IN RE: PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL HEARING * AND VARIANCE

(8545 Philadelphia Road)
15th Election District
7th Council District
Stephen & Darlene Ramsey, Legal Owners

Petitioners

Exhibit 1.

BEFORE THE

OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

Case No. 2014-0040-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 John B. Gontrum, Esquire, of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP, on behalf of Stephen & Darlene Ramsey, the legal owners. The Special Hearing was filed pursuant to §500.7 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("B.C.Z.R."), to approve a non-conforming used car sales business in a BR zone. The Variance petition seeks relief from B.C.Z.R. as follows: (1) to allow macadam and gravel parking in lieu of required durable and dust free surface pursuant to §409.8.A.2; (2) to allow parking at the right of way line of Philadelphia Road in lieu of the required 10 feet setback pursuant to §409.8.A.4; (3) to allow parking without striping and curb stops pursuant to §409.8.A.6; (4) to allow an existing building a front yard setback of 26' from the center line in lieu of the required 50' and 20' from the property line in lieu of the required 25' pursuant to §238.1; (5) to allow an existing building to set back 20' from the right of way line in lieu of the average setback of 89' pursuant to §303.2; (6) to allow a side yard setbacks of 2.5' and 22' and of 0' and 11' in lieu of the required 30' for existing buildings pursuant to §238.2; and (7) to allow display of motor vehicles within 10' of a roadway and front building line pursuant to §238.4. The subject property and requested relief is more fully depicted on the site plan that was marked and accepted into evidence Received Petitioners'

Appearing at the public hearing in support of the requests was Stephen Ramsey and C. Dudley Campbell, the surveyor whose firm prepared the site plan. John B. Gontrum, Esquire, of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP, appeared and represented the Petitioners. There were no interested citizens in attendance at the hearing. The file reveals that the Petition was advertised and the site was posted as required by the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received from the Department of Planning (DOP), the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS), the Bureau of Development Plans Review (DPR) and the State Highway Administration (SHA). The DOP set forth a list of recommendations, and the Petitioners indicated they would satisfy each of the items listed. The DEPS offered no substantive comment, and the DPR objected to certain of the variances, discussed in greater detail below.

The subject property is 1.212 +/- acres in size and is zoned BR. The Petitioners (and their predecessors) have operated a used car sales and service facility on the site. At present, a new tenant is using the premises and Baltimore County has required the Petitioners to seek zoning relief before certifying to the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) that all zoning requirements are satisfied.

The petition for Special Hearing appears to be uncontroversial. Mr. Ramsey testified via proffer that a used car sales and service facility has operated on this site since the 1960s without interruption. Counsel for Petitioners noted that prior to 2001, a used car sales facility was permitted as of right in the BR zone. In Bill 71-2001, the County Council changed the law and required a Special Exception to operate such a business in the BR zone. As further evidence that such a business operated prior to the change in law, Petitioners submitted a document signed in 1994 by Mr. Jablon (who was at the time the Director of "ZADM") stating that the used car facility at the site satisfied "all local zoning requirements" Petitioners Extrapolation these

Date________

circumstances, I believe Petitioners enjoy non-conforming use status permitting the operation of a used car sales business on the site, subject to the requirements and restrictions set forth in B.C.Z.R. §104.

Based upon the testimony and evidence presented, I will grant in part and deny in part the petition for variance. To obtain variance relief a petitioner must show:

(1) The property is unique; and

(2) If variance relief is denied, Petitioner will experience a practical difficulty or hardship.

Trinity Assembly of God v. People's Counsel, 407 Md. 53, 80 (2008).

The Petitioners have met this test. The property is irregularly shaped and the Petitioners must contend with long existing site conditions. As such, it is unique. The Petitioners would experience a practical difficulty if the regulations were strictly interpreted, since they would be unable to continue the business on site. But, based on the ZAC comments, I will deny certain aspects of the variance petition.

The Bureau of Development Plans Review (DPR), in a ZAC comment dated September 5, 2013, had no objection to variance numbers 4-6, but objected to variance numbers 1-3 & 7. Variance numbers 2 and 7, as shown on the plan, concern the display of the used vehicles for sale. Mr. Kennedy believes that, per the Landscape Manual, vehicle display should be at least 10' away from the adjacent roadway (Philadelphia Road) right-of-way line. I concur with Mr. Kennedy's comments, and believe the auto display area must comply with the regulations, which will improve the appearance of the site.

The Bureau of DPR also believed variance numbers 1 and 3 should be denied. These relate to the paving and striping of the parking lot. In response to the Department of Planning's (DOP) comment, the Petitioners have agreed to pave and stripe all areas between Philadelphia Road and the fence on site, which will ensure the most heavily travelled means of customer

Date 10|29|13

ingress/egress are durable and dustless. But I do not believe the Petitioners should be required to pave the balance of the parking lot, most of which is located in the area of the service building at the rear of the site. This area will be used for vehicles awaiting repair, and I believe that paving would be expensive and unnecessary on this portion of the site, and it could also be easily damaged by tow trucks and similar vehicles used to bring disabled vehicles to the site. As such, I will grant variance numbers 1 and 3 with respect to this portion of the site.

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 request should be granted, and the petition for variance should be granted in part, and denied in part.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this <u>29th</u> day of October, 2013, 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 a non-conforming used car sales business in a B.R. zone, be and is hereby GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioners' Variance requests (as numbered in the petition) pursuant to the B.C.Z.R. as follows: (1) to allow parking on macadam and gravel surface (other than with regard to the area between the Philadelphia Road sidewalk and chain link fence with green privacy slats, which shall be paved) in lieu of required durable and dust free surface pursuant to §409.8.A.2; (3) to allow parking without striping and curb stops (other than with regard to the area between the Philadelphia Road sidewalk and chain link fence with green privacy slats) pursuant to §409.8.A.6; (4) to allow an existing building front yard setback of 26' from the center line in lieu of the required 50' and 20' from the property line in lieu of the required 25' pursuant to §238.1; (5) to allow an existing building to set back 20' from the right of way line in lieu of the average setback of 89' pursuant to §303.2; and (6) to allow side yard setbacks of 2.5' and 22' and of 0' and 11' in lieu of the required 50 pursuant to \$200.2 pursuan

Date Of The

pursuant to §238.2, be and are hereby GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Petitioners' variance requests (as numbered in the petition) pursuant to the B.C.Z.R. as follows: (2) to allow parking at the right of way line of Philadelphia Road in lieu of the required 10 feet setback pursuant to §409.8.A.4; and (7) to allow display of motor vehicles within 10' of a roadway and front building line pursuant to §238.4, be and are hereby DENIED.

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

- 1. Petitioners may apply for 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.
- 2. Petitioners must comply with the ZAC comment dated September 30, 2013 submitted by the DOP.

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

JOHNE. BEVERUNGEN Administrative Law Judge

for Baltimore County

JEB/sln

ORDER RECEIVED FOR FILING

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BV_



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

October 29, 2013

John B. Gontrum, Esquire Whiteford, Taylor & Preston, LLP One W. Pennsylvania Avenue Suite 300 Towson, Maryland 21204

RE: Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance

Property: 8545 Philadelphia Road Case No.: 2014-0040-SPHA

Dear Mr. Gontrum:

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,

JOHN E. BEVERUNGEN Administrative Law Judge

for Baltimore County

JEB:sln Enclosure PE ON FOR ZONING HEAP (S)

To be filed with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspec

To be filed with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections
To the Office of Administrative Law of Baltimore County for the property located at:

Address 8545 Philadelphia Road

which is presently zoned B.R

Deed References: 8624/767

_10 Digit Tax Account # 1506000810, 1502201710 & 1502201711

Property Owner(s) Printed Name(s) Stephen Ramsey; Darlene L. Ramsey

(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING X AT THE APPROPRIATE SELECTION AND PRINT OR TYPE THE PETITION REQUEST)

The undersigned legal owner(s) of the property situate in Baltimore County and which is described in the description and plan attached hereto and made a part hereof, hereby petition for:

1. X a Special Hearing under Section 500.7 of the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to determine whether or not the Zoning Commissioner should approve

A non-conforming used car sales business in a B.R. zone.

2. a Special Exception under the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County to use the herein described property for

3. X a Variance from Section(s)

See attached.

of the zoning regulations of Baltimore County, to the zoning law of Baltimore County, for the following reasons: (Indicate below your hardship or practical difficulty or indicate below "TO BE PRESENTED AT HEARING". If you need additional space, you may add an attachment to this petition)

To Be Presented at Hearing.

Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by the zoning regulations.

I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above petition(s), advertising, posting, etc. and further agree to and are to be bounded by the zoning regulations and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the zoning law for Baltimore County.

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

Lessee:		-II:INC	Legal Owr	ners (Petitioners):		
		FORFILING	Stephen	Ramsey	Darlene L. Ramse	еу
Name – Type or I	Print CEIVE	12/	Name #)	ype or Print	Name/#2 - Type or Print	
	Print Print		100	in Of	allas Ka	mser
		2	Signature #1 2260 Ba	ldwin Mill Rd.,	Signature #2 Fallston, Md.	- /
Mailing Address	Date	y State	Mailing Addre	ess C	ity State	
	al /		21047	410-382-1966	steve.ramsey@cl	hesapeakehd
Zip Code	10ephone #	Email Address	Zip Code	Telephone #	Email Address	
Attorney for	Petitioner:		Represen	tative to be contac	ted:	
John B. Gont	rum. Esquire		John B. C	Contrum. Whiteford	I. Tavior & Preston i	LLP

John B. Gontrum, Esquire

Name-Type or Print

Name — Type or Print

Name — Type or Print

Signature

One W. Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 300, Towson, MD

One W. Pennsylvania Ave., St. 300, Towson, Md Mailing Address State **Mailing Address** State 410-832-2055 21204 410-832-2055 igontrum@wtplaw.com 21204 igontrum@wtplaw.com **Email Address** Telephone # Email Address Zip Code Zip Code

CASE NUMBER 2014 -0040-SPHAFiling Date

_ Do Not Schedule Dates:

Reviewer

REV. 10/4/11

ZONING VARIANCES:

- 1. From B.C.Z.R. §409.8.A.2. to allow macadam and gravel parking in lieu of required durable and dust free surface.
- 2. From B.C.Z.R. §409.8.A.4 to allow parking at the right of way line of Philadelphia Road in lieu of the required 10 feet setback.
- 3. From B.C.Z.R. §409.8.A.6 to allow parking without striping and curb stops.
- 4. From B.C.Z.R. §238.1 to allow an existing building a front yard setback of 26' from the center line in lieu of the required 50' and 20' from the front property line in lieu of the required 25'.
- 5. From B.C.Z.R. §303.2 to allow an existing building to set back 20' from the right of way line in lieu of the average setback of 89'.
- 6. From B.C.Z.R. §238.2 to allow a side yard setbacks of 2.5' and 22' and of 0' and 11' in lieu of the required 30' for existing buildings.
- 7. From B.C.Z.R. §238.4 to allow display of motor vehicles within 10' of a roadway and front building line.



August 14, 2013

ZONING DESCRIPTION
1.21 ACRES
LAND OF STEPHEN AND DARLENE L. RAMSEY
TAX MAP #89-PARCELS #312 AND #633
ACCT.# 1502201710, 1502201711, 1502203870 & 1506000810
#8545 Philadelphia Road
Fifteenth Election District
Seventh Councilmanic District
Baltimore County, Maryland

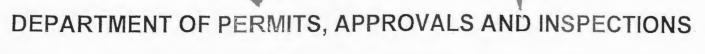
Beginning for the FIRST at a point in Philadelphia Road, Maryland Route #7, said point being Southwesterly 290'+/- from the intersection of Golden Ring Road thence binding,

- 1. South 09 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 22.00 feet to a point,
- 2. South 09 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East 130.00 feet to a point,
- 3. South 53 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds West 46.25 feet to a point,
- 4. South 40 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds East 31.09 feet to a point,
- South 49 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds West 150.00 feet to a point on the Northeasterly rightof-way line of Gettman Avenue (Unimproved), thence binding on the Northeasterly right-ofway line of Gettman Avenue (Unimproved) the following course and distance,
- 6. North 40 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds West 164.40 feet to a point on the Southerly right-ofway line of Philadelphia Road, Maryland Route #7; Thence binding on the Southerly right-ofway line of Philadelphia Road, Maryland Route #7 the following course and distance,
- 7. North 54 degrees 44 minutes 01 seconds East 150.69 feet to a point; Thence binding,
- North 40 degrees 45 minutes 00 seconds West 20.17 to a point in Philadelphia Road, Maryland Route #7; Thence binding in Philadelphia Road, Maryland Route #7 the following course and distance,
- 9. North 55 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds East 126.80 feet to the place of beginning.

Containing 0.81 acres of land, more or less.

www.baystatelandservices.com

2014-0040-SPHA



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.

For Newspaper Advertising:
Item Number or Case Number: 2014 - 0040 - SPHA
Petitioner: STEPLAN RAMSEY Doplant RAMSEY
Address or Location: \$545 PLL pd.
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:
Name: STEVE RAYSE! e/o cheso Rule Properties
Address: Chenante Mala Davidsa
, Thunden Count
Dosling For and 21034
Telephone Number: 410 - 382 - 1566

OFFICE	E OF BUD	GET ANI	IARYLANI D FINANC RECEIPT	E		No.	Q	19/13	PAID RECEIPT MISTINESS ACTUAL TINE DRW 0/19/2013 B/19/2013 07:16:40 2
Fund OU	Dept	Unit 0000	Sub Unit	Rev Source/ Obj	Sub Rev/ Sub Obj	Dept Obj		Amount 1,000	153 1502 WH.KIN JENA JEE
								/ /	######################################
Rec From WHITEFORD TAYLOR & PRESTON LLP									
For:	For. 8545 PHILADELPHIA RI) 1014 - 0040 - SPH A								
DISTRIBUTION WHITE - CASHIER PINK - AGENCY YELLOW - CUSTOMER GOLD - ACCOUNTING PLEASE PRESS HARD!!!!							CASHIER'S VALIDATION		



3801 Baker Schoolhouse Road Freeland, MD 21053 o 443-900-5535 m 410-419-4906 bdoak@bruceedoakconsulting.com

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

October 2, 2013

Re:

Case Number: 2014-0040-SPHA

Petitioner / Owner: Stephen & Darlene Ramsey

Date of Hearing: October 24, 2013

Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals & Inspections County Office Building 111 West Chesapeake Avenue, Room 111 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204

Attention: Kristen Lewis

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This letter is to certify under the penalties of perjury that the necessary sign(s) required by law were posted conspicuously on the property located at 8545 Philadelphia Road.

The sign(s) were posted on October 1, 2013.

Sincerely,

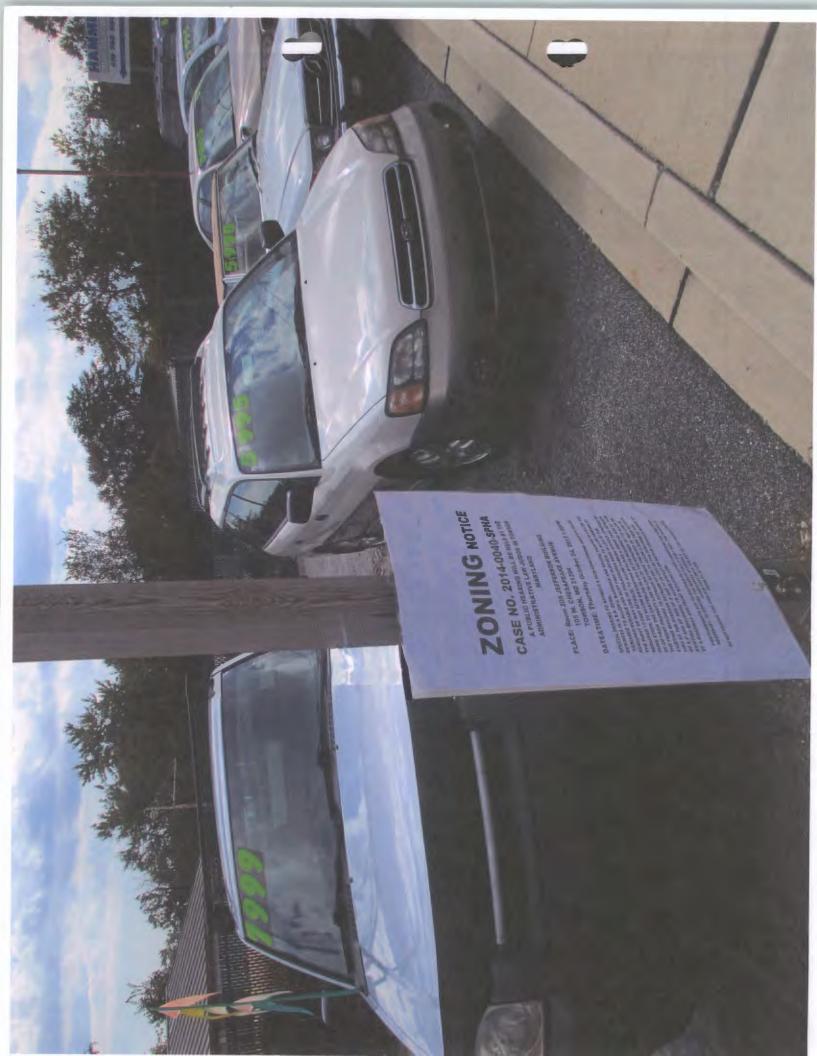
Bruce E. Doak

MD Property Line Surveyor #531

See the attached sheet(s) for the photos of the posted sign(s)



Land Use Expert and Surveyor





Baltimore, Maryland 21278-0001

October 3, 2013

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 3, 2013

The Jeffersonian

THE BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP

By: Susan Wilkinson

Sugar Wilkinst

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: #2014-0040-SPHA
8545 Philadelphia Road
S/east of Philadelphia Road
S/east of Philadelphia Road, 290 ft. s/w of the centerline
of Golden Ring Road
15th Election District - 7th Councilmanic District

15th Election District - 7th Councilmanic District Legal Owner(s): Stephen & Darlene Ramsey
Special Hearing: to approve a non-conforming used car sales business in a B.R. zone. Varlance: to allow a macadam and gravel parking in fleu of the required durable and dust free surface; to allow parking at the right of way line of Philadelphia Road in lieu of the required 10 feet setback; to allow parking without striping or curb stops; to allow an existing building a front yard setback of 26' from the center-line in lieu of the required 50' and 20' from the front property line in lieu of the required 50' to allow an existing building. ty line in lieu of the required 25'; to allow an existing building to setback 20' from the right of way line in lieu of the average setback of 85'; to allow a side yard setback of 2.5' and 22' and of 0' and 11' in lieu of the required 30' for existing buildings; to allow display of motor vehicles within 10' of a roadway and front building line.

Hearing: Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 1:30 p.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 spe-cial 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. 10/022 Oct. 3



KEVIN KAMENETZ County Executive

September 4, 2013

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

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 NUMBER: 2014-0040-SPHA

8545 Philadelphia Road

S/east of Philadelphia Road, 290 ft. s/w of the centerline of Golden Ring Road

15th Election District - 7th Councilmanic District

Legal Owners: Stephen & Darlene Ramsey

Special Hearing to approve a non-conforming used car sales business in a B.R. zone. Variance to allow a macadam and gravel parking in lieu of the required durable and dust free surface; to allow parking at the right of way line of Philadelphia Road in lieu of the required 10 feet setback; to allow parking without striping or curb stops; to allow an existing building a front yard setback of 26' from the centerline in lieu of the required 50' and 20' from the front property line in lieu of the required 25'; to allow an existing building to setback 20' from the right of way line in lieu of the average setback of 89'; to allow a side yard setback of 2.5' and 22' and of 0' and 11' in lieu of the required 30' for existing buildings; to allow display of motor vehicles within 10' of a roadway and front building line.

Hearing: Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 205, Jefferson Building, Wardy!

105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson 21204

Arnold Jabl Director

AJ:kl

C: John Gontrum, One W. Pennsylvania Ave., Ste. 300, Towson 21204 Mr. & Mrs. Ramsey, 2260 Baldwin Mill Road, Fallston 21047

NOTES: (1) THE PETITIONER MUST HAVE THE ZONING NOTICE SIGN POSTED BY AN APPROVED POSTER ON THE PROPERTY BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013.

(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 3, 2013 Issue - Jeffersonian

Please forward billing to:

Stephen Ramsey Chesapeake Harley Davidson 1 Thunder Court Dorlington, MD 21034

410-382-1966

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: 2014-0040-SPHA

8545 Philadelphia Road S/east of Philadelphia Road, 290 ft. s/w of the centerline of Golden Ring Road 15th Election District – 7th Councilmanic District Legal Owners: Stephen & Darlene Ramsey

Special Hearing to approve a non-conforming used car sales business in a B.R. zone. Variance to allow a macadam and gravel parking in lieu of the required durable and dust free surface; to allow parking at the right of way line of Philadelphia Road in lieu of the required 10 feet setback; to allow parking without striping or curb stops; to allow an existing building a front yard setback of 26' from the centerline in lieu of the required 50' and 20' from the front property line in lieu of the required 25'; to allow an existing building to setback 20' from the right of way line in lieu of the average setback of 89'; to allow a side yard setback of 2.5' and 22' and of 0' and 11' in lieu of the required 30' for existing buildings; to allow display of motor vehicles within 10' of a roadway and front building line.

Hearing: Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 205, Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson 21204

Arnold Jablen

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.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Decembe

December 2, 2013

TO:

Zoning Review Office

FROM:

Office of Administrative Hearings

RE:

Case No. 2014-0040-SPHA - Appeal Period Expired

The appeal period for the above-referenced case expired on November 28, 2013. 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

RE: PETITION FOR SPECIAL HEARING
AND VARIANCE
8545 Philadelphia Road; SE Philadelphia
Road, 290' SW c/line Golden Ring Road
15th Election & 7th Councilmanic Districts
Legal Owner(s): Stephen & Darlene Ramsey
Petitioner(s)

BEFORE THE OFFICE

* OF ADMINSTRATIVE

HEARINGS FOR

BALTIMORE COUNTY

* 2014-040-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

AUG 2 9 2013

Peter Max Zummerman

PETER MAX ZIMMERMAN
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

CAROLE S. DEMILIO Deputy People's Counsel Jefferson Building, Room 204 105 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, MD 21204

Cank S Ventio

(410) 887-2188

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 29th day of August, 2013, a copy of the foregoing Entry of Appearance was mailed to John Gontrum, Esquire, One West Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 300, Towson, Maryland 21204, Attorney for Petitioner(s).

Peter Max Zummerman

PETER MAX ZIMMERMAN
People's Counsel for Baltimore County



CHECKLIST

Comment Received	<u>Department</u>	Support/Oppose/ Conditions/ Comments/ No Comment				
95113	DEVELOPMENT PLANS REVIEW (if not received, date e-mail sent)					
9/13/13	DEPS (if not received, date e-mail sent)	NC				
	FIRE DEPARTMENT .					
9/30/13	PLANNING (if not received, date e-mail sent)					
9/2/13	STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	C				
	TRAFFIC ENGINEERING					
	COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION					
	ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS					
ZONING VIOLA	TION (Case No					
PRIOR ZONING	(Case No.					
NEWSPAPER AL	OVERTISEMENT Date: 10/3/13					
SIGN POSTING Date: 101113 by Dooth						
PEOPLE'S COUNSEL APPEARANCE Yes No PEOPLE'S COUNSEL COMMENT LETTER Yes No						
Comments, if any:						



KEVIN KAMENETZ County Executive

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

October 18, 2013

Stephen Ramsey
Darlene L Ramsey
2260 Baldwin Mill Road
Fallston MD 21047

RE: Case Number: 2014-0040, Address: 8545 Philadelphia Road

Dear Mr. & Ms. Ramsey:

The above referenced petition was accepted for processing **ONLY** by the Bureau of Zoning Review, Department of Permits, Approvals, and Inspection (PAI) on August 19, 2013. 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

John B. Gontrum, Esquire, One W Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 300, Towson MD 21204

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor



James T. Smith, Jr., Secretary
Melinda B. Peters, Administrator

September 2, 2013

Ms. Kristen Lewis Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections County Office Building, Room 109 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204 RE: Baltimore County

Item No. 2014-0040-SPHA Special Hearing Variance Stephen & Darlene L. Ramsey 8545 Philadelphia Road

MD7

Dear Ms. Lewis:

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has reviewed the site plan to accompany the petition for variance on the subject of the above captioned, which was received on August 29, 2013. We offer the following:

- SHA has an objection to allowing parking, and cars being displayed within 10' of the roadway as this creates a potential sight distance hazard for vehicles entering and exiting this site.
- The right-of-way line along MD 7 at the northeast end of this property extends to the centerline of the roadway. SHA requires that the roadway of MD 7 be entirely within SHA right-of-way. Therefore, we are requesting that the county require the dedication of this property frontage along MD 7 19' from the existing right-of-way line which will extend the right-of-way line that exists west of this section of the property to the eastern property line. Or at a minimum, we are requesting dedication of the property frontage that will place the right-of-way line at the back of the existing curb on MD 7 (approximately 14' from the existing right-of-way line). In either scenario, an SHA formatted plat and deed will need to be prepared. The design engineer should contact Ms. Pattianne Smith, SHA Plats & Surveys (410-545-8860) to coordinate plat preparation, and Ms. Jenny Archer, SHA Right-of-Way, Chief District 4 (410-229-2401. Copies of a revised plat reflecting the above requested right-of-way dedication should be submitted to the Access Management Division (AMD) for distribution to these offices initiating their review.

Ms. Kristen Lewis 2014-0040-SPHA September 2, 2013 Page 2

Should you have any questions regarding this matter feel free to 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). Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Foster, Chief/ Development Manager

Access Management Division

SDF/raz

cc: Bay State Land Services / P.O Box 853, Bel Air, MD 21014-0853 Mr. Stephen Ramsey & Ms. Darlene L. Ramsey / 2260 Baldwin Mill Road

Fallston, MD 21047-1336

Ms. Colleen M. Kelly / 111 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204

Ms. Pattianne Smith, SHA Plats & Surveys w/plat

Ms. Jenny Archer, SHA District 4 Right-of-Way w/plat

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

RECEIVED

Inter-Office Correspondence

SEP 1 3 2013



OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

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:

September 13, 2013

SUBJECT:

DEPS Comment for Zoning Item

2014-0040-SPHA

Address

8545 Philadelphia Road

(Ramsey Property)

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of August 26, 2013.

X The Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability has no comment on the above-referenced zoning item.

Reviewer:

Jeff Livingston – Development Coordination

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: September 5, 2013

TO:

Arnold Jablon, Director

Department of Permits, Approvals

And Inspections

FROM:

Dennis A. Kennedy, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT:

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

For September 2, 2013 Item No. 2014-0040

The Bureau of Development Plans Review has reviewed the subject zoning item and we have the following comments.

We have no objection to the continued use of this site as a used car sales business. We also have no objection to granting the requested variances numbered 4, 5 and 6.

We believe that the variances numbered 2 and 7 should be denied. The County Landscape Manual has specific regulations for Automotive Display Areas to which all dealerships are held. Those regulations state that, "display parking areas shall follow the setbacks for parking lots." and that "Automobiles shall not be placed or displayed within the landscape strip..." Baltimore County has many car dealerships with automobile display areas and we believe that allowing this request will set a poor precedent and violate the intent of planning, zoning and landscape regulations. Furthermore, the properties surrounding this site along Philadelphia Road are well kept and aesthetically acceptable while this property is not. Keeping parking spaces and display vehicles 10 feet away from the right-of-way line would allow for landscaping which would soften the visual impact immensely.

Variance number 1 should be denied because there is a residence abutting the lot which would receive the dust and the lot has a slope that is greater than 5% which is the upper limit we use for gravel and crusher run surfaces. As for variance number 3, if the spaces are not striped, it is difficult to determine compliance with parking regulations.

A Landscape Plan that meets the requirements of the Landscape Manual and the attendant checklists is required. The provided plan is not acceptable.

DAK: cen cc:file

ZAC-ITEM NO 14-0040-09032013.doc

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Arnold Jablon

DATE: September 30, 2013

Deputy Administrative Officer and

Director of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM:

Andrea Van Arsdale

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT:

8545 Philadelphia Road

RECEIVED

OCT 0 1 2013

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

INFORMATION:

14-040

Petitioner:

Item Number:

Stephen Ramsey

Zoning:

BR

Requested Action:

Special Hearing and Variance

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Department of Planning has reviewed the petitioner's request and accompanying site plan. The Department of Planning does not oppose requested variances 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Variances 1 and 3 are also not opposed, however this department has concerns with the proposal as it relates to the areas closest to and along Philadelphia Road.

The Department of Planning as stated above generally does not oppose the petitioner's requests. However, the relief should be conditioned upon the following:

- 1. Pave or repave and maintain in good condition a durable and dustless macadam surface on all areas of the site located between the Philadelphia Road sidewalk and the chain link fence with green privacy slats. No parked/displayed motor vehicles shall be permitted to extend over the adjacent curb and sidewalk.
- 2. Pave or repave, stripe, and maintain in good condition a durable and dustless macadam surface on the front yard and side yard parking areas for the 2,528 square foot used auto sales building.
- 3. Remove/prohibit all litter, debris, and unenclosed storage of junk tires on the entire premises.
- Remove/prohibit the storage of derelict motor vehicles and equipment on the entire premises.
- 5. Remove the dilapidated light pole located at the northwest corner of the 4,992 square foot service garage building.
- 6. Replace the rotted wood siding and the damaged door on the 232 square foot mobile office trailer and paint/repaint all of the wood siding on the trailer.
- 7. Replace the dilapidated wood retaining wall for the 4-space parking area located in front of the 2,528 square foot used auto sales building.
- 8. Repair the damaged wall and replace the deteriorated door located on the west side of the 2,528 square foot used auto sales building. ORDER RECEIVED FOR FILING
- 9. All fencing shall be maintained in good condition.

- 10. The petitioner's landscaping plan shall be submitted to Jean Tansey, Baltimore County Landscape Architect for review and approval. The Department of Planning does not support the 6 proposed planter boxes shown on the landscaping plan. They will not provide significant aesthetic or environmental benefits, and it is very possible the boxes may be damaged when used cars are maneuvered in and out of the display areas.
- 11. The applicant shall petition Baltimore County to close unimproved Gettman Avenue.

For further information concerning the matters stated here in, please contact Dennis Wertz at 410-887-3480.

Prepared By:

Division Chief: AVA/LL:cjm

ORDER RECEIVED FOR FILING

Date.

By_



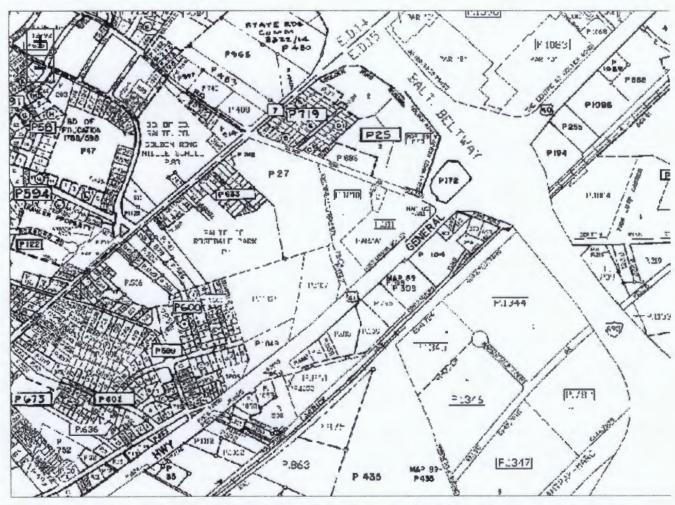
Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

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Total:		335,700	33	0,200		330,200		330,2	
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Baltimore County

New Search (http://sdat.resiusa.org/RealProperty)

District: 15 Account Number: 1506000810



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 (http://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). Http://www.mdp.state.md.us/OurProducts/OurProducts.shtml).



(http://imsweb05.mdp.state.md.us/website/mosp/)

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Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

View Map	View GroundRent Redemptio	on	View Gro	oundRent Registra	
Account Identifier:	District - 15 Account Nu				
	Own	er Information			
Owner Name:	RAMSEY STEPHEN RAMSEY DARLENE L 2260 BALDWIN MILL	PD	al Residence:	COMMERCIA NO 1) /08624/ 0076	
Mailing Address:	FALLSTON MD 21047-	1336 <u>Deed Re</u>	elerence:	2)	
	Location & S	Structure Informatio	n		
Premises Address:	8545 PHILADELPHIA 1 BALTIMORE MD 2123	0001	E GETTMAN		
Map: Grid: Parcel: 0312	Sub District: Subdivision: 0000	Section: Block	: Lot: Asse 2012	essment Year:	
Special Tax Areas:		Town: Ad Valorem: Tax Class:	Ad Valorem:		
Primary Structure Built 1926	Above Grade Enclosed Area 2400	Finished Basemen	11,8	perty Land Area 881 SF	
	<u>Exteri</u> SERVICE GARAGE		Garage	Last Major Ren	
	Valu	e Information			
	Base Value	Value		ssessments	
		As of 01/01/2012	As of 07/01/2013	As of 07/01/	
Land:	142,500 40,600	142,500 46,900			
Improvements Total:	183,100	189,400	187,300	189,4	
Preferential Land:	0	102,400	107,500	0	
	Trans	fer Information			
Seller: RAMSEY STEP	HEN Date: 10	0/18/1990		Price:	
Type: NON-ARMS LEN		/08624/ 00767		Deed2	
Seller:	Date:			Price:	
Type:	Deed1:			Deed2	
Seller:	Date:			Price:	
Type:	Deed1:			Deed2	
	Exemp	tion Information			
Partial Exempt Assessm		07/01/20	013	07/01/2014	
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State:	000	0.00		1 - 2 - 1 - 1	
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Exempt Class:	NONE				
	Homestead A	pplication Informat	on		
Homestead Application	Status: No Application				

Baltimore County

New Search (http://sdat.resiusa.org/RealProperty)

District: 15 Account Number: 1502201710



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Property maps provided courtesy of the Maryland Department of Planning ©2011.

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(http://imsweb05.mdp.state.md.us/website/mosp/)

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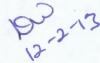
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Case	NI	
Case	INC)

2014-0040-SPHA

Exhibit Sheet

Petitioner/Developer



Mr. 10/29/13

No. 1	Site plan	
No. 2	Dudley Cambell resume	
No. 3	Aerial zoning map	
No. 4	Daed 8624/767	
No. 5	SA-SH Photos of Site	
No. 6	MVA - Zoning Approval Form	
No. 7		
No. 8		
No. 9		
No. 10		
No. 11	,	
No. 12		

Resume C. DUDLEY CAMPBELL Registered Property Line Surveyor (40 Years' Experience)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

Towson State University, Towson, Maryland Harford Community College, Bel Air, Maryland

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS:

Registered Property Line Surveyor, Maryland (#300) Certified Environmental Inspector (#77290)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND MEMBERSHIPS:

Maryland Society of Surveyors National Society of Professional Surveyors American Planning Association Environmental Assessment Association American Society of Civil Engineers

TECHNICAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS:

Traffic Institute, Northwestern University
Geometric Design Workshop, 1989

Survey and Boundary Disputes, MICPEL
University of Baltimore, 1990

Survey Problems and Curing Title Defects, MICPEL
University of Baltimore, 1991

Boundary Disputes, Northwestern University, 1992

Land Planning-Design Criteria, Northwestern University, 1994

Minimum Standards of Practice-Chesapeake College, 1995

Standards of A.L.T.A. Surveys, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 1997

Statutory Laws of Maryland, University of Maryland, 1999

Dispute Resolution, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2003

Contracting for Surveying Services, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2003



Page Two C. Dudley Campbell

TECHNICAL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS (Cont.)

Minimum Standards for ALTA/ACSM Surveys, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2003
Condominium Law, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2004
Minimum Standards of Practice, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2005
Legal Topics for Surveying, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2006
An Attorney's Angle on Surveying, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2007
Technology Vs. The Law, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2007
Drawing Fire, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2007
Re-Engineering Surveyors and Survey Businesses, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2008
Surveying: The Profession, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2008
The Law of the Land Boundaries, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2008
GIS for the Surveyor, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2009
Professional Ethics for the Surveyor, Maryland Society of Surveyors, 2010
FEMA Technical Issues and Updates, 2011
Railroad Surveying, 2012
Laws of Maryland Relating to Surveyors, 2012

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

Bay State Land Services, Bel Air, Maryland

Registered Property Line Surveyor, Principal (2003 to Present)

Responsibilities include serving as: Company Principal, Surveyor-In Charge and Planner for development services related to residential, commercial, municipal, and industrial projects; Expert Testimony in zoning and building design and codes; Inspection services for financial and legal institutions;

Campbell & Nolan Associates, Inc., Bel Air, Maryland

Registered Property Line Surveyor, Principal (1993 to 2003)

Responsibilities include serving as Surveyor-In-Charge for development and inspection services related to design of residential, commercial, municipal, and industrial projects in Northern Maryland; Duties include planning and layout to meet municipal criteria, quality control review of services performed, serving as Designer and Principal-In-Charge of site design projects, inspections, and serving as the Surveyor of Record for preparing record plats, boundaries, metes and bounds descriptions, location surveys, etc;

Campbell Associates, Bel Air, Maryland

Registered Property Line Surveyor, President (1986 to 1993)

Served as Sole Proprietor of Land Surveying and Civil Engineering Firm providing services related to site development and design; Duties included all aspects of managing the Company and projects;

Harford County Government, Bel Air, Maryland

Chief of Surveys (1983 to 1991)

Served as Chief of Surveys for Harford County Government; Duties included serving as Surveyor-In-Charge of all government projects, managing in-house personnel, formulating County policy, inspection and adherence to County codes, and Administrator to consultant subcontractors; Page Three C. Dudley Campbell

G.W. Stephens and Associates, Bel Air, Maryland

Party Chief (1978 to 1983)

Served as a Party Chief for a three man crew; Duties included residential and construction stakeouts;

Harford Survey Associates, Bel Air, Maryland

Instrument Man (1975 to 1978)

Served as a Rodman and Instrument man; Duties included residential and construction stakeouts;

PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCES (Accepted as Land Planner and Land Surveyor):

Accepted as expert witness in:

Baltimore County Circuit Court (1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 2002, 2006; 2008);

Harford County Circuit Court (1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2004, 2005; 2006 2007; 2010);

Harford County District Court (1990, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005; 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011);

Baltimore County Zoning Commission (1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005; 2006; 2007); Harford County Board of Appeals (1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006; 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013);

State Highway Administration (1991, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005; 2006; 2007, 2011, 2012);





My Neighborhood Map

Created By Baltimore County My Neighborhood



Inis data is only for general information purposes only. This data may be inaccurate or contain errors or omissions. Baltimore County, Maryland does not warrant the accuracy or reliability of the data and disclaims all warranties with regard to the data, including but not limited to, all warranties, express or implied, of merchantability and fitness for any particular purpose. Baltimore County, Maryland disclaims all obligation and liability for damages, including but not limited to, actual, special, indirect, and consequential damages, attorneys' and experts' fees, and court costs incurred as a result of, arising from or in connection with the use of or reliance upon this data.

INEE 8 6 2 4 PAGE 7 6 7 THIS DEED is made than 20 day of august . 1990, by STEPHEN RAMSEY, of Harrison County, Sta e of Maryland, sometimes become referred to as the "Grantor," and, 'DARLENE L. RAMSEY, has wife, nonetimes herein after referred to as "Grantos". er referred to as the "Grantor," and STEPHEN RAMSEY and WITNESSETH, that for and in consideration of the sum of ZERO DOLLARS (\$00.00) and for other good and vausable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are barely acknowledged, the said Greator hereby grant; and conveys unto STEPHEN RAMSEY AND DARLENG L. RAMSEY, his wife, as Tenants by hereory greats and conveys onto SERTERS was an extra present representatives of serges of the survivor, forever, in it is simple, all those loss or parcels of land situate and lying in Baltimore County, as more specifically described in Schadule "A", attached hereo, and incorporated by reference herein. BEING THE SAME AND ALL LAND AS conveyed by and described in a deed dated November 11, 1983 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber 8032, folio 509, from Joseph H. Betz and Elizabeth Betz, also known as Betty Betz to the said Stephen Ramsey. TOGETHER WITH the buildings and improvements thereon and all the rights, roads, ways, waters, d appurtmenters thereto belonging or in any meaner appertaining. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the shove granted and described lots of ground and premises to the said Stephen Remey and Durisse L. Ranney, his wife, their assigns, the marrivor thereof, and the heirs, personal representatives and assigns of the survivor, forever, in fee simple; AND THE SAID Suplem Remove does hereby covenent to warrant specially the lands and premises at at to be conveyed, and agrees to execute such other and further assurances thereof as may be requisite. AS WITNESS the hands and seals of the above-named Grenter, the day and year first above wri STATE OF B.ARYLAND, HARFORD COUNTY, SCT.: HERECY CERTIFY that on this \$2 day of Cucy., 1950, before me, the subscriber, a Notary
Public of the State aforesaid, duly commissioned and qualified, personally appeared Stephen Ramsey, and he
acknowledged the aforegoing dead to be his act and that the actual consideration paid was Zero (\$0.00) Dollars. AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seel. TRA 48FER TAX NOT REQUIRED Director of Finance
BALT MORE COUNTY MARYLAND
Per Hayad Co. Md. Authorized Signature
Date 10 1/- St. Sec. 11-86 A AGRICULTURAL TRANSPER TAX BOT APPLICABLE MAIL TO: RECEIVED FOR TPANSER ACQUILINE A. MODRIL, ESQ. State Committee SECRETUPE OF DATE/A-1290 for interest of the same BALTIMORE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT (Land Records) [MSA CE 62-8479] Book SM 8624, p. 0767. Printed 10/21/2013. Online

03/09/2005.

Parcel 1

BEING known and designated as Lot Hos. 19 and 20 as shown on a Plat entitled, "Gettman Heights" which said Plat is recorded among the Land Records of Baltimure County, Maryland in Plat Brok W.P.C., No. 7, folio 174 and as shown on the Plat of Gettman Heights which said Plat is recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber W.H.H., No. 9, folio 27.

BEING the same 2 lots of ground which by Deed dated November 1, 1970 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber 0.T.G., No. 5140, folio 257 was granted and conveyed by Clyde L. Fallin and Betty L. Fallin unto Joseph H. Betz, Jr. for and during the term of his natural life with full powers of disposition except by Last Will and Testament with remainder upon his death unto Kenneth J. Betz, in fee simple, which said powers are hereby intended to be exercised.

Farcel 2

REING known and designated as Lot Nos. 2 and 3 as shown on a Plat entitled, "Gettman Heights" which said Plat is recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber W.H.A., No. 9, folio 27 (also as shown on the Plat of Gettman heights recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Plat Book W.P.C., No. 7, folio 174).

BEING the same two lots of ground which by Deed dated October 2, 1967 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber O.T.G., No. 4812, folio 385 was granted and conveyed by Clyde L. Fallin and Betty L. Fallin, his wife, unto Joseph H. Betz, Jr. and Betty Betz, his wife, in fee simple.

Parcel 3

BEGINNING for the same in the centre of the Philadelphia Road (formerly called the Baltimore Havre de Grace Turnpike Road) at the end of the first line of the whole parcel of land which by Deed dated May 29th, 1878 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber J.B., No. 108, folio 304 etc. was conveyed by John I. Yellott, Trustee to Daniel Diegel, and running thence bounding on the second line thereof South forty and three-quarter (40-3/4) degrees East one hundred and thirty-nine (139) feet to an iron pin set in the gound, thence North fifty-three and one-half (53-1/2) degrees East 10.tyt-six (46 feet and three (3) inches to an iron pin set in the gournd, thence North nine (9) degrees West one hundred and thirty (130) feet to an iron pin set in the gound on the Southeast side of said

Philadelphia Road, thence still North nine (9) degrees West twenty-two (22) feet to the centre of said Philadelphia Road and thence bounding on the centre thereof South fifty-five and one-quarter (55-1/4) degrees West one hundred and twenty-six (126) feet to the place of beginning. Containing two hundred and seventy-five one thousands (275/1000) of an acre of land, more or less.

BEING the same lot of land which by Deed dated October 7, 1981 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber E.H.K., Jr., No. 6337, folio 412 was granted and conveyed by Marie A. Betz, widow unto Joseph R. Betz, Jr. and Elizabeth J. Betr, his wife, in fee simple.

Parcel 4

BEING known and designated as Lot No. 1 as shown on a Plat entitled, "Gettman Heights" which said Plat is recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber W.H.N., No. 9, folio 27 (also Plat of Gettman Heights recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Plat Book W.P.C., No. 7, folio 174).

BEING the same lot of land which by Deed dated October 7, 1981 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County in Liber E.H.K., Jr., No. 6337, folio 415 was granted and conveyed by Marie A. Betz, widow, unto Joseph H. Betz, Jr. and Elizabeth J. Betz, his wife, in fee simple.

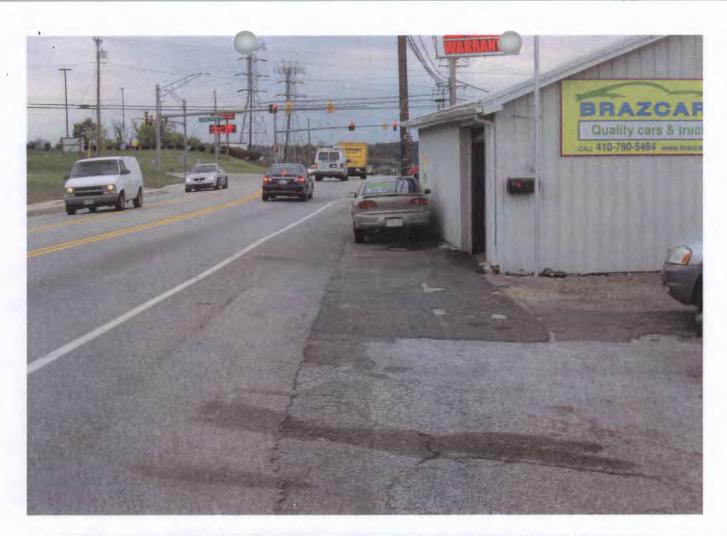
15.00 DEED 0 # SH CLERK 15.00 #27652 COO3 RO1 TO9:07 10/18/90

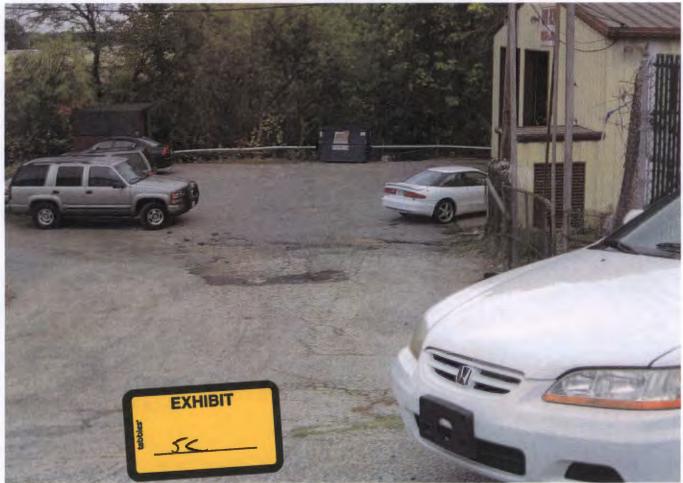




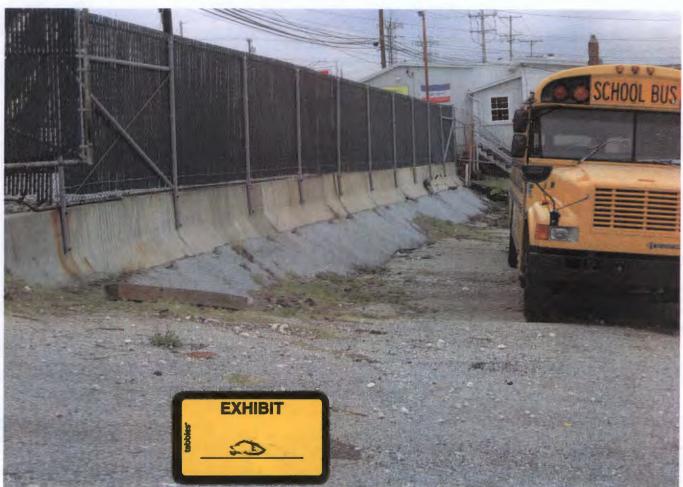


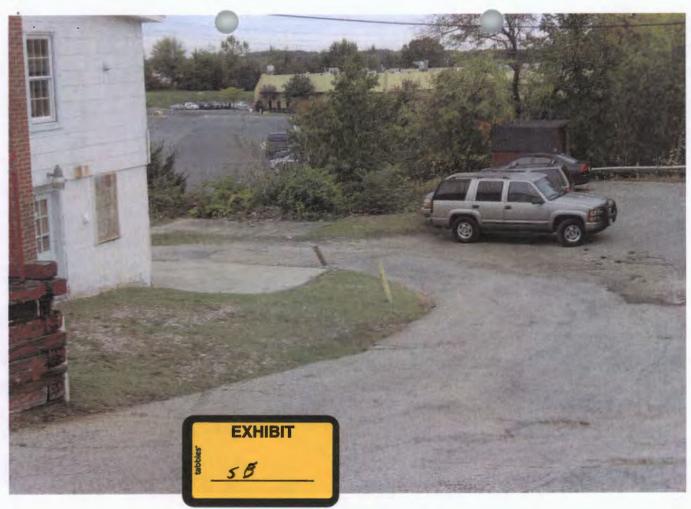




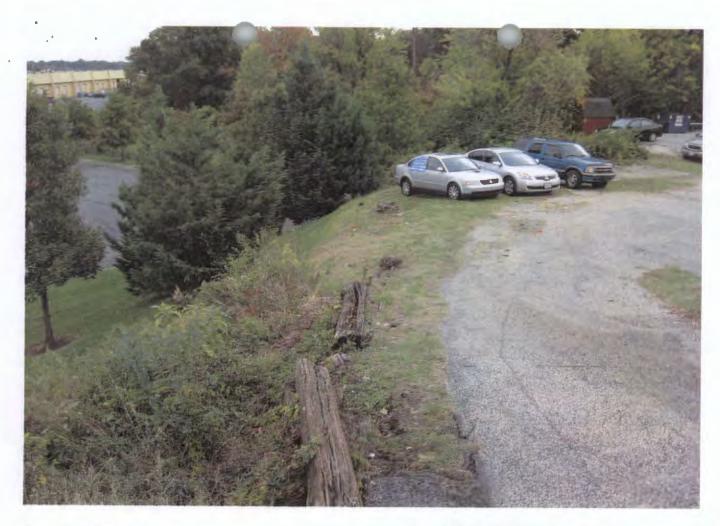








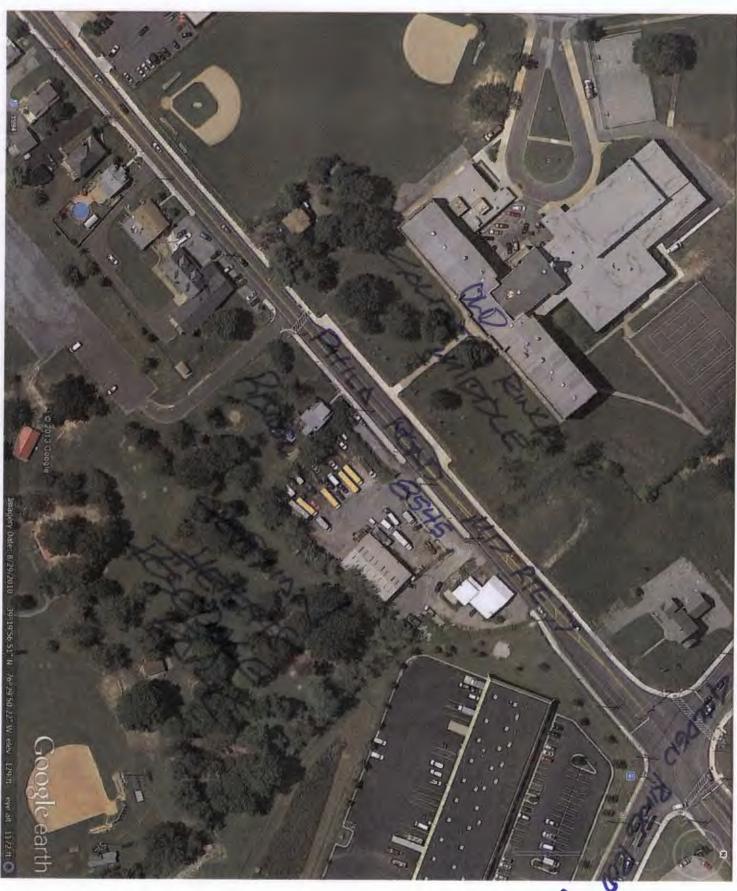




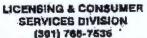






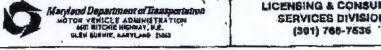


Too S



SUBMIT WITH APPLICATION

ZONING APPROVAL FORM



TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT AND PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL TO THE LOCAL ZONING AUTHORITIES.

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	163	Md. App. 194, *; 2005 Md. App. I				

JACK ANTWERPEN, ET AL. v. BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

No. 696, September Term, 2004

COURT OF SPECIAL APPEALS OF MARYLAND

163 Md. App. 194; 877 A.2d 1166; 2005 Md. App. LEXIS 90

July 7, 2005, Filed

PRIOR HISTORY: Appeal from the Circuit Court for Baltimore County. Susan Souder, JUDGE.

DISPOSITION: [***1] JUDGMENT AFFIRMED; COSTS TO BE PAID BY APPELLANTS.

CASE SUMMARY

PROCEDURAL POSTURE: Plaintiffs, a used car dealership and its owner, appealed from a Circuit Court for Baltimore County (Maryland) affirmance of a decision of defendant county's Board of Appeals dismissing the dealership's request for a special hearing on the issue of whether it was entitled, under a theory of nonconforming use, to operate a used car lot on its property despite an amendment to Baltimore County, Md., Zoning Reg. § 233.2 that precluded such use.

OVERVIEW: A deputy zoning commissioner, possibly unaware of the pending amendment to the zoning regulations, approved the dealership's use of its property for a used car lot. To assure its entitlement to the use, the dealership in effect sought a declaratory judgment by seeking a special hearing before the Board, but the Board denied the hearing. On appeal, the dealership argued that its nonconforming use had vested during the nine days before the amendment took effect. The court held that this might well have been the case if the dealership had operated the lot under authority of a final order during those nine days, but since it had requested a special hearing and appeals from that request remained ongoing, no right to operate the lot had ever vested in the dealership, and its right to operate it on that site could have been terminated at any time by zoning law changes.

OUTCOME: The court affirmed the judgment.

CORE TERMS: zoning, zone, special exception, used car, used-car, vested right, special hearing, deputy, nonconforming use, outdoor, subject property, vested, selling, license, zoning ordinance, de novo, dealership, designated, garage, right to use, intense, adjoining, property owner, automobile dealership, right to operate, judicial review, non-conforming, completion, planned, invalid

LEXISNEXIS® HEADNOTES

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Governments > Local Governments > Administrative Boards

Real Property Law > Zoning & Land Use > Special Permits & Variances

Former Baltimore County, Md., Zoning Reg. § 233.2 provided that the following was a permitted use in a Business Major Zone: Automobile sales room and adjoining outdoor sales area, provided that dismantled or junk cars unfit for operation on the highways shall not be stored outdoors. In the Business Roadside Zone, which allows more intense uses than the Business Major Zone, one can operate a used automobile vehicle outdoor sales area, separated from a sales agency building, only if a special exception is granted. Baltimore County, Md., Zoning Reg. § 236.4. The Baltimore, Maryland, County Council has created three business zones: Business Light, Business Major, and Business Roadside. The least intense is the Business Light Zone, and the most intense is the Business Roadside Zone. The Business Major Zone is medium density. The Business Roadside Zone allows all the uses permitted in the Business Major Zone, but not vice-versa. More Like This Headnote

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Real Property Law > Zoning & Land Use > Special Permits & Variances 🚉

HN2 ★ Baltimore County, Md., Zoning Reg. § 233.2, as amended effective October 19, 2001, clarifies that new automobile sales facilities are permitted as a matter of right in the Business Major Zones of the county. Baltimore County, Md. Zoning Reg. § 440.4C, as amended at the same time, permits a used motor vehicle outdoor sales area in the Business Major Zones by special exception if it is part of a commercial planned unit development. More Like This Headnote | Shepardize: Restrict By Headnote

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Environmental Law > Litigation & Administrative Proceedings > Judicial Review

*In an administrative review, the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland reviews the decision of the agency, not the decision of the circuit court. More Like This Headnote | Shepardize: Restrict By Headnote

Administrative Law > Judicial Review > Reviewability > Final Order Requirement

Environmental Law > Zoning & Land Use > Statutory & Equitable Limits

Real Property Law > Zoning & Land Use > Nonconforming Uses

*Maryland case law holds that a vested right does not come into being until the completion of any litigation involving the zoning ordinance from which the vested right is claimed to have originated. It would seem to follow that an applicant for rezoning to a more intense use of his property, who has been successful before the zoning authorities and the circuit court, does not acquire a vested or substantive

right that may not be wiped out by legislation that takes effect during the pendency of an appeal. More Like This Headnote | Shepardize: Restrict By Headnote

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Real Property Law > Zoning & Land Use > General Overview

**A request for a special hearing before a zoning commissioner is, in legal effect, a request for a declaratory judgment. More Like This Headnote | Shepardize: Restrict By Headnote

COUNSEL: ARGUED BY: Nathan D. Alder (Neuberger, Quinn, Gielen, Rubin & Gibber, PA on the brief) all of Baltimore, MD. FOR APPELLANT.

ARGUED BY: Carole S. Demilio (Peter Max Zimmerman, People's Counsel on the brief) all of Towson, MD. FOR APPELLEE.

JUDGES: ARGUED BEFORE: Salmon, Eyler, Deborah S., Krauser, JJ.

OPINION BY: Salmon

OPINION

[*195] [**1167] Opinion by Salmon, J.

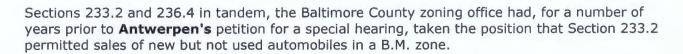
This is a zoning case. The property affected by the zoning consists of approximately 2.5 acres zoned B.M. (Business Major) and is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Brenbrook Drive and Church Lane in the Randallstown area of Baltimore County. It is improved with a large automobile dealership building. Adjoining the building is an outdoor sales area. The property is owned by Jack **Antwerpen** and Antbren, LLC (hereafter "**Antwerpen**"). [*196] The selling of used automobiles is the business of 3636 LLC, D/B/A Prestige Imports ("Prestige"). **Antwerpen's** goal is to move Prestige's used-car operation lawfully onto the subject property. In preparing for the move, **Antwerpen** learned that the Baltimore County zoning office took the position that a used-automobile dealership was not permitted in the B.M. zone. **Antwerpen** took a contrary position, and on August 2, 2001, **Antwerpen** filed a petition for special hearing with the Baltimore County Department of Permits and Development Management.

The request for a "Special Hearing" was made pursuant to Section [***2] 500.7 of the zoning regulations of Baltimore County. **Antwerpen** asked for a determination of whether it was permissible in a B.M. zone to use the land for "the sale of used automobiles as a principal use in an automobile sales room and adjoining outdoor sales area"

At the time the petition for special hearing was filed, **Baltimore County Zoning Regulation (BCZR) Section 233.2 provided that the following was a permitted use in a B.M. zone:

Automobile sales room and adjoining outdoor sales area, provided that dismantled or junk cars unfit for operation on the highways shall not be stored outdoors.

In the B.R. (Business Roadside) zone, which allows more intense uses than the B.M. zone, one can operate "a used automobile vehicle outdoor sales area, separated from a sales agency building," only if a special exception is granted. See Section 236.4 of the BCZR. ¹ Reading



FOOTNOTES

1 The Baltimore County Council created three business zones - Business Light (B.L.), B.M., and B.R. The least intense is the B.L. zone, and the most intense is the B.R. zone. The B.M. zone is medium density. The B.R. zone allows all the uses permitted in the B.M. zone but not vice-versa.

[***3] [*197] The Baltimore County Zoning Commissioner's policy manual, which is authorized by Section 26-135 of the BCZR, permits the director of the zoning office to promulgate rules and policies as a guide to the application of zoning regulations. The policy manual includes a chart of permissible uses in various zones. That chart indicates that the use of property in a B.M. zone for used car sales is prohibited.

On September 4, 2001, the Baltimore County Council passed Bill 71-01. The purpose of that bill was to make it clear "that new car sales are permitted as of right in the B.M. zone but that used-car outdoor sales areas were permitted in the B.M. zone only by special exceptions as part of a commercial planned unit development ['PUD']. . . ." Bill 71-01 was to take effect on October 19, 2001.

[**1168] The explanatory note accompanying Bill 71-01 reads as follows:

Bill 71-01 proposes to amend the Zoning Regulations in order to clarify the types of automobile sales facilities permitted in the business zones of the County.

Under current law, new automobile sales rooms are permitted in the BM (Business, Major) zones of the County as a matter of right, while used car sales are permitted [***4] by special exception in the BR (Business, Roadside) zones of the County. A recent decision by the County Board of Appeals has caused some confusion in this area. The Board has recently held that since there is no definition of the term "automobile sales room" in the Zoning Regulations, both new and used car facilities are permitted as a matter of right in the BM zones.

HN2 Bill 71-01 proposes to amend Section 233.2 of the Zoning Regulations (uses permitted by right in the BM zones of the County) by clarifying that new automobile sales facilities are permitted as a matter of right in the BM zones of the County.

The bill also amends Section 440.4.C. in order to permit a used motor vehicle outdoor sales area (currently permitted by special exception only in the BR zones) in the BM zones [*198] by special exception if it is part of a commercial planned unit development (PUD-C).

On September 11, 2001, which was exactly one week after Bill 71-01 was enacted, a hearing was held before Deputy Zoning Commissioner Timothy M. Kotroco to consider **Antwerpen's** request for hearing. The fact that the Baltimore County Council had passed Bill 71-01 was not brought to the deputy zoning commissioner's [***5] attention at the hearing. This lapse was possibly due to the absence of any opponents to **Antwerpen's** request.

On September 18, 2001, the deputy zoning commissioner filed a four-page "finding of fact and conclusion of law" in which he resolved the issue raised in the request for hearing. He said, in material part, as follows:

Historically, the Zoning Office (the Department of Permits and Development Management (DPDM)), has always construed . . . section [233.2] to be limited to only new vehicles. That construction is based on a use designated in Section 236.4 of the B.C.Z.R., which defines the special exceptions permitted in the B.R. zones. Therein, a designated use is "a used motor vehicle outdoor area, separated from a sales agency building." Since this use is identified in the B.C.Z.R., the Zoning Office has opined that, when these two uses are considered in conjunction with one another, that the use designated in Section 233.2 (i.e.[,] automobile sales room and adjoining outdoor sales area. . .) is for new cars, only. The reasoning is that because the use defined in Section 236.4 designated used vehicles, the absence of such language in Section 233.2 must mean that the [***6] vehicles to be sold are new.

To say the least, this interpretation endorsed by DPDM is strained. Not only does the use designated in Section 233.2 not utilize either the words "new" or "used," but the uses described in Sections 233.2 and 236.4 above are clearly different. That is, certain restrictions on the use described in Section 236.4 relate only to an outdoor lot, without a [*199] building, whereas the use defined in Section 233.2 clearly requires some structure.

Complicating the issue is the definition of "service garage," as set out in Section 101 of the B.C.Z.R. The language therein defines that use as "a garage, other than a residential garage, where motor driven vehicles are stored, equipped for operation, repaired or kept [**1169] for remuneration, hire or sale." (Emphasis added[.]) Thus, sale of motor driven vehicles is a primary component of the service garage use. Service garages are permitted by right in the B.M. zone.

In my judgment, the proper approach is to consider each petition on a case by case basis. In reviewing the record of this case, it is my judgment that the proposed use should be permitted.

(Emphasis added.)

The Office of People's Counsel for Baltimore [***7] County filed, on September 28, 2001, a notice of appeal from the ruling by the deputy commissioner. Also on September 28, 2001, the State of Maryland issued a license to Prestige to sell used automobiles on the subject property. Twelve days later, on October 10, 2001, Prestige began using the subject property for the sale of used cars. 2

FOOTNOTES

2 The October 10, 2001, date was obtained from a letter found in the record extract from the Maryland Department of Motor Vehicles addressed to Antwerpen's counsel. The letter reads:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation regarding 3636 LLC T/A Prestige Imports (U4849), our records show the above dealership went into business on October 10, 2001. The zoning form was approved on September 25, 2001.

While the matter was pending before the Board of Appeals ("the Board"), the People's Counsel filed a motion to dismiss Antwerpen's petition for special hearing. The People's Counsel pointed out that (1) Antwerpen's appeal to the Board was de novo; (2) Bill 71-01 allowed [***8] used-car sales in a B.M. zone "only by a special exception and under [the] Planned Unit Development - Commercial (PUD-C)" zone; (3) Bill 71-01 [*200] became

effective on October 19, 2001; (4) Antwerpen had obtained no special exception; and (5) under principles set forth in Powell v. Calvert County, 368 Md. 400, 795 A.2d 96 (2002), the Board was required to apply the law as it presently stands. Penultimately, movant asserted that applying that current law, Antwerpen had no right to operate a used-car lot on the subject property without a special exception and therefore the request for special hearing should be dismissed.

At the hearing before the Board, counsel for **Antwerpen** argued: (1) at the time the petition for hearing was filed, operating a used-car lot in a B.M. zone was legal; (2) in the request for a special hearing, Antwerpen simply wanted the deputy zoning commissioner to confirm the fact that he had a right to operate the used-car lot in the B.M. zone; and (3) at the time Bill 71-01 went into effect, Antwerpen had already established a nonconforming use. Counsel for Antwerpen summarized his argument as follows:

What we were doing in this particular case [***9] was permitted as of right in a B.M. zone, and therefore, when the amendment [Bill 71-01] kicked in in this case, all it changed was it turned us from being a conforming use under the then-present zoning regulations to a non-conforming use under the present zoning regulations...

In other words, **Antwerpen** contended that it had vested rights to continue using the property for used-car sales as of October 19, 2001, the effective date of the statute.

In its opinion, the Board said, in pertinent part:

In support of its position, [Antwerpen] cites, among other cases, a case decided by this Board In The Matter Of The Application of G.C. & R.L., Ltd., Case No. 99-324-SPH, in which this Board held that a used car operation was allowed in a B.M. zone since the language of the [then] current legislation did not appear to restrict the automobile dealership [**1170] to a new car operation. That case was appealed by People's Counsel to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County in Civil Action No. 3-C-00-3846. The court returned the case to the Board for clarification. The Board [*201] affirmed its earlier decision on March 25, 2001, and the case is back before the circuit court.

* * * [***10]

Petitioners contend that they never sought a special exception but only a declaration by the deputy zoning commissioner that what they were proposing to do was in conformance with the law. They contend that as long as the Zoning Commissioner was right, that is, that the operation of a used automobile facility was in conformity with the zoning regulations as of the time that the use began, Antwerpen's use is permissible, even after the amendment to the zoning regulations, because it became a lawful nonconforming use. They cite Mayor and City Council of Baltimore v. Dembo, Inc., 123 Md. App. 527, 531, 719 A.2d 1007 [(1998)], and Lone v. Montgomery County, 85 Md. App. 477, 496, 584 A.2d 142 (1991). These cases stand for the proposition that "a lawful nonconforming use is established if a property owner can demonstrate that before and at the time of the adoption of the zoning ordinance, he was using his land in a then-lawful manner for a use which by later legislation became non-permitted."

* * *

Decision

. . . While the Board did interpret § 233.2 of the BCZR to allow the operation of a used car dealership in a B.M. zone in the G.D. [***11] & R.L. case (Case No. 99-324-SPH), that decision was contrary to a long-standing interpretation of county

agencies. In addition, the decision was appealed by People's Counsel to the Circuit Court for Baltimore County and said appeal is still pending; therefore, the decision cannot be interpreted as being the law in effect at the time that the petitioners sought clarification before the Zoning Commissioner. It is the Board's understanding that the building at 36 Brenbrook Drive is still unoccupied, and therefore the petitioners cannot claim a nonconforming [*202] use since no utilization has been made of the building at this time for used car sales. However, even if the used car operation had been begun at the property, the Board would still find that the petitioners acted at their own risk, and that, because of the pending appeal, they had no vested right in the operation of a used car dealership at that site.

The Board relies on the decision of Judge Cathell in the *Powell* case (*supra*) and finds that the new law effective October 19, 2001, in which the Council amended § 233.3 and § 440.4, is controlling. The appeal of Deputy Zoning Commissioner Kotroco's decision by the People's [***12] Counsel brought the matter before the Board in a *de novo* posture. His ruling could not be effective pending the decision by this Board.

(Emphasis added.)

There was no support in the record for the Board's "understanding" that **Antwerpen's** building at 36 Brenbrook Drive (the subject property) was "still unoccupied." Moreover, the People's Counsel, in his argument to the Board, never even suggested that **Antwerpen** had not operated a used-car lot on the premises between the time of the deputy zoning commissioner's decision and October 19, 2001, the effective date of Bill 71-01.

Antwerpen filed, in the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, a petition for judicial **[**1171]** review of the Board's decision. The circuit court affirmed the Board's decision to grant People's Counsel's motion to dismiss. It did so on the basis that (1) **Antwerpen** had failed to show a nonconforming use and (2) therefore, because a reviewing court must apply the law in effect at the time of its decision, **Antwerpen** had no right to use the land in question for used-car sales at any time after October 19, 2001.

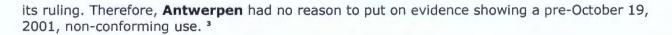
This timely appeal followed.

II. ANALYSIS

Antwerpen first argues that the circuit court erred [***13] when it affirmed the Board's grant of the motion to dismiss on [*203] the grounds that Antwerpen was not operating an automobile dealership on the subject property prior to October 19, 2001. In support of that argument, Antwerpen points out that the Board "ruled only on People's Counsel's motion to dismiss," and therefore there was "never any evidence heard by the [Board] at the hearing on the motion to dismiss." Appellants also point out, accurately, that their counsel clearly proffered to the Board that a used-car dealership was being operated on the subject property prior to the effective date of Bill 71-01.

We agree with **Antwerpen** that this case should not have been dismissed on the grounds that **Antwerpen** never utilized the property for used-car sales before October 19, 2001.

Prior to listening to argument by counsel at the hearing, the Board made it clear that it would consider only legal issues, i.e., those issues raised by the People's Counsel in its motion to dismiss. And, as mentioned *supra*, People's Counsel argued that the case should be dismissed for two intertwined reasons, *viz*: (1) **Antwerpen** has no vested right to use the property for used-car sales because the [***14] deputy zoning commissioner's ruling was never final inasmuch as it was the subject of a *de novo* appeal, and (2) the Board was required to apply the provisions of Bill No 71-01, which was the law that was in effect at the time the Board made



FOOTNOTES

3 In his brief filed in this Court, People's Counsel does not contend that this case can be decided based on the issue of whether **Antwerpen** proved that the property was used for the sale of used cars prior to the effective date of Bill 71-01.

For the foregoing reasons, we shall assume, arguendo, that Antwerpen's counsel accurately represented to the Board that his client operated a used-car lot on the property prior to October 19, 2001. Therefore, the issue to be decided becomes: Did the Board err 4 when it ruled, in the alternative, [*204] that appellants did not obtain vested rights in the property because the grant of the relief prayed for in the special [***15] hearing was on appeal as of the date appellants commenced using the property for the sale of used cars?

FOOTNOTES

4 HN3 We review the decision of the agency, not the decision of the circuit court. Abbey v. University of Maryland, 126 Md. App. 46, 53, 727 A.2d 406 (1999); Ahalt v. Montgomery County, 113 Md. App. 14, 20, 686 A.2d 683 (1996).

The parties to this appeal agree that (1) the Board, when it reviewed the deputy zoning commissioner's decision, was obliged to follow the dictates of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR) that were in effect at the date of the hearing before the Board, and (2) as of the date of the hearing before the Board, Bill 71-01 was in effect. Where the parties part company concerns a narrow issue, viz: By operating a used-car lot on the premises between October 10 and October 19, 2001, did Antwerpen acquire a vested right [**1172] to continue operating a used-car lot there? Appellants request that we answer that question in the affirmative. More specifically, [***16] appellants claim that by using the property for approximately nine days prior to the effective date of Bill No. 71-01, they obtained a nonconforming use.

The Law Governing Nonconforming Use

One of the earliest Maryland cases discussing the right of a property owner with a legal use to continue that use after passage of a new zoning ordinance making the use non-permissible is Amereihn v. Kotras, 194 Md. 591, 71 A.2d 865 . . . (1950). In Amereihn, the Court of Appeals explained the rationale for recognizing nonconforming uses as follows:

If a property is used for a factory, and thereafter the neighborhood in which it is located is zoned residential, if such regulations applied to the factory it would cease to exist, and the zoning regulation would have the effect of confiscating such property and destroying a vested right therein of the owner. Manifestly this cannot be done, because it would amount to a confiscation of the property, [*205] and nonconforming use is a vested right and entitled to constitutional protection.

Id. at 601 Since 1950, Maryland courts have developed and refined the law regarding the respective [***17] rights of zoning authorities and owners of properties qualifying as nonconforming uses. See, e.g., Board of Zoning Appeals v. Meyer, 207 Md. 389, 114 A.2d 626 (1955) (holding that when a property owner at time of adoption of last comprehensive zoning was using land for use which by new legislative action became non-permitted, the owner has a lawful nonconforming use); County Comm'rs v. Zent, 86 Md. App. 745, 587 A.2d 1205 (1991) (explaining permissible intensification of nonconforming use as compared to impermissible "extension"); McKenny v. Baltimore County, 39 Md. App. 257, 269-70, 385 A.2d 96 (1978) (defining four factors to determine whether current activity is within the scope of nonconforming use).

Mayor & City Council of Baltimore v. Dembo, 123 Md. App. 527, 537-38, 719 A.2d 1007 (1998).

Appellee contends that appellants did not obtain a vested right to use the property as a used-car lot at any time prior to October 19, 2001, because (1) appellants needed zoning approval to operate a used-car lot on the property; (2) although they obtained approval of the use from the deputy zoning commissioner prior [***18] to October 19, 2001, the zoning commissioner's decision was on appeal as of the effective date of Bill 71-01; and (3) therefore the rule enunciated in *Powell v. Calvert Co.*, 368 Md. 400, 795 A.2d 96 (2002), was applicable.

In *Powell*, one James Graner (respondent) owned a fourteen-acre parcel of land on which he operated an excavation business. *Id.* at 402-03. Graner began to store construction equipment and materials (such as topsoil and gravel) on the property. *Id.* It was thereafter determined that Graner needed a special exception to store such material legally. *Id.* Graner applied for and obtained a special exception from the Calvert County Board of Appeals to allow him to store equipment and material on the premises. *Id.* But [*206] Graner's neighbors filed a petition for judicial review of the Board's grant of the special exception. *Id.* at 404. The Circuit Court for Calvert County affirmed the Board's grant of the special exception. An appeal was then filed to this Court. *Id.* at 405. While the appeal was pending, a Calvert County zoning ordinance was amended so as to [**1173] disallow the use of the property for [***19] "outdoor storage in connection with commercial and/or industrial uses," including the storage of "machinery and equipment in connection with excavation and/or contracting business." *Id.* at 405.

A panel of this Court, in an unreported decision, remanded the case to the Board because the state of the record prevented the panel from deciding whether there was substantial evidence to support the grant of the special exception. *Id.* On remand, the Board once again approved the special exception, but, in doing so, failed to consider the change in the zoning ordinance. *Id.* at 406. The circuit court found that, although there had been a change in the applicable law, which meant that the special exception should not have been granted, the respondent nevertheless had obtained vested rights, which protected him from the change in the law. *Id.* The circuit court, however, remanded the case to the Board, due to the Board's (alleged) failure to properly consider whether a condition to the grant of the special exception had been met. *Id.* Petitioners, who were neighbors of the respondent, appealed to this Court. *Id.* at 407. We affirmed [***20] the Board's decision, holding that, because the special exception was validly granted prior to the effective date of the statute disallowing a special exception in like cases, the respondent had obtained vested rights to the use of the property in conformance with the rights conferred by the special exception. *Powell v. Calvert County*, 137 Md. App. 425, 440-42, 768 A.2d 750 (2001).

The Court of Appeals reversed our decision, saying:

We hold that respondent did not obtain a vested right to store his materials on his property because he never obtained **[*207]** a final, valid special exception, as he did not obtain a special exception that was free of all pending litigation.

Powell, 368 Md. at 416 (emphasis added).

In support of the foregoing holding, the Court of Appeals said:

The Court of Special Appeals opines that the special exception granted to petitioner by the Board was never declared "unlawful or invalid." It makes no difference. It was still in litigation. Even if the special exception was never "declared" invalid, it was never a final valid special exception, which would qualify respondent to begin to vest rights in a zoning [***21] approval. As stated, supra, upon the Board's original granting of the special exception to respondent, petitioners sought judicial review. Therefore, the "valid permit" never took final effect because the litigation dealing with the special exception had not reached its final conclusion. . . .

Id. at 415 (emphasis added).

Later in Powell, the Court made the following points:

We have held that a vested right does not come into being until the completion of any litigation involving the zoning ordinance from which the vested right is claimed to have originated. In Ross v. Montgomery County, 252 Md. 497, 250 A.2d 635 (1969), we stated that:

"The appellants have also interposed, as working in their favor, the theory of vested rights. Their contention being that, because of the high price they paid for the land based on its then authorized use for an apartment hotel, their expenditure for architect's fees and the cost incurred in site preparation, the zoning regulations which the County seeks to impose have been rendered inoperative.

In [**1174] Mandel v. Bd. of County Comm'rs of Howard County, 238 Md. 208, 208 A.2d 710 (1965), [***22] a change in zoning regulations was enacted while litigation was pending in respect to the use of the appellants' property under the former zoning regulations. The appellants contended that [*208] this violated their constitutional rights. Judge Oppenheimer, writing the opinion for this Court stated:

'* * this case is to be determined under the law as it now exists, that the appellants had not secured a final decree establishing their rights to use their properties for the use permitted under the former classification, that they had no vested rights, and that the change in the regulations is not invalid because it eliminates the proposed use.' Id. at 215, 208 A.2d 710.

The Court in Mandel aptly termed the right acquired under the permit as 'inchoate' and followed the rationale of this Court in Yorkdale v. Powell, 237 Md. 121, 205 A.2d 269 (1964), wherein Judge Hammond (now Chief Judge), speaking for the Court said:

'It would seem to follow from the decisions in Banner [v. Home Sales Co. D., 201 Md. 425, 94 A.2d 264. 201 Md. 425, 94 A.2d 264], Lake Falls [Ass'n v. Board of Zoning Appeals of Baltimore County, 209 Md. 561, 121 A.2d 809] [***23] and Grau [v. Board of Zoning Appeals of Baltimore County, 210 Md. 19, 122 A.2d 824, that an applicant for rezoning to a more intense use of his property, who has been successful before the zoning authorities and the circuit court does not acquire a vested or substantive right which may not be wiped out by legislation which takes effect during the pendency in this Court of the appeal from the sections below.' Id. at 126, 205 A.2d 269."

Id. at 503, 250 A.2d at 638-39.

Id. at 412-13 (emphasis added).

In the case sub judice, the Board rejected appellants' vested rights argument based on the principles enunciated by the Court of Appeals in Powell. The Board took the position that appellants obtained no vested rights because, at the time appellants commenced using the property to sell used cars, the grant of the relief prayed for in the special hearing was on appeal.

[*209] Appellants contend that Powell is inapposite because, unlike Powell, here the landowner did not need the decision reached after a special hearing to start selling used cars on the property. This is true, according to appellants, because on the date they commenced [***24] selling used cars on the premises, Baltimore County zoning regulations permitted such a use. In other words, appellants take the position that in this case, unlike Powell and its progeny, no permission from any zoning official was needed to start selling used cars on the subject property.

Consideration of the validity of the foregoing argument makes it necessary to ask why appellants bothered to request a special hearing to decide their rights if, as they now contend, they had a right to start selling used cars without permission of the zoning office. Appellants answer that question by asserting: (1) to sell used cars they needed a license issued by the Maryland Department of Transportation ("DOT"); (2) to obtain the DOT license, they needed the zoning office to affirm that the property was zoned to allow the sale of used cars; (3) the Baltimore County zoning office would not so affirm because it held the view that used-car sales were prohibited in the B.M. zone; and (4) therefore, appellants needed the zoning commissioner to declare appellants' rights.

A request for special hearing is, in legal effect, a request for a declaratory judgment. The appellants asked the zoning commissioner [*25] to declare that they had a [**1175] right to operate a used-car lot on the property. The appellants needed this declaration not only to get a DOT license to sell used cars, but also to obtain an occupancy permit. Without a favorable decision on the request for special hearing, appellants could have obtained neither a license nor a permit. Therefore, appellants did need the zoning office's approval to sell used cars on the property. But, just as rights could not come into being while the grant of a request for special exception is on appeal, no right can be said to have vested that emanated from the deputy zoning commissioner's declaratory judgment, until that judgment becomes final.

[*210] We agree with the Board that Powell controls this case. In Powell, the Court of Appeals gave its imprimatur to the general rule that "vested rights [do] not come into being until the completion of any litigation involving the zoning ordinance from which the vested right is claimed to have originated." 368 Md. at 412. Here, the vested rights claimed by appellants were based on Section 233.2, which was amended prior to the completion of the subject litigation. At the time appellants claimed [***26] their rights vested (October 10, 2001, the date appellants commenced selling used cars on the premises), the decision of the zoning examiner had already been appealed. Thus, appellants knew that the favorable ruling by the deputy zoning commissioner, which they used to get a DOT license and an occupancy permit, was subject to reversal in a de novo appeal. By the time the de novo appeal was heard, the amended ordinance was in effect. Because the Board was required to apply the law in effect on the date it heard the case, Mandel v. Board of County Commissioners of Howard County, 238 Md. 208, 215, 208 A.2d 710 (1965), the Board had no choice but to reject the zoning commissioner's conclusion that used-car sales were permitted on the property.

JUDGMENT AFFIRMED;

COSTS TO BE PAID BY APPELLANTS.

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Date/Time: Monday, October 21, 2013 - 10:38 AM EDT

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Q - Questioned: Validity questioned by citing refs

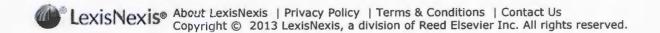
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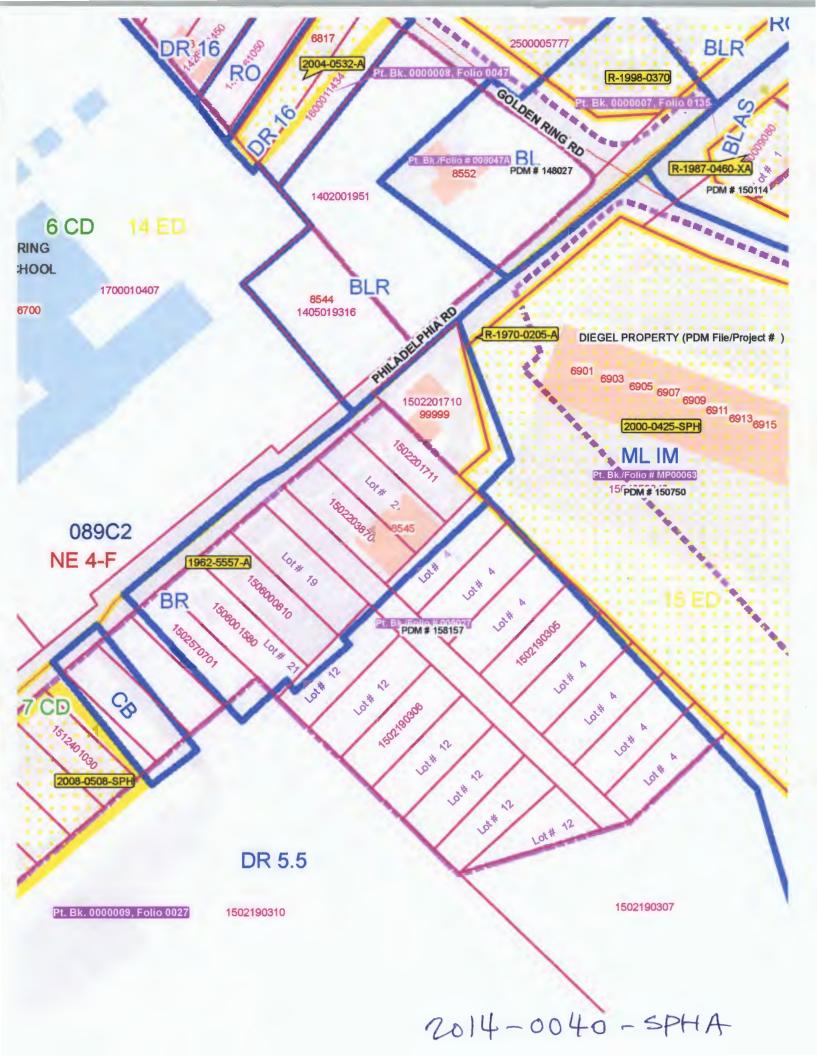
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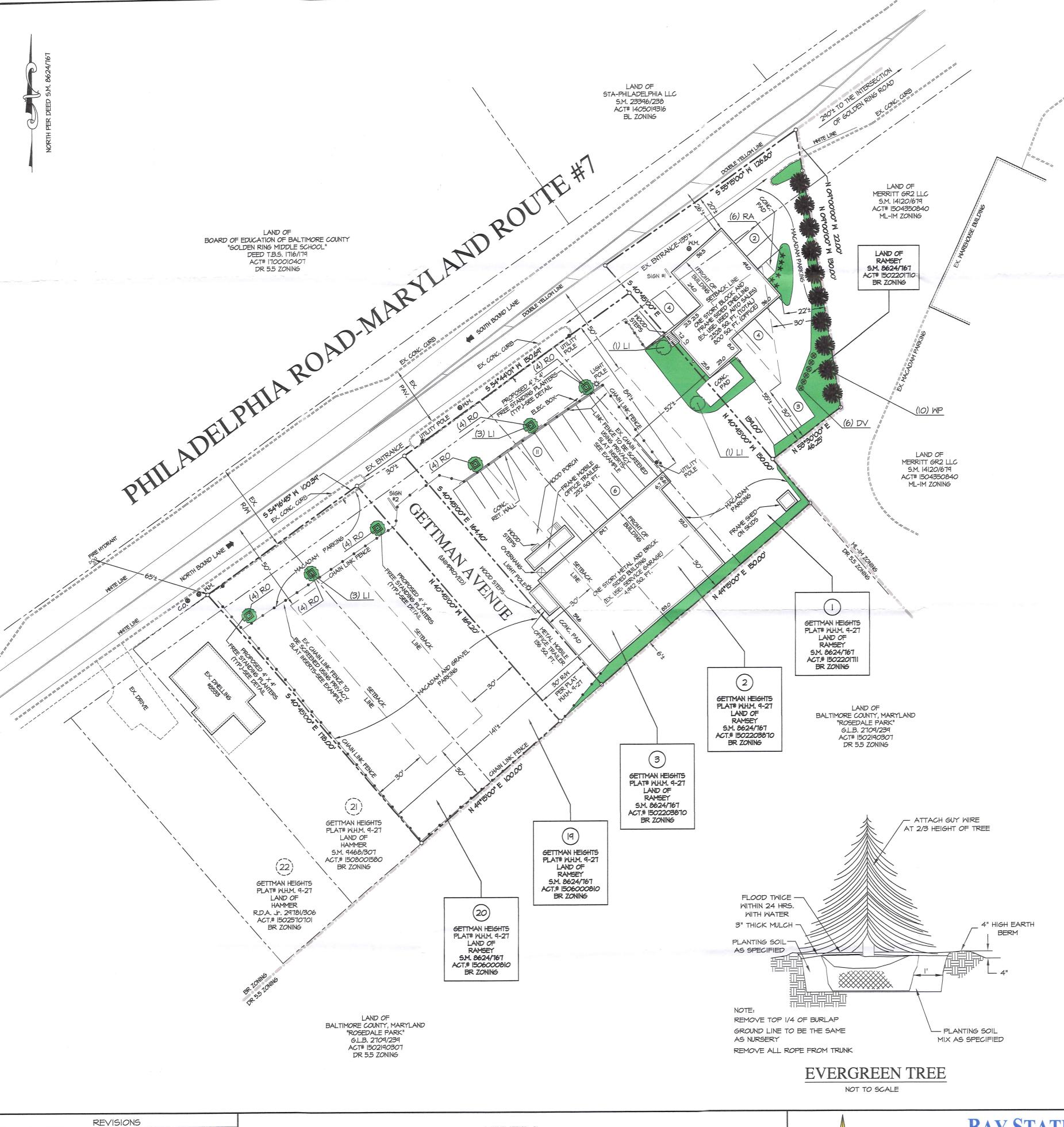
A - Citing Refs. With Analysis Available

n - Citation information available

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LANDSCAPING NOTES

- I. THE LANDSCAPE PLAN IS FOR LANDSCAPING INFORMATION ONLY. PLEASE REFER TO THE SITE PLAN AND ACCESS PLANS FOR ALL OTHER INFORMATION.
- 2. THE LOCATIONS FOR PLANT MATERIAL ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO FIELD ADJUSTMENT DUE TO SLOPE, VEGETATION, AND OTHER SITE FACTORS. PRIOR TO PLANTING THE CONTRACTOR SHALL ACCURATELY STAKE OUT THE LOCATIONS FOR ALL PLANTS. THE OWNER OR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT SHALL APPROVE THE FIELD LOCATIONS OR ADJUSTMENTS OF THE PLANT MATERIAL.
- 3. COORDINATE PLANT MATERIAL LOCATIONS WITH SITE UTILITIES. SEE SITE PLAN AND GRADING/UTILITIES FOR STORM, SANITARY, WATER AND GAS LINES. SEE LIGHTING PLAN FOR ELECTRICAL AND LIGHTING LAYOUT AND DETAILS. EXERCISE CARE WHEN DIGGING IN AREAS OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT WITH UNDERGROUND OR OVERHEAD UTILITIES. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE DUE TO CONTRACTOR'S NEGLIGENCE AND SHALL REPLACE OR REPAIR ANY DAMAGE AT CONTRACTOR'S EXPENSE.
- 4. ALL PLANTS SHALL CONFORM WITH THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF THE AMERICAN STANDARD FOR NURSERY STOCK OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSERYMEN.
- 5. TREES AND SHRUBS SHALL BE TYPICAL OF THEIR SPECIES AND VARIETY; HAVE NORMAL GROWTH HABITS, WELL-DEVELOPED, DENSELY FOLIATED BRANCHES AND VIGOROUS, FIBROUS ROOT SYSTEMS.
- 6. TREES AND SHRUBS SHALL BE FREE FROM DEFECTS AND INJURIES AND CERTIFIED BY APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES TO BE FREE FROM DISEASES AND INSECT INFESTATIONS.
- 7. TREES AND SHRUBS SHALL BE FRESHLY DUG AND NURSERY GROWN. THEY SHALL HAVE BEEN GROWN UNDER CLIMATIC CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN BALTIMORE COUNTY OR PROPERLY ACCLIMATED TO CONDITIONS
- 8. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE A ONE YEAR CARE AND REPLACEMENT WARRANTY FOR ALL PLANT MATERIALS. ANY TREE OR SHRUB WHICH DIES WITHIN THE ONE YEAR MAINTENANCE PERIOD SHALL BE REPLACED BY THE CONTRACTOR. ANY TREE OR SHRUB WHICH IS DEEMED, IN THE OPINION OF THE COUNTY, NOT TO HAVE SURVIVED OR GROWN IN A MANNER CHARACTERISTIC OF ITS TYPE SHALL BE REPLACED. SUBSTITUTIONS FOR CERTAIN SPECIES OF PLANTS MAY ONLY BE MADE WHEN APPROVED BY THE COUNTY. ANY PLANT MATERIAL WHICH IS STOLEN OR VANDALIZED SHALL BE REPLACED AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.
- 9. IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO ADEQUATELY AND PROPERLY MAINTAIN THE LANDSCAPED AREAS, WHICH RESPONSIBILITY SHALL INCLUDE WATERING, CLEANING OF WEEDS AND DEBRIS, PRUNING AND TRIMMING, REPLACEMENT OF DEAD OR DISEASED PLANTING AND FERTILIZING TO MAINTAIN
- IO. ALL DISTURBED AREAS NOT OTHERWISE DEVELOPED SHALL BE SEEDED WITH THE LAWN SEEDING MIXTURE. II. PROPOSED PLANTING SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 15' FROM THE TOE OF SWM POND EMBANKMENT AND SHALL
- NOT BE PLACED OVER WATER AND SEWER MAINS OR SERVICES.

12. SEEDING: GENERAL:

- 1. SCOPE: PLANTING PERMANENT, LONG-LIVED VEGETATIVE COVER ON GRADED OR CLEARED AREAS.
- 2. STANDARDS: PERMANENT SEEDING SHALL CONFORM TO ALL REQUIREMENTS OF "1994 MARYLAND STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL" PUBLISHED JOINTLY BY WATER MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION, SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, AND STATE SOIL CONSERVATION
- 3. SEED MIX: 80% TALL FESCUE IO% POA TRIVIALIS, IO% BIRDSFOOT TREEFOIL

SPECIFICATIONS:

- I. SITE PREPARATION
- * PRIOR TO SEEDING INSTALL ALL REQUIRED SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL MEASURES.
- * FINAL GRADING REQUIRED FOR PERMANENT SEEDING.

2. SOIL AMENDMENTS

- * FERTILIZER SHALL BE APPLIED AT THE RATE OF 1000 LBS/ACRE USING 10-10-10 OR EQUIVALENT.
- * LIME SHALL BE APPLIED AT A RATE OF 2 TONS PER ACRE.

3. SEEDBED PREPARATION:

- * SOIL SHALL BE LOOSENED TO A DEPTH OF 3 INCHES BY RAKING, DISCING, OR OTHER ACCEPTABLE MEANS
- * APPLY SEED UNIFORMLY WITH A CYCLONE SEEDER, DRILL, CULTIPACKER SEEDER OR HYDROSEEDER (SLURRY INCLUDES SEED AND FERTILIZER ON A FIRM, MOIST SEEDBED). MAXIMUM SEEDING DEPTH SHOULD BE 1/4 INCH ON CLAYEY SOILS AND 1/2 INCH ON SANDY SOILS, WHEN USING OTHER THAN HYDROSEEDER METHOD OF
- NOTE: IF HYDROSEEDING IS USED AND THE SEED AND FERTILIZER IS MIXED, THEY WILL BE MIXED ON SITE AND THE SEEDING SHALL BE IMMEDIATE WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

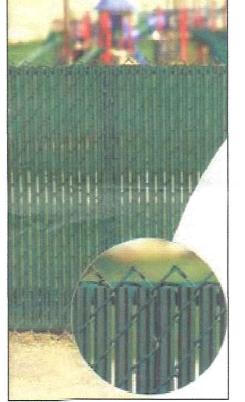
TREES ARE NOT PERMITTED WITHIN TEN (10) FEET OF PUBLIC UTILITIES.

- ALL REQUIRED LANDSCAPE MATERIAL INDICATED ON APPROVED PLANS WILL BE REQUIRED THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT AND MUST BE REPLACED IF REMOVED OR DEAD AFTER IMPLEMENTATION BY THE PROPERTY
- NO PLANT SUBSTITUTIONS, TYPE, SIZE, OR QUANTITY DEVIATIONS FROM THE APPROVED LANDSCAPE OF BUFFER PLANS SHALL BE MADE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL FROM BALTIMORE COUNTY.

PRIVACY SLAT DETAIL



NOT TO SEALE



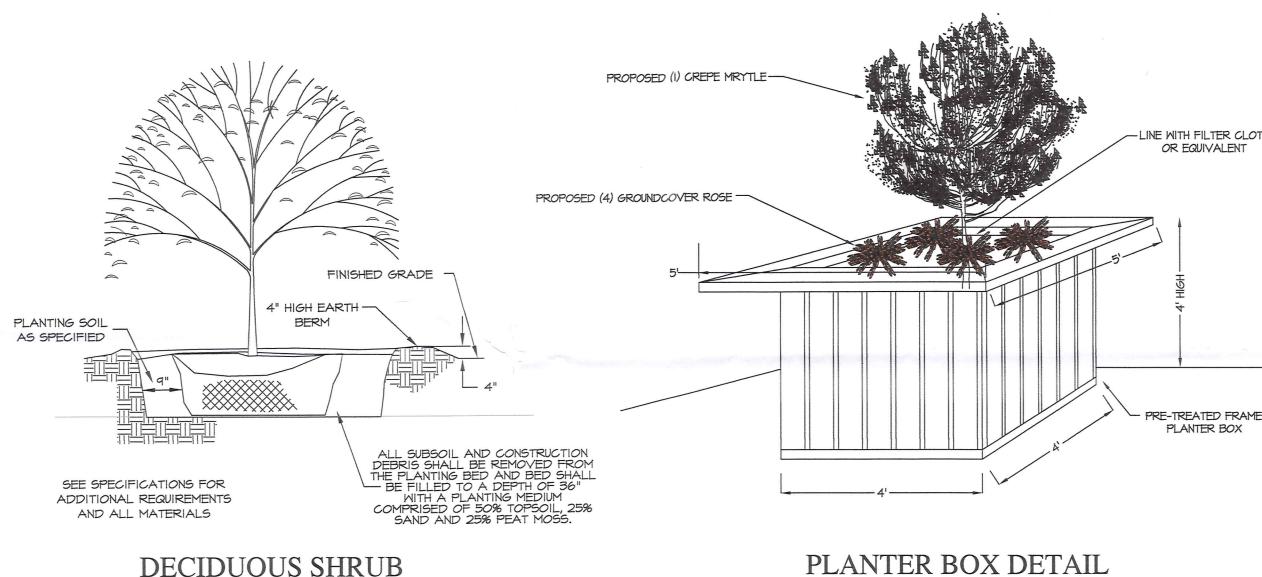
PLANTING SCHEDULE

SYMBOL		NAME	COMMON NAME	QTY.	SIZE
	RO	ROSA "DRIFT"	GROUNDCOVER ROSE	24	3 GAL.
*	DV	DELAWARE VALLEY WHITE	WHITE AZALEA	6	3 GAL.
The same of the sa	RA	RHUS "GRO-LOW"	SPREADING FRAGRANT SUMAC	6	3 GAL.
\bigcirc	LI	LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA	CREPE MYRTLE	8	15 GAL.
	MP	PINUS STROBUS	EASTERN WHITE PINE	10	5'-6'

LOCATION MAP

|" = 1000°

NOTE: SUBSTITUTES MAY BE MADE WITH THE PRIOR NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY.



DECIDUOUS SHRUB NOT TO SCALE

-14-13

SCALE

1"=30"

DESIGNED BY

JSC

DRAWN BY

DRAWING NO.

SHEET | OF |

12097

BSLS JOB NO.

LANDSCAPING PLAN TO ACCOMPANY SPECIAL HEARING AND VARIANCES FOR MOTOR VEHICLE SALES AND SERVICE GARAGE

#8545 PHILADELPHIA ROAD

NOT TO SCALE

SEVENTH COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAN FIFTEENTH ELECTION DISTRICT

OWNERS:

NO. DATE

DESCRIPTION

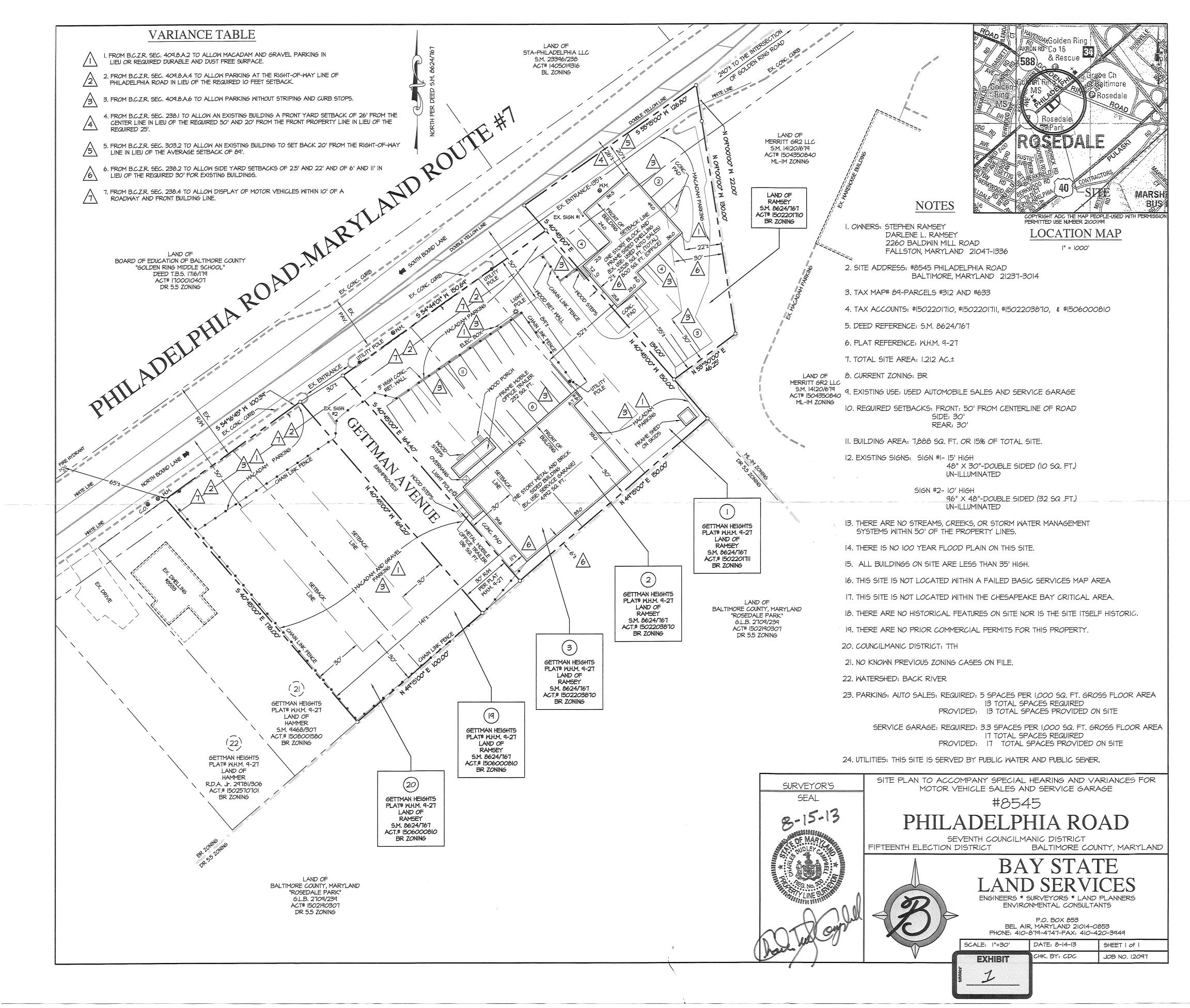
STEPHEN RAMSEY DARLENE L. RAMSEY 2260 BALDWIN MILL ROAD FALLSTON, MARYLAND 21047-1336

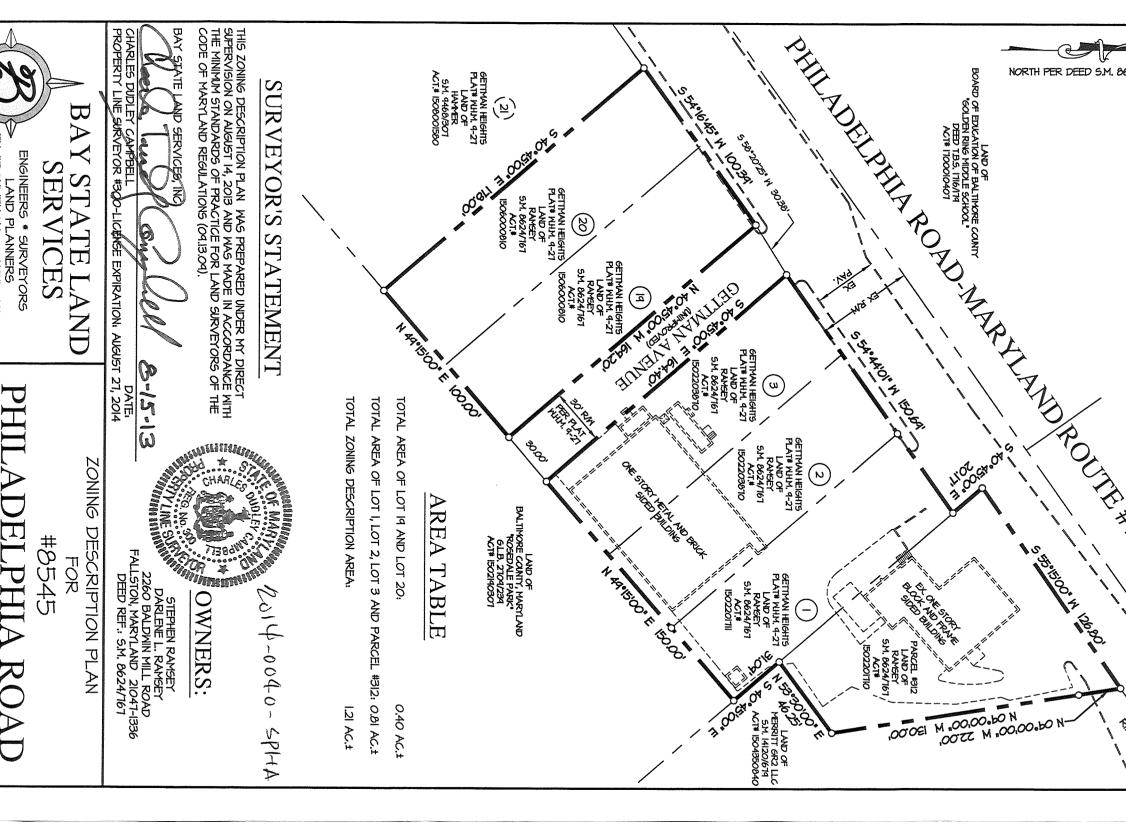


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ENVIRONMENTAL

CONSULTANTS

SEVENTH COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT

V