provisions of the B.C.Z.R. were required. I further find that the relief requested meets the spirit and intent of the B.C.Z.R, and I will therefore grant the requested variances.

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property, and public hearing on these has a self-advantage and posting of the property and public hearing on these petitions held, and for the reasons set forth above, the relief requested shall be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this day of December, 2011, that the

Regulations ("B.C.Z.R."):

- Section 405.4 Attachment 1, 5(a)(VI) to permit 6 wall-mounted enterprise signs on the building facades in lieu of the permitted 3 signs; and
 - Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 10.7 ft. in height in lieu of the permitted 6 ft.; and
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit two (2) directional signs of 9.71 ft. in height in lieu of the permitted 6 ft.; and
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(II) to permit a canopy-type directional sign in lieu of the permitted wall-mounted or free standing sign; and
- Section 450.5.B.3.b to permit erection of the sign above the face of the canopy in lieu of its erection on the face of the canopy,

无反抗 "生气"的人,逐步

be and are hereby GRANTED, subject to the following:

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1. Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until such time as the thirty (30) day Appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, the Petitioners would be required to return and be responsible for returning, said property to its original condition.

Any appeal of this decision must be made within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

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TIMOTHY M. KOTROCO

programme Administrative Law Judge

for Baltimore County

August angener i'm the substitute has anni beat an

TMK:pz.

IN RE: PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL HEARING *

AND VARIANCE

S side of Belmont Avenue; 720' from the c/line of Security Boulevard

1st Election District

1st Council District

(1655 Belmont Avenue)

Archland Property I, LLC Petitioner

BEFORE THE

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE

HEARINGS FOR

BALTIMORE COUNTY

CASE NO. 2012-0231-SPHA

ORDER AND OPINION

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) as Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance filed by the legal owner of the property, Archland Property I, LLC. The Petitioner is requesting Special Hearing relief pursuant to Section 500.7 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("B.C.Z.R.") to confirm the following interpretations of the B.C.Z.R.:

- The reader board and enterprise sign are not considered to be a continuous (sic) sign because the two signs are separated by more than 1':
- The area of the face of the enterprise sign is calculated separately from the area of the reader board when both signs are located on the same support structure but are separated by more than 1'; a) the maximum area of the changeable copy reader board is 50% of the area of the enterprise sign;
- An enterprise sign and changeable copy reader board constitute one free-standing sign when they are located on the same support structure; and
- The height of the changeable copy sign is measured from the ground to the top of the changeable copy sign as shown on the attached plan.

The Petitioner also seeks Variance relief from the B.C.Z.R. as follows:

- Section 450.4 Attachment 1,5(a)(VII) to permit six wall-mounted enterprise signs on building facades in lieu of the permitted three signs;
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 10.7' in height in lieu of the permitted 6';
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 9.71' in height in lieu of the permitted 6';
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(II) to permit a canopy-type directional sign in lieu of the permitted wall-mounted or free standing directional sign; and
- Section 450.5.B.3.b to permit the erection of the sign above the face of the canopy in lieu of its erection on the face of the canopy.

If the special hearing request is denied, the Petitioner requested the following additional variance:

• Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 5(b)(V) to permit a free standing enterprise sign having a face of 94 square feet in lieu of the permitted 75 square feet.

The subject property and requested relief is more fully depicted on the site plan that was marked and accepted into evidence as Petitioner's Exhibit 2.

Appearing at the public hearing held for this case was Lee May, Area Construction Manager, and Iwona Rostek-Zarska with Baltimore Land Design Group, Inc., the professional engineer who prepared the site plan. Also attending were Stanley S. Fine, Esquire, and Caroline Hecker, Esquire, counsel for the Petitioner. There were no Protestants or other interested persons in attendance, although the file contains two letters from People's Counsel (dated May 7 and 8, 2012) indicating that office opposed the special hearing relief sought by Petitioner.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received and made a part of the file. Comments were received from the Department of Planning dated April 23, 2012, indicating that agency did not support the special hearing relief sought by Petitioner. The Department of Planning further commented that it did not oppose Petitioner's variance requests 1 through 5, though it did oppose request #6 (which would only be considered if special hearing relief was denied).

Testimony and evidence revealed that the subject property is improved with a McDonald's restaurant, constructed in 1980. Petitioner proposes to raze that structure and in its place construct a smaller restaurant (approximately 5,962 square feet currently, and approximately 4,377 square feet as proposed). The restaurant will also have fewer seats (88 versus 110 at present) and would feature a newer, more upscale look. Petitioner proposes to replace an existing freestanding sign (the subject of the special hearing case) and also proposes six enterprise signs in lieu of the eight enterprise signs that currently exist. The capital investment for the project is approximately \$2.45 million, and the construction would include "green building" elements.

VARIANCES 1 - 5

Based on the evidence presented, which is discussed below, I find that variance requests 1 through 5 can be granted in such a manner as to meet the requirements of Section 307 of the B.C.Z.R., as established in *Cromwell v. Ward*, 102 Md. App. 691 (1995). I find special circumstances or conditions exist that are peculiar to the land or structure which is the subject of the variance request. I also find that strict compliance with the B.C.Z.R. would result in practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship upon Petitioner.

Finally, I find that the variance can be granted in harmony with the spirit and intent of the B.C.Z.R., and in such manner as to grant relief without injury to the public health, safety, and general welfare.

Specifically, Mr. May testified – via proffer (See Exhibit 5) – that the variances for the signage would make the restaurant visible to passing motorists on Security Boulevard. In addition, several McDonald's in the area have been similarly "upgraded," and the signage variances would provide for a consistent look and appearance for the brand. Mr. May also indicated the signage would allow customers to quickly and safely navigate through the site and the drive-thru lanes.

The Petitioner's next witness (who also testified via proffer, <u>see</u> Exhibit 5) was Iwona Zarska, who was accepted as an expert in site engineering. She opined the site was irregularly shaped and though it fronted on Security Boulevard, the only entrance to the restaurant was on Belmont Avenue. She also opined Petitioner would suffer a hardship if the B.C.Z.R. were strictly enforced, because trees and other businesses along Security Boulevard obstruct the view of the McDonald's. Finally, she opined that the grant of variance relief would likely improve property values in the area, since the new structure will be more modern and attractive. The building is being constructed in essentially the same footprint as the current restaurant, and she therefore did not believe the community would suffer any additional impacts beyond those associated with the McDonald's operating presently.

SPECIAL HEARING

As noted above, Petitioner proposes to construct a new (smaller) freestanding enterprise sign (83 square feet versus 212 square feet existing). As shown on the plans (Exhibits 3 and 4), Petitioner proposes to have the "McDonald's" name (i.e., enterprise sign) on the top portion of the

pole, and approximately 2' beneath would be positioned a changeable copy sign. As noted by Petitioner's counsel, these signs are of different classes, and therefore would not constitute a "contiguous sign," as that term is used in B.C.Z.R. § 450.3.

The second issue raised by Petitioner concerns the definition of "area" under the B.C.Z.R. The regulations exclude from the definition "air spaces" between signs of different classes located on a common support structure. It is clear the proposed freestanding enterprise sign and the changeable copy sign are on the same structure, and are also different classes of signs. Hence, the "area" of the signs does not include the "air space" between them. But the heart of this case lies in the interpretation of B.C.Z.R. § 450.7.B, which permits a freestanding changeable copy sign only when it is an "integral part" of an enterprise sign. And though it begs the ultimate question, it is clear that if the changeable copy sign is an "integral part" of the freestanding enterprise sign, then the changeable copy portion may be 50% of the area of the enterprise portion, per B.C.Z.R. § 450.7.

So when is a sign an "integral part" of another sign? The B.C.Z.R. is really of no assistance, since it doesn't define the term. The dictionary defines "integral" as "organically joined or linked ... form[ing] a whole ... formed as a unit with another part." <u>See</u> Petitioner's Memorandum of Law, p. 3. There is also no Maryland case law addressing the issue, although in a fairly recent federal case involving a patent infringement claim with respect to certain scientific lab equipment, the court noted that "depending on the context, courts have construed the term 'integral' to broadly mean forming a unit or to narrowly refer to being formed in one piece." <u>Scientific Specialties, Inc. v. Thermo Fisher</u>, 684 F. Supp. 2d 1187, 1191 (N.D. Calif. 2010). The court's holding is particularly apropos here, where the parties have argued for broad (i.e., the

Petitioner contends that "integral" means on the same support structure) and narrow (i.e., People's Counsel argues the term means "joined together") interpretations of the term.

The B.C.Z.R. provides that its sign law provisions are to be "strictly construed." B.C.Z.R. § 450.8; See also, Trinity Assembly of God v. People's Counsel, 407 Md. 53, 73 (2008). Thus, I believe that the definition of "integral part" must incorporate some concept of one-piece construction, such that the changeable copy sign may be said to be a "component" of the enterprise sign. But I do not believe that means they must be touching or in physical contact. Rather, and as seen in the "Mr. Burger" example provided by People's Counsel, the changeable copy portion must in a sense form a component part or unit of the larger overall sign. Indeed, the signs in the "Mr. Burger" example are not touching (though it is impossible to determine just how much space exists between the "enterprise" portion and the "changeable copy" portions), just as they are not in the example from the Zoning Commissioner's Policy Manual (ZCPM) attached as Exhibit A to Petitioner's memorandum. The space – and whether it is a matter of inches or 1 or 2 feet – is not what is important. Rather, it is the sign viewed in its entirety which reveals that the reader board is an "integral part" of the enterprise sign.

In the "Mr. Burger" example, the integration is achieved by the support structures on both sides of the signs, which makes the sign a single unit. While this interpretation of § 450.7.B relies on admittedly subjective factors, I believe that is a consequence of the language used in the regulation ("integral part") which is an imprecise term susceptible to several interpretations. That is why, in my opinion, zoning ordinances are best framed in terms of feet and/or inches. In any event, I do not believe the changeable copy board is an "integral part" of the enterprise sign (i.e., the familiar arches and McDonald's name) in the freestanding signs proposed by Petitioner. It

simply lacks the cohesiveness found in the "Mr. Burger" example, and does not appear to be a single unit. As such, this aspect of the special hearing relief is denied.

VARIANCE NO. 6

Since the dispositive portion of the special hearing relief was denied, Petitioner seeks variance relief to allow a freestanding enterprise sign with a face area of 94 square feet in lieu of the permitted 75 square feet. The existing sign is 212 square feet, and the proposed enterprise sign would be less than half that size. The sign regulations are designed to reduce visual clutter, and I believe they will have served that purpose in this case even if the variance relief is granted. The Petitioner seeks an approximate 20% increase in the permitted area, which I believe is a modest request. McDonald's is a well known brand, and the new restaurant will be an improvement for the community, and the proposed 94 square feet sign will be appropriate for the location and much smaller than what exists at present.

Pursuant to the advertisement, posting of the property and public hearing on these Petitions, and for the reasons set forth above, the relief requested shall be granted in part and denied in part.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, this <u>30th</u> day of May, 2012 by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County, that the Petition for Special Hearing seeking relief pursuant to Section 500.7 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (B.C.Z.R.) to confirm that the enterprise sign and changeable copy reader board constitute one free-standing sign when they are located on the same support structure, be and is hereby DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Petition for Variance relief from the B.C.Z.R. as follows:

• Section 450.4 Attachment 1,5(a)(VII) to permit six wall-mounted enterprise signs on building facades in lieu of the permitted three signs;

• Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 10.7' in height in lieu of the permitted 6';

• Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 9.71' in height in lieu of the permitted 6';

• Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(II) to permit a canopy-type directional sign in lieu of the permitted wall-mounted or free standing directional sign;

• Section 450.5.B.3.b to permit the erection of the sign above the face of the canopy in lieu of its erection on the face of the canopy; and

• Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 5(b)(V) to permit a free standing enterprise sign having a face of 94 square feet in lieu of the permitted 75 square feet,

be and are hereby GRANTED.

The relief granted herein shall be conditioned upon and subject to the following:

1. The Petitioner may apply for any required building permits and may be granted same upon receipt of this Order, however the Petitioner is hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at his own risk until such time as the thirty (30) day appellate process from this Order has expired. If for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, the Petitioner will be required to return and be responsible for returning said property to its original condition.

JOHN E. BEVERUNGEN Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

JEB:dlw

BALTIMORE COUNTY ZONING HEARING OUTLINE

MCDONALD'S - 1472 MARTIN BOULEVARD

October 26, 2012

LEE MAY – TESTIMONY

Name:

Lee May

Employer, employer's address:

McDonald's Corporation

6903 Rockledge Drive, Ste. 1100

Bethesda, MD 20817

Your job title and responsibilities at McDonalds:

Area Construction Manager

Are you familiar with the petition before the Office of Administrative Hearings? Yes

What is the location that is the subject of the petition? 1472 Martin Boulevard

What is your interest in the property?

McDonald's USA, LLC is the current lessee

of the property.

What is at this location currently?

There is an existing McDonald's restaurant at this location.

How long has that McDonald's been operating at that location?

The McDonald's was recently rebuilt to replace an older McDonald's restaurant that had been at this site since 1979.

What is McDonald's proposing to do at this location?

McDonald's would like to retain its existing free-standing sign, which was erected in 1979 at the time the original restaurant was constructed.

Describe existing conditions at the McDonalds.

EXHIBIT 1 – PLAT TO ACCOMPANY ZONING PETITION

(Explain access, parking, location of improvements, size and shape of property)



Identify photographs of McDonald's at 1472 Martin Blvd.

EXHIBIT 2 - PHOTOS

Describe the location of this McDonald's.

The McDonald's site is part of the Martin Plaza Shopping Center. It is located at the intersection of Martin Blvd, and Middle River Road.

Describe the new McDonald's restaurant that was recently constructed. (See photos)

The new McDonald's has a contemporary, upscale look that replaced the traditional mansard-roofed restaurant.

Much more efficient in terms of both operations and energy efficiency.

The new restaurant is reversed in direction from the existing restaurant, with the front facing the Shopping Center rather than facing Middle River Road.

The new restaurant also has two drive-thru lanes to improve operational efficiency.

The Office of Administrative Hearings approved certain signage variances for the new restaurant in Case No. 2012-0077.

EXHIBIT 3 - Copy of ALJ Decision - Case No. 2012-0077

We did not apply for any relief relating to the freestanding sign at that time, because another case was pending relating to the calculation of the area of a freestanding sign when an enterprise sign and a reader board share a signage structure.

That issue was resolved in Case No. 2012-0231-SPHA relating to the McDonald's at 1655 Belmont Ave.

As a result of that decision, it was determined that the area of a freestanding sign that includes both a reader board and an enterprise sign is measured by drawing a box around the entire sign, including the airspace between them, and that the separation between the two signs could not be greater than one foot.

EXHIBIT 4 - Case No. 2012-0231-SPHA - 1655 Belmont Ave.

Why does the existing McDonald's sign require zoning approval?

Although the sign was lawfully established, the sign regulations have since changed and, under the current regulations, the existing sign would have to be removed unless approval is granted to re-authorize the sign.

As a result, we have applied for Special Hearing relief to permit the continuation of the existing sign, and for variance relief to permit a free-standing enterprise sign having a face of 108.6843 SF in lieu of the permitted 75 SF, measured in accordance with the ALJ's decision on the Belmont Ave. McDonald's.

Are any changes proposed to the existing sign?

Currently, the reader board is located approximately 3.4 feet below the enterprise portion of the sign.

We propose to raise the reader board so that it is separated from the enterprise sign by less than 1 foot in accordance with the current signage regulations and the ALJ's decision in Case No. 2012-0231-SPHA.

In addition, the reader board will be converted to an electronic message sign.

Why are you proposing this signage approval and variance?

We have requested this signage variance to ensure that the site remains visible to passing motorists at this busy intersection, particularly since the new restaurant faces the shopping center and not Middle River Road.

What has been the amount of capital investment for this new restaurant?

Approximately \$ 2.3 million

BALTIMORE COUNTY ZONING HEARING OUTLINE

MCDONALD'S – 1472 MARTIN BLVD. October 26, 2012

IWONA ZARSKA – TESTIMONY

Name:

Iwona Zarska

Address:

Employer, employer's address:

Baltimore Land Design Group

230 Schilling Circle, Ste. 364

Hunt Valley, MD 21030

What is your job title?

Please describe the nature of the services you provide.

Have you ever testified as an expert witness in the field of site engineering before the Zoning Commissioner of Baltimore County?

Yes.

Have you ever been accepted an approved as such an expert witness?

Yes.

I offer Ms. Zarska as an expert witness in site engineering.

Are you familiar with the petition before the Zoning Commissioner? Yes.

What has been your involvement with this project?

As a result of the Petitioner's application, what zoning relief is requested?

- Special Hearing relief to permit the retention of the existing free-standing sign on the McDonald's pad site; and
- A variance from Section 405.4 Attachment 1, 5(b)(v) to permit a freestanding enterprise sign with a face of 108.6943 SF in lieu of the permitted 75 SF.

Please identify the requested variances on the Plat to Accompany Zoning Petition.

SEE EXHIBIT 1 – PLAT TO ACCOMPANY ZONING PETITION

Is the subject property peculiar, unusual, or unique when compared to other properties in the neighborhood?

Yes. The property is unique due to its small size and irregular shape, as well as the fact that it is located at an intersection with frontage on both Martin Blvd. and Middle River Road, yet does not have direct access to either road.

Since you have indicated that the property is peculiar, unusual, or unique, would strict compliance with the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations result in a practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship to the Petitioner?

Yes.

The small size, irregular shape, and the fact that the property is located at an intersection with frontage on two busy, high-speed streets but does not have direct access to either, create practical difficulties in identifying the building and safely directing traffic in and around the site.

In addition, now that the direction of the restaurant has been changed so that it faces the shopping center instead of Middle River Road and Martin Blvd., it is more difficult for passing motorists to see the building.

Previously, the well known mansard roof, which was visible from Martin Blvd., Middle River Road, and within the Shopping Center, helped to identify the building as a McDonald's.

With the updated design of the new McDonald's restaurant, additional signage is necessary to identify the restaurant as a McDonald's to those who may not be familiar with the new design. The freestanding sign is very well known and needed in this location to make the drivers aware about the presence of the new McDonald's, especially because the access to the site is not direct from the Martin Blvd. or Middle River Road.

In addition, as the existing sign has been in place since 1975, it will not create any new adverse condition on the property.

Would the granting of the variance be injurious to the use and enjoyment of the other property owners in the immediate vicinity, or substantially diminish and impair property values in the neighborhood?

No, the granting of the variance will simply permit the retention and continuation of the existing freestanding sign, which will have no impact on the use and enjoyment of other property owners in the immediate vicinity or substantially diminish and impair property values in the neighborhood.

The reader board will be raised to within one foot of the enterprise portion of the sign to bring it into conformity with the Zoning Regulations.

Would the granting of the variances impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property, or overcrowd the land, or create an undue concentration of population, or substantially increase the congestion of the streets, or create hazardous traffic conditions, or increase the danger of fire, or otherwise endanger the public safety?

Again, the granting of the variance will simply permit the retention of the existing sign and therefore will not impair the supply of light and air to the adjacent properties, cause an overcrowding of the land, affect the concentration of population, congestion of the streets, traffic conditions, or the danger of fire, or endanger the public safety in any manner.

Would the granting of the variances adversely affect transportation or unduly burden water, sewers, school, park, or other public facilities?

The granting of the variance will not have any impact on transportation, nor will it burden water, sewers, school, park, or other public facilities.

Would the granting of the variances be in strict harmony with the spirit and intent of the BCZR?

The granting of the variance is in harmony with the purpose of the Zoning Regulations, as it will promote the health, security, comfort, convenience, orderly development and other aspects of the general welfare of the community by permitting McDonald's to retain its existing sign with an upgraded electronic message board.

Would the granting of the variances cause any injury to the public health, safety, or general welfare?

The granting of the variance will not cause any injury to the public health, safety, or general welfare.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, we respectfully request that permission be granted to retain the existing free-standing sign and that a variance to the signage variance be granted to permit a free-standing sign with a face of 108.6943 SF in lieu of the permitted 75 SF.

EXHIBIT 5 – OUTLINE OF TESTIMONY

nation

2013-0043-SPHA вm 1472 Martin Boulevard ial Associated Ltd Partnership Property)

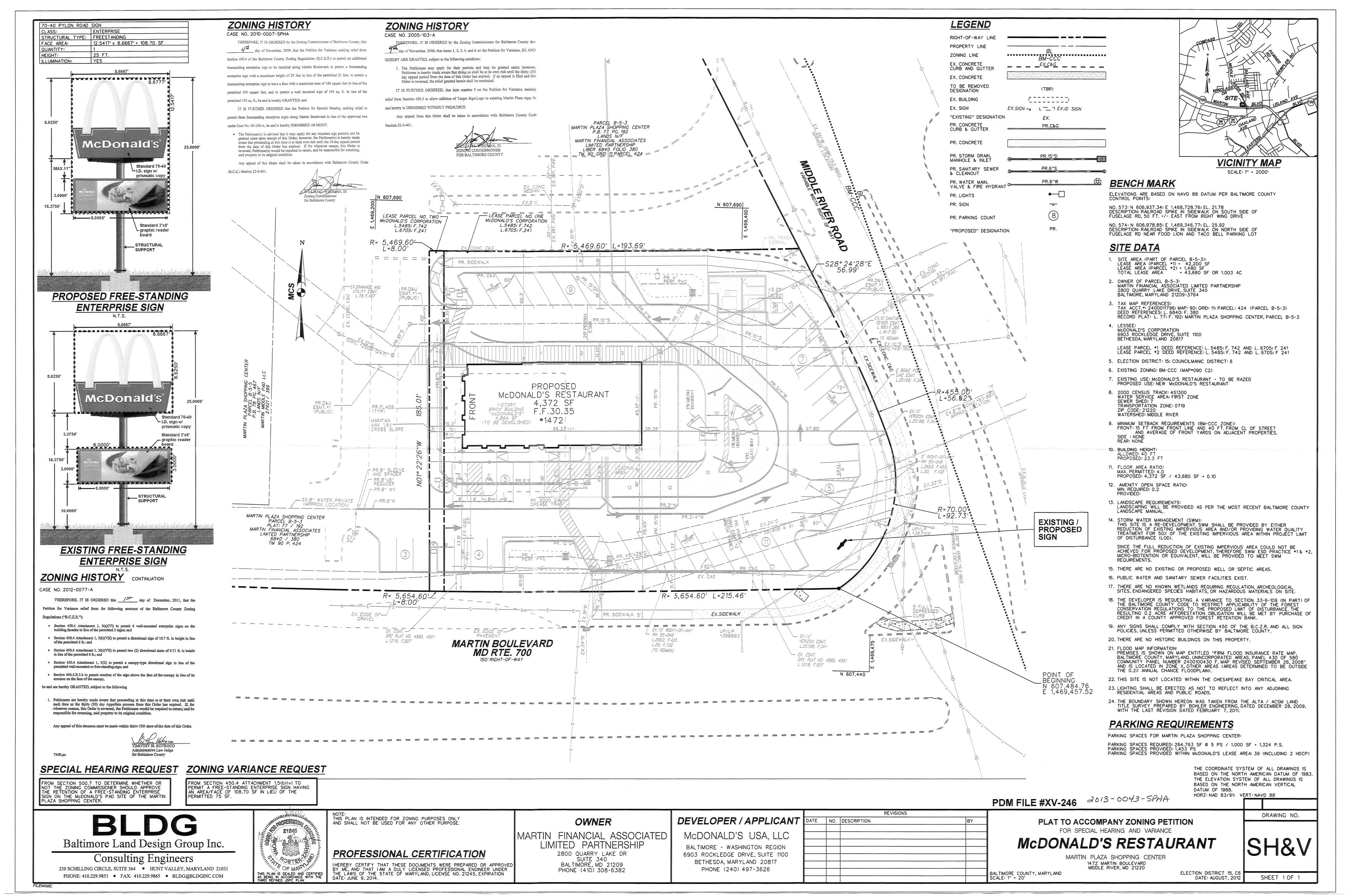
of September 10, 2012.

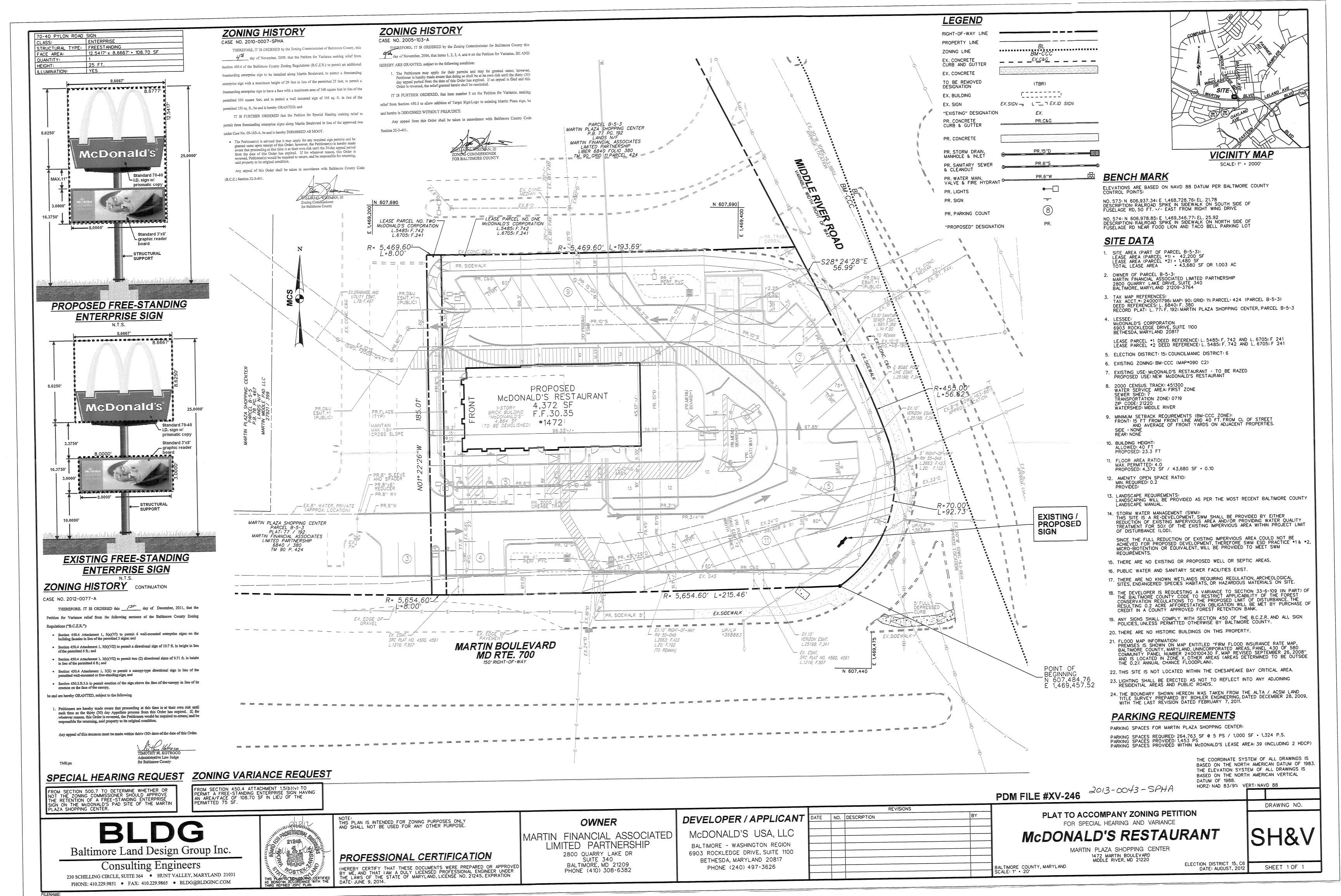
The Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability offers the following comments on the above-referenced zoning item:

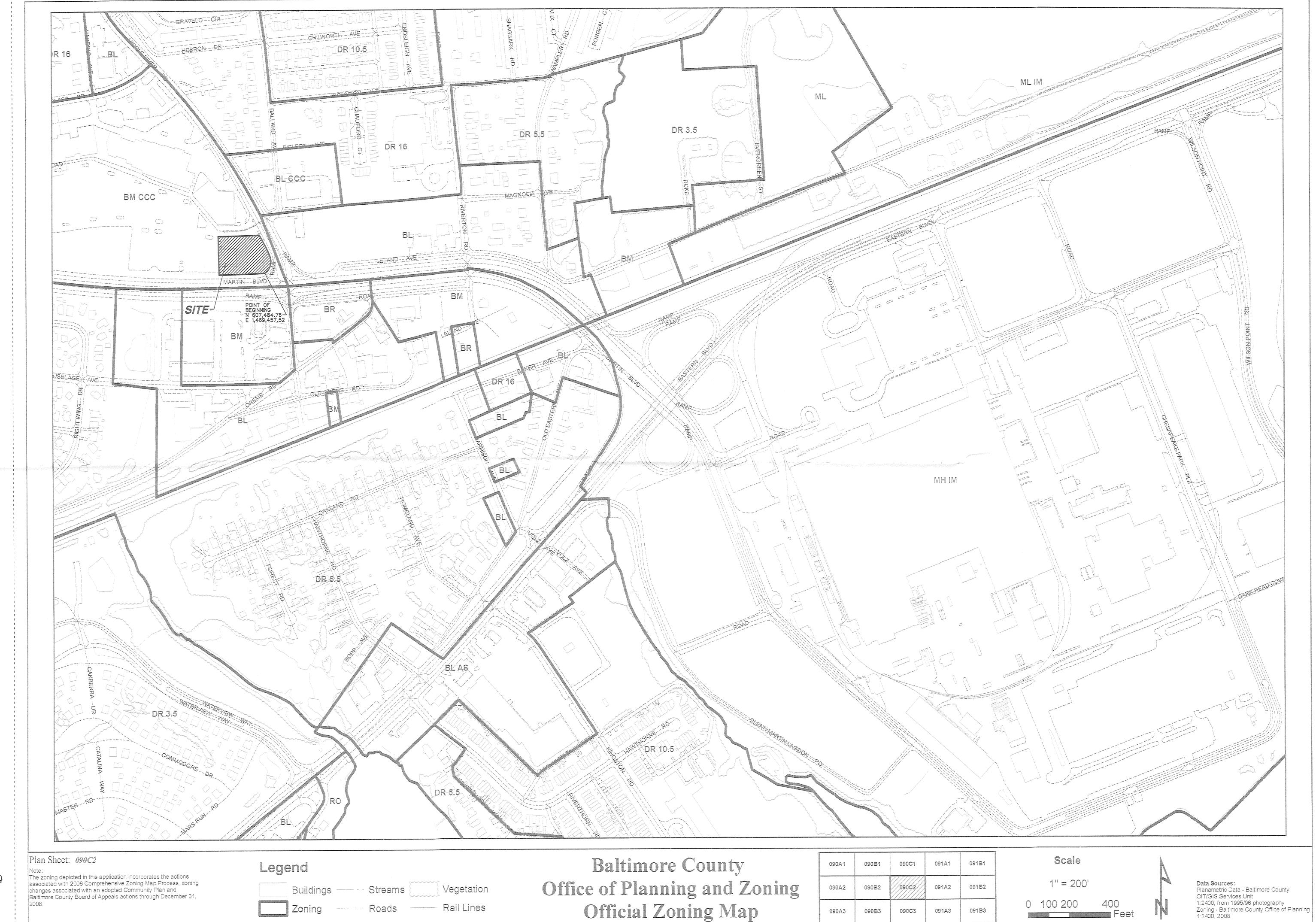
Development of this property must comply with the Forest X Conservation Regulations (Sections 33-6-101 through 33-6-122 of the Baltimore County Code).

Regina Esslinger - Environmental Impact Review Reviewer:

7671	Date 10-22- pages 1
ector	From OAY1
	Co.
مد ده	Phone #
	Fax 12013 -0043 -SPH
	7671 ***** AC Co







Official Zoning Map



2013-0043-SPHA