IN RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE
(9100-9106 Belair Road)

11<sup>th</sup> Election District
5<sup>th</sup> Council District
McDonald's USA, LLC
Legal Owner

\* BALTIMORE COUNTY
Petitioner

\* CASE NO. 2017-0298-A

ODINION AND ODDER

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for Baltimore County as a Petition for Variance filed by McDonald's USA, LLC, legal owner of the subject property ("Petitioner"). Petitioner is requesting variance relief from the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("B.C.Z.R") as follows: (1) § 409.6.A.2 to permit 50 off-street parking spaces in lieu of the required 76 parking spaces; (2) § 409.8.A.4 to permit parking facilities to be setback 7 feet from the right-of- way line of a public street in lieu of the required 10 ft.; (3) § 1B01.1.B.1.(e)(3) to permit clearance and the installation of a storm water management pond (ESD Practice #1) within the 50-foot landscape buffer; (4) § 450.4 to permit 5 wall-mounted enterprise signs on building facades in lieu of the permitted 3 signs; (5) § 450.4 to permit a directional sign of 10.7 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet ("Drive-Thru" sign); (6) § 450.4 to permit two directional signs of 9.67 feet in height in lieu of the permitted 6 feet ("Order Here" signs); (7) to permit two canopy-type directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wallmounted or freestanding ("Welcome" signs); (8) § 450.5.B.3.b to permit the erection of two canopy-type signs above the face of the canopy in lieu of the requirement that the sign be on the face of the canopy ("Welcome" signs); (9) to permit two order boards of 6.75 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet; and (10) to permit two projected directional signs in lieu of the

Date	4-6-17	
By	(96)	

requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Pay Here/Pick Up Here" signs). A site plan was marked as Petitioner's Exhibit 3.

Iwona Rostek-Zarska, Valek Zarski, and Lee May appeared in support of the petition. Caroline L. Hecker, Esq. and Justin Williams, Esq. represented the Petitioner. There were no protestants or interested citizens in attendance. The Petition was advertised and posted as required by the B.C.Z.R. Substantive Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received from the Bureau of Development Plans Review (DPR), Department of Planning (DOP), and the State Highway Administration (SHA).

The site is approximately 124,524 square feet (2.859 acres) in size and split-zoned B.L/DR 5.5. The site is improved with a McDonald's restaurant which has operated at the site since 1980. As it has at many locations throughout Baltimore County, Petitioner proposes to raze the existing restaurant and construct in its place a modern, environmentally sensitive structure. The great majority (i.e., 7 of 10) of the variance relief sought pertains to the new signage at the restaurant, which would be in keeping with the signage approved in other cases involving refurbished or rebuilt McDonald's restaurants.

A variance request involves a two-step process, summarized as follows:

- (1) It must be shown the property is unique in a manner which makes it unlike surrounding properties, and that uniqueness or peculiarity must necessitate variance relief; and
- (2) If variance relief is denied, Petitioner will experience a practical difficulty or hardship.

Cromwell v. Ward, 102 Md. App. 691 (1995).

The property is irregularly shaped and split-zoned. As such it is unique. If the Regulations were strictly interpreted Petitioner would experience a practical difficulty because it would be unable to construct the proposed improvements. Finally, I find that the variances can be granted in

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harmony with the spirit and intent of the B.C.Z.R., and in such manner as to grant relief without injury to the public health, safety and general welfare. This is demonstrated by the lack of community and/or Baltimore County opposition.

The second variance request seeks approval for a 7 ft. surface parking setback in lieu of the required 10 ft. However, as shown on the plan McDonald's proposes to install a 20 ft. landscape buffer along the Belair Road frontage. Petitioner seeks this variance in case the SHA moves forward with its plan to widen Belair Road, which could result in a loss of 13 ft. of McDonald's property abutting the roadway.

The third variance request seeks relief from the Residential Transition Area (RTA) regulations to allow a micro-bioretention pond to be installed within the 50 ft. buffer in the DR-1 zone. Having reviewed this request in greater detail I do not believe the RTA regulations are applicable in the first instance. As an initial matter, those regulations apply when the property to be "developed is zoned D.R." B.C.Z.R. § 1B01.1.B.1.b. Here, the commercial building and parking lot are in the B.L. zone. In addition, a bioretention pond is not a "residential transition use" since it is not enumerated among the uses permitted by right or by special exception in the D.R. zones. B.C.Z.R. §§ 1B01.1.B.1.d; 1B01.1.A; and 1B01.1.C. <u>See</u>, <u>People's Counsel v. Surina</u>, 400 Md. 662, 693 (2007) (recognizing stormwater management devices not among uses listed as permitted in Baltimore County's resource conservation zones). As such, this request will be dismissed as unnecessary.

The DOP ZAC comment included a recommendation Petitioner remove from the plan the parking space nearest to Belair Road. Petitioner indicated it would prefer not to remove the space, and advised the dimensions and positioning of the space satisfy all County regulations. As such I will not include this item as a condition in the final order.

Date	7-6-17	
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THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, this 6th day of July, 2017, by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County that the Petition for Variance as follows: (1) § 409.6.A.2 to permit 50 off-street parking spaces in lieu of the required 76 parking spaces; (2) § 409.8.A.4 to permit parking facilities to be setback 7 feet from the right-of- way line of a public street in lieu of the required 10 ft.; (3) § 450.4 to permit 5 wall-mounted enterprise signs on building facades in lieu of the permitted 3 signs; (4) § 450.4 to permit a directional sign of 10.7 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet ("Drive-Thru" sign); (5) § 450.4 to permit two directional signs of 9.67 feet in height in lieu of the permitted 6 feet ("Order Here" signs); (6) to permit two canopy-type directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Welcome" signs); (7) § 450.5.B.3.b to permit the erection of two canopy-type signs above the face of the canopy in lieu of the requirement that the sign be on the face of the canopy ("Welcome" signs); (8) to permit two order boards of 6.75 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet; and (9) to permit two projected directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Pay Here/Pick Up Here" signs), be and is hereby GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Petition for Variance seeking relief from B.C.Z.R. § 1B01.1.B.1(e)(3) to permit clearance and the installation of a storm water management pond (ESD Practice #1) within the 50-foot landscape buffer, be and is hereby DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE AS UNNECESSARY.

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

- Petitioner may apply for necessary permits and/or licenses upon receipt of this Order. However, Petitioner is hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at its own risk until 30 days from the date hereof, during which time an appeal can be filed by any party. If for whatever reason this Order is reversed, Petitioner would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.
- 2. Petitioner must obtain from SHA an entrance or access permit for the site.

Date	7-6-17	
By	DW	

- 3. Petitioner must submit for approval by Baltimore County landscape and lighting plans for the site.
- 4. Petitioner must submit to Baltimore County elevation drawings showing dumpster enclosure(s), which shall be constructed primarily of brick.
- 5. The U.S. Route 1/Belair Road access point shall be right turn in right turn out only, with appropriate signage to alert motorists to this restriction.
- 6. The landscape buffer along Route 1/Belair Road shall be 20 ft. wide and shall not be reduced (as contemplated by variance request #2) unless and until the SHA widens Belair Road at this location.
- 7. Interior vehicular circulation around the restaurant structure shall be one-way in a counter-clockwise direction.

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

Administrative Law Judge for

**Baltimore County** 

JEB:dlw

ORDER	RECEIVED	FOR	<b>FILING</b>
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KEVIN KAMENETZ County Executive LAWRENCE M. STAHL
Managing Administrative Law Judge
JOHN E. BEVERUNGEN
Administrative Law Judge

July 6, 2017

Caroline L. Hecker, Esq.
Justin Williams, Esq.
25 South Charles Street, 21st Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

RE: Petition for Variance

Case No. 2017-0298-A

Property: 9100-9106 Belair Road

Dear Ms. Hecker:

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:dlw Enclosure

c: (via email): Virginia Terhune, Reporter, The Dundalk Eagle/The Avenue News <a href="mailto:vterhune@chespub.com">vterhune@chespub.com</a>



PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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 9100 - 9106 Belair Road. which is presently zoned B.L. / DR 5.5 Deed References: See attached sheet 1 10 Digit Tax Account # see attached sheet 1 Property Owner(s) Printed Name(s) See attached sheet 1

(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:

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 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 Sheet 2

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).

Contract Purchaser/Lessee:	Legal Owners	(Petitioners):		
VG	See Attache	ed Sheet 1,		
Name- Type or Print	Name #1 – Type or	Print /	Name #2 - Typ	e or Print
Name- Type or Print  Signature  Mailing Address  City  State	Signature #1		Signature # 2	
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Zip Code Telephone # Email Address	Zip Code	Telephone #	Email A	Address
Attorney for Petitioner:	Representative	to be contact	ed:	
Caroline L. Hecker	Caroline L. F	lecker		
Name- Type or Print  Workin Heedur  Signature	Name – Type or Pri	nt Afe	elle	
25 S. Charles St., 21st Fl., Baltimore, MD	25 S. Charles	s St., 21st FI	., Baltimore	e, MD
Mailing Address City State	Mailing Address	С	ity	State
21201 / 410-727-6600 / checker@rosenbergmartin.com	21201 / 410 Zip Code	0-727-6600 Telephone #		rosenbergmartin.com
CASE NUMBER 2017-0298-A Filing Date 5,5,201	Chance of Constructionary	STOCKER OF THE PLANT STOCKER STOCKER	Ciliali A	Reviewer

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#### **Petition for Variance**

#### **Attached Sheet 1**

#### **Legal Owner:**

9100 Belair Road Tax Map 0072, Parcel 0378 Tax Account # 2200012360 Deed Reference:38106/318

9100 Belair Road Tax Map 0072, Parcel 0378 Tax Account # 2000010422 Deed Reference:38106/318

4152 India Avenue Tax Map 0072, Parcel 0378 Tax Account # 2000010421 Deed Reference:38106/318

9106 Belair Road TaxMap 0072, Parcel 0382 TaxAccount # 1800013694 Deed Reference: 36511/00443

McDonald's USA, LLC

Name: Lee May

Title: Area Construction Manager, McDonald's USA, LLC

6903 Rockledge Drive, Suite 1100

Bethesda, MD 20817

Phone Number: (240) 497-3600

2017-0298-4

Le May

#### **Petition for Variance**

#### **Attached Sheet 2**

#### Requested Variance Relief

#### Variances are requested from:

- 1. Section 409.6.A.2 to permit 50 off-street parking spaces in lieu of the required 76 parking spaces.
- 2. Section 409.8.A.4 to permit parking facilities to be setback 7 feet from the right-of-way line of a public street in lieu of the required 10 feet.
- 3. Section 1B01.1.B.1.(e)(3) to permit clearance and the installation of a stormwater management pond (ESD Practice #1) within the 50-foot landscape buffer.
- 4. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 5(a)(VI), to permit 5 wall-mounted enterprise signs on building façades in lieu of the permitted 3 signs.
- 5. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 10.7 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet ("Drive-Thru" Sign).
- 6. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit two directional signs of 9.67 feet in height in lieu of the permitted 6 feet ("Order Here" Signs).
- 7. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3 (II) to permit two canopy-type directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Welcome" Signs).
- 8. Section 450.5.B.3.b to permit the erection of two canopy-type signs above the face of the canopy in lieu of the requirement that the sign be on the face of the canopy ("Welcome" Signs).
- 9. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 5(f)(VII) to permit two order boards of 6.75 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet.
- Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(II) to permit two projected directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Pay Here/Pick Up Here" Signs").

2017-0298-A

DESCRIPTION TO ACCOMPANY PETITION
FOR ZONING HEARING(S)
McDONALD'S RESTAURANT
9106 BELAIR ROAD
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
11<sup>TH</sup> ELECTION DISTRICT; 5<sup>TH</sup> COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT

#### May 5, 2017

Beginning at the point on the west side of existing Belair Road right-of-way (variable width), said point being located northwesterly +/- 41 feet from the intersection of centerlines of Belair Road and India Avenue; thence running the following courses and distances:

- 1. South 68° 10' 44" West, 39.65 feet; thence,
- 2. North 81° 29' 50" West, 151.59 feet; thence,
- 3. North 08° 08' 25" East, 113.24 feet; thence,
- 4. North 81° 51' 35" West, 483.63 feet; thence,
- 5. North 10° 33' 17" East, 133.02 feet; thence,
- 6. South 81° 51' 35" East, 723.47 feet; thence,
- 7. South 53° 48' 50" East, 72.61 feet; thence,
- 8. Along the curve to the left having a radius of 8,630.37 feet, for 95.88 feet; thence,
- 9 Along the curve to the right having a radius of 8,558.37 feet for 133.43 feet, to the point of beginning.

Containing 124,524 square feet or 2.859 acres, more or less.

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



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## **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

	RE: Case No	2017-0298-A
	Petitioner: <u>C/O C</u>	aroline Hecker, atty.
	Hearing Date:	7/3/17
Baltimore County Department	t of	
Permits, Approvals and Inspec	ctions	
Room 111, County Office Buile	ding	
111 W. Chesapeake Ave.		
Towson, Md. 21204		
This letter is to confirm, unde	r penalties of perju	iry, that the necessary sign(s)
were posted conspicuously on	the property loca	ted at
9100	-9106 Belair Road	<del></del>
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(		Julie 1 8 3 6 /13/17
		Richard E. Hoffman
		904 Dellwood Drive
	<del></del> .	Fallston, Md. 21047
		(443) 243-7360

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## **Certificate of Posting**

### Case No. <u>2017-0298-A</u>



9100-9106 Belair Road (1 of 2)

(Posted 6/13/17)

Richard E. Hoffman

904 Dellwood Drive

Fallston, Md. 21047

443-243-7360

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### **Certificate of Posting**

Case No. 2017-0298-A

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E AND TIME: MONDAY JULY 3, 2017 AT 1:30 P.M.

LIEST: VARIANCE I. TO PERMIT 50 OFF-STREET PARKING SPACES IN LIEU OF THE REQUIRED 76 HG SPACES. 2. TO PERMIT PARKING FACILITIES TO BE SETBACK 7 FT. FROM THE RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF A PUBLIC ET IN LIEU OF THE REQUIRED IOFT. 3. TO PERMIT CLEARANCE AND THE INSTRILLATION OF A STORMWATER LAGEMENT POND (ESD PRACTICE 1) WITHIN THE SOFT. LANDSCAPE BUFFER. 4. TO PERMIT 5 WALL—LINTED ENTERPRISE SIGNS ON BUILDING FACADES IN LIEU OF THE PERMITTED 3 SIGNS. 5. TO PERMIT A RECTIONAL SIGN OF 10.7 FT. IN HEIGHT IN LIEU OF THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED OF IT. ("DRIVE-TINU" IGN). 6. TO PERMIT TWO DIRECTIONAL SIGNS OF 9.67 FT. IN HEIGHT IN LIEU OF THE PERMITTED IFT. ("ORDER HERE" SIGNS). 7. TO PERMIT TWO CANOPY-TYPE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS IN LIEU OF THE LEQUIREMENT THAT SUCH SIGNS BE WALL-MOUNTED OR FREESTANDING ("WELCOME" SIGNS). 8. TO PERMIT THE ERECTION OF TWO CANOPY-TYPE SIGNS ABOVE THE FACE OF THE CANOPY IN LIEU OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE SIGN BE ON THE FACE OF THE CANOPY ("WELCOME" SIGNS). 2 TO PERMIT TWO ORDER BOARDS OF 6.75 FT. IN HEIGHT IN LIEU OF THE MAXIMUM PERMITTED.

[OF T. 10. TO PERMIT TWO PROJECTED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS IN LIEU OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT SUCH SIGNS BE WALL-MOUNTED OR FREESTANDING ("PAYHERE/PICK UP HERE" SAND).

POSTPONEMENTS DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER CONDITIONS ARE SOMETIMES NECESSARY.

TO CONFERM HEARING CALL 887-3391.

9100-9106 Belair Road (2 of 2)

(Posted 6/13/17)

Shell 69/16/13/17
Richard E. Hoffman
904 Dellwood Drive
Fallston, Md. 21047
443-243-7360

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501 N. Calvert St., P.O. Box 1377 Baltimore, Maryland 21278-0001 tel: 410/332-6000 800/829-8000

WE HEREBY CERTIFY, that the annexed advertisement of Order No 5012841

#### Sold To:

Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP - CU00352426 25 S Charles St Fl 21 BALTIMORE, MD 21201

#### Bill To:

Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP - CU00352426 25 S Charles St Fl 21 BALTIMORE, MD 21201

Was published in "Jeffersonian", "Bi-Weekly", a newspaper printed and published in Baltimore County on the following dates:

Jun 13, 2017

#### 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: # 2017-0298-A
9100-9106 Belair Road
NW/s Belair Road at the corner of N/s of India Avenue
11th Election District - 5th Councilmanic District
Legal Owner(s) McDonald's USA, LLC
Variance: 1. To permit 50 off-street parking spaces in lieu
of the required 76 parking spaces. 2. To permit parking
facilities to be setback 7 ft. from the right-of-Way line of a public street in lieu of the required 10 ft. 3. To permit
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4. To permit 5 wall-mounted enterprise signs on building
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directional sign of 10.7 ft. in height in lieu of the maximum
permitted 6 ft. ("Orive-thru" Sign). 6. To permit two
directional signs of 9.67 ft. in height in lieu of the permitted
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directional signs of 10.7 ft. in height in lieu of the permitted
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permitted 6 ft. 0. To permit two projected directional signs
in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted
or freestanding ("Pay Here/Pick Up Here" Signs).
Hearing: Monday, July 3, 2017 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 special accommodations Please Contact the Administrative Hearings Office at (410) 887-3868.

(2) For information concerning the File and/or Hearing, Contact the Zoning Review Office at (410) 887-3391.

JT 6/691 June 13

The Baltimore Sun Media Group

S. Wilkinson

Legal Advertising

TO: PATUXENT PUBLISHING COMPANY

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 Issue - Jeffersonian

Please forward billing to:

Caroline Hecker Rosenberg Martin 25 S. Charles Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Floor Baltimore, MD 21201 410-727-6600

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**CASE NUMBER: 2017-0298-A** 

9100-9106 Belair Road

NW/s Belair Road at the corner of N/s of India Avenue

11<sup>th</sup> Election District – 5<sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District

Legal Owners: McDonald's USA, LLC

Variance 1. To permit 50 off-street parking spaces in lieu of the required 76 parking spaces.

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Hearing: Monday, July 3, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 205, Jefferson Building,

105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson 21204

Arnold Jabloัก

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.



June Ke201 KAMENETZ

County Executive

### NOTICE OF ZONING HEARING

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

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CASE NUMBER: 2017-0298-A

9100-9106 Belair Road

NW/s Belair Road at the corner of N/s of India Avenue

11th Election District - 5th Councilmanic District

Legal Owners: McDonald's USA, LLC

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8. To permit the erection of two canopy-type signs above the face of the canopy in lieu of the requirement that the sign be on the face of the canopy ("Welcome" Signs).

9. To permit two order boards of 6.75 ft. in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 ft.

10. To permit two projected directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Pay Here/Pick Up Here" Signs).

Hearing: Monday, July 3, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 205, Jefferson Building,

105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson 21204

Arnold Jablon Director

AJ:kl

C: Caroline Hecker, 25 S. Charles St., 21st Floor, Baltimore 21201 Lee May, 6903 Rockledge Drive, Ste. 1100, Bethesda 20817

NOTES: (1) THE PETITIONER MUST HAVE THE ZONING NOTICE SIGN POSTED BY AN APPROVED POSTER ON THE PROPERTY BY TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 2017.

(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.

## DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

## 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. For those petitions which require a public hearing, this notice is accomplished by posting a sign on the property (responsibility of the legal owner/petitioner) and placement of a notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the County, both at least twenty (20) days before the hearing.

Zoning Review will ensure that the legal requirements for advertising are satisfied. However, the legal owner/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:
Case Number: 2017-0298-A  Property Address: 9100-9106 BELAIR ROAD  Property Description: NW/S of Belair Road, 41' NE of India Avenue
Legal Owners (Petitioners): McPohald's USA, UC  Contract Purchaser/Lessee: N/A
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:  Name: CAROLINA NECKER
Company/Firm (if applicable): NOSENBERG MARTIN  Address: 253. CHARLES ST 21 St FL  BALTIMORE MD, 21201
Telephone Number: 40 - 727 - 6600



KEVIN KAMENETZ County Executive ARNOLD JABLON
Deputy Administrative Officer
Director, Department of Permits,
Approvals & Inspections

June 28, 2017

McDonald's USA, LLC Lee May 6903 Rockledge Drive Suite 1100 Bethesda MD 20817

RE: Case Number: 2017-0298 A, Address: 9100-9106 Belair Road

Dear Mr. May:

The above referenced petition was accepted for processing ONLY by the Bureau of Zoning Review, Department of Permits, Approvals, and Inspection (PAI) on May 5, 2017. 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,

W. Carl Richards, Jr. Supervisor, Zoning Review

WCR: jaw

Enclosures

c: People's Counsel Caroline L Hecker, Esquire, 25 S Charles Street, 21st floor, Baltimore MD 21201



Date: 5/15/17

Ms. Kristen Lewis
Baltimore County Department of
Permits, Approvals and Inspections
County Office Building, Room 109
Towson, Maryland 21204

Dear Ms. Lewis:

We have reviewed the site plan to accompany petition for variance on the subject of the Case number referenced below, which was received on 5/15/17. A field inspection and internal review reveals that an entrance onto 431 consistent with current State Highway Administration guidelines is required. As a condition of approval for Variance, Case Number 2017-0298-A

Mariance McDonald's USA, LLC, Lee May 9100-9106 Belair Road USI

The applicant must contact the State Highway Administration to obtain an entrance permit. Should you have any questions regarding this matter feel free to contact Richard Zeller at 410-229-2332 or 1-866-998-0367 (in Maryland only) extension 2332, or by email at (rzeller@sha.state.md.us).

Sincerely,

Wendy Wolcott, PLA

Metropolitan District Engineer Baltimore & Harford Counties

WW/RAZ

cc: Mr. Michael Pasquariello, Utility Engineer, SHA

### BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

#### INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Arnold Jablon, Director

**DATE:** May 31, 2017

Department of Permits, Approvals

And Inspections

FROM:

Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT:

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

For May 22, 2017 Item No. 2017-0298

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

Variance # 3 (related to Landscaping) is not acceptable or supported.

Landscape- If Zoning Relief is granted, Landscape and Lighting Plans are required per the requirements of the Landscape Manual.

VKD:CEN cc:file

ZAC-ITEM NO 17-0298-05222017.doc

#### **BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND**

#### **Inter-Office Correspondence**



TO:

Hon. Lawrence M. Stahl; Managing Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

FROM:

Jeff Livingston, Department of Environmental Protection and

Sustainability (EPS) - Development Coordination

DATE:

May 17, 2017

SUBJECT:

**DEPS** Comment for Zoning Item

#2017-0298-A

Address

9100-9106 Belair Road

(McDonald's USA, LLC Property)

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of May 22, 2017

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

Reviewer:

Steve Ford

Date: 5-17-2017

## **BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND** INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO:

Arnold Jablon

DATE: 6/29/2017

RECEIVED

JUN 3 0 2017

OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Deputy Administrative Officer and

Director of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM:

Andrea Van Arsdale

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 17-298

INFORMATION:

**Property Address:** Petitioner:

9100-9106 Belair Road McDonald's USA, LLC

Zoning:

BL, DR 5.5

**Requested Action:** 

Variance

The Department of Planning has reviewed the petition for a variance as listed on the attachment submitted in support of the petition.

The site is located in the Perry Hall Design Review Panel Area and the Commercial Revitalization District. The site is presently being used as a fast food restaurant.

The property was subject to review by the Baltimore County Design Review Panel (DRP) on October 5, 2016. At its November 9, 2016 meeting, the DRP approved a revised plan with conditions. Upon petitioners successfully addressing said conditions, the Department of Planning forwarded the final DRP approval to the Director of the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections on May 25, 2017.

The petitioners have submitted in support of the instant petition a plan showing the original configuration as presented to the DRP on October 5, 2016. The Department acknowledges the submitted plan, shown with one bay of parking along Belair Road, is consistent with the design guidelines established within the Perry Hall Community Plan as amended by Council Resolution 67-15. Said community plan states, "Any buildings shall be placed as close to the road as possible, with parking concentrated in the back and no more than one row of parking allowed in the front."

The Department recommends the plan be approved upon the petitioners successfully addressing the following:

- Access to U.S. Rte. 1/Belair Road should be limited to right turn in-right turn out only.
- Interior vehicular circulation should be one way counter clockwise motion around the structure.
- Any plan submitted to Baltimore County shall include architectural elevations and details on the required dumpster enclosure. The Department has the expectation that said structures will be composed primarily of brick.
- The parking layout for the 5 spaces on the north side of the access from U.S. Rte. 1/Belair Road must be reconfigured in a way that a vehicle in the space nearest the road will not back out directly into the path of a vehicle entering the site. If through the hearing process the requested zoning variance relief is modified to eliminate that space and replace it with landscaping for a total of 49 parking spaces, the Department can support such relief.

Date: 6/29/2017 Subject: ZAC #17-298

Page 2

For further information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Ngone Seye Diop at 410-887-3480.

Prepared by:

**Division Chief:** 

Lloyd T Moxley

Kathy Schlabach

AVA/KS/LTM/ka

c: Ngone Seye Diop
 James Hermann, R.L.A., Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections
 Caroline L. Hecker
 Office of the Administrative Hearings
 People's Counsel for Baltimore County

RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE
9100-9106 Belair Road; NW/S Belair Road,
corner of India Avenue
11th Election & 5th Councilmanic Districts
Legal Owner(s): McDonald's USA LLC
Petitioner(s)

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2017

- \* BEFORE THE OFFICE
- \* OF ADMINSTRATIVE
- \* HEARINGS FOR
- \* BALTIMORE COUNTY
- \* 2017-298-A

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

#### 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.

Peter Max Zimmerman

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

(410) 887-2188

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 16th day of May, 2017, a copy of the foregoing Entry of Appearance was mailed to Caroline Hecker, Esquire, 25 South Charles Street, 21<sup>st</sup> Flooring, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, Attorney for Petitioner(s).

PETER MAX ZIMMERMAN

Pelan Max Zummerman

People's Counsel for Baltimore County

#### MEMORANDUM

DATE:

August 8, 2017

TO:

Zoning Review Office

FROM:

Office of Administrative Hearings

RE:

Case No. 2017-0298-A - Appeal Period Expired

The appeal period for the above-referenced case expired on August 7, 2017. 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

#### Real Property Data Search

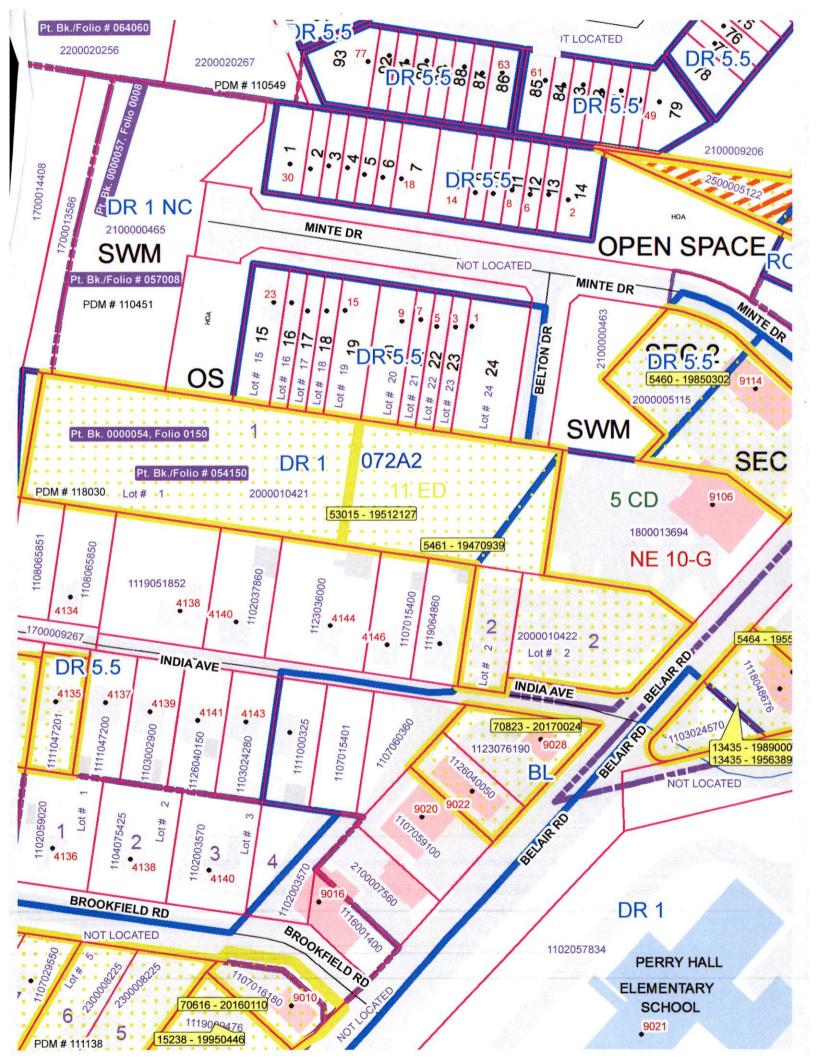
#### Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

View Map V	View GroundRent Registration View GroundRent Registration							
Account Identifier:	District - 11 Account Number - 2200012360							
•			ner Information					
Owner Name:	MCDONALDS USA LLC Use: Principal Residence:			COMM	COMMERCIAL			
Mailing Address:	ONE MCDONALDS PLAZA			•			NO /38106/ 00318	
manning Madroool						750,00	, 50010	
	OAK B	ROOK IL 6052:	3- Structure Info	mation				<u>.</u>
Premises Address:	9100 B				crintion	5213	AC PT LT	2
Tomoso Addisos	9100 BELAIR RD Legal Description: BALTIMORE MD 21236-0000			9100 E	9100 BELAIR RD EDGEWOOD CORP			
Map: Grid: Parcel:	Sub District:	Subdivision:	Section:	Block:	Lot:	Assessmen Year:	t Plat No:	
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Special Tax Areas:	participation and an area and for	New Manage St. I share the second sec	Town:			NC	NE	
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Primary Structure	Above Grade	e Living	Finished Ba	sement		perty Land	Cou	
Built	Area		Area		Are:	a '08 SF	Use 06	
	man. Ny		•					
Stories Basement	Туре	Exterior	Full/Half Bat	th (	Garage	Last Major	Renovati	on
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	Base Value Value			Phase-in Assessments				
			As of 01/01/2016		As of 07/01/20		As of 07/01/2017	,
Land:	99,600	3	99,600		01701720	10	0770172017	
Improvements	0		0					
Total:	99,600	כ	99,600		99,600		99,600	
Preferential Land:	0						0	
		Tran	sfer Informatio	on	-			
Seller: MCDONALDS CO	RP	Date:	: 10/06/2016			Price: \$0		
Type: NON-ARMS LENGTH OTHER		Deed	Deed1: /38106/ 00318			Deed2:		
Seller: PRINCIPAL MUTUAL		Date:	Date: 01/03/2002		~	Price: \$347,871		
Type: ARMS LENGTH MU			<b>1:</b> /15925/ 00	187		Deed2:		
Seller: MCDONALDS CORPOR ATION		Date:	Date: 12/31/1991		Price: \$0			
Type: NON-ARMS LENG	TH OTHER	Deed	<b>1:</b> /09165/ 00	722		Deed2:		
		Exem	ption Informat					
Partial Exempt Assessmen				7/01/2016	5	07/01/	2017	
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Municipal:	000		<b></b> .	.00 0.00	_	0,00 0	.00	
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Homeowners' Tax Credit A		neowners' Tax		ition Infori a <b>te:</b>	mation			

CASE NAME McDonald's CASE NUMBER 2017-0298-4 DATE 7/3/17

## PETITIONER'S SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP	E- MAIL
Caroline Hecker	23 S. Chales St. 21# F)	Balt. MD 21201	checker crosenber matissem
Jista William	u '		William @ roserbes maker com
IWONA POSTEK- ZARSKA	230 SCHILLING CIRCUE, STE 364	HUNT VALLEY, NOZ1120	izarska e bldginc. com
VALEK ZARSKI	223 230 SCHILLING CIRCLE STE	364; HUNT VALLEY, MD 2/120	vzarski e bldginc.com
ee May	6903 Rockledge Prive, Suite 1100	Bethresda MD 20817	Lee. Mayeus, mid. com
sing Terlune	San County Times		terhiner verna comed. co
			100000000000000000000000000000000000000
			7. S.
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## Exhibit Sheet

Petitioner/Developer Protestants Protestants

	900	bu.
No. 1	Aerial photo	
No. 2	site photos	
No. 3	site plan	
No. 4	schematic landscape plan	
No. 5	elevation drawings	
No. 6	parking study	
No. 7	Signage détail	
No. 8	Mc Donald's systainability	
No. 9	Zarska resume	
No. 10	Letter of support Perry Hall White Marsh Bus. Ass'a.	
No. 11	Hearing outline	
No. 12		



Northbound Bel Air Road Looking North



View of Site from the Corner of India Ave. & Bel Air Road



View of the Site from India Ave. at the Existing Entrance



Southbound Bel Air Road Looking North



View from Belton Drive looking South toward the Site

## TRAFFIC CONCEPTS, INC.

Traffic Impact Studies • Feasibility • Traffic Signal Design • Traffic Counts • Expert Testimony

September 20, 2016

Mr. Valek Zarski BLDG BALTIMORE LAND DESIGN GROUP, INC. 230 Schilling Circle, Suite 364 Hunt Valley, Maryland 21031

Re:

McDonald's – 9106 Belair Road Perry Hall, Maryland 21236 Parking Lot Occupancy Study T/C 3283

Dear Mr. Zarski:

As requested, Traffic Concepts, Inc. conducted parking study for the proposed redevelopment of the McDonald's store located at 9106 Belair Road in Perry Hall. The existing store size is 5,343 gsf with 108 seats and has 66 usable parking spaces. This store will be razed to create a new 4,699 gsf store with 90 seats and 50 usable parking spaces. The new store plan with the reduced building floor area and seating is indicative of a larger number of customers using the drive-through lane instead of customers parking and dining in the restaurant.

In general, parking demand is based on the building floor area. The parking demand generated by the existing and larger building is used to determine the parking demand for the new smaller store with fewer seats and parking spaces. The peak demand periods were determined with data contained in the <u>Institute of Transportation Engineers</u>; <u>Parking Generation</u>, 4th Edition. The survey time periods and dates are listed below.

Thursday	8/11/16	(11  a.m. - 2  p.m.)
Friday	8/12/16	(11  a.m. - 2  p.m.)
Saturday	8/13/16	(7 a.m 1 p.m.)

As stated, the peak hour parking demand was determined by using the 50 proposed number of parking spaces and an actual count of occupied spaces in fifteen minute time intervals. We have also provided the average number of parked vehicles during the peak hour. The tables on the following page show the study findings. The complete parking occupancy tables are included as an attachment.



Mr. Valek Zarski September 20, 2016 Page 2 of 2

gi Tiba. A

Table I

Existing 15 Minute Peak Period Parking Demand with the Proposed Parking Spaces

			ne i roposeu i arming opaces
Count Date	Peak 15 Minute	Actual Count/	Peak 15 Min. Occupancy Rate
	Study Period	Proposed Spaces	w/ Proposed Space Count
Thursday, 8/11/16	1:00-1:15	36/50	72%
Friday, 8/12/16	11:00-11:15	35/50	70%
Saturday, 8/13/16	10:00-10:15	41/50	
			82%

Table II

Existing Peak One-hour Parking Demand with the Proposed Parking Spaces

Count Date	Peak 1-hour Period	Avg. One-hour Count/Proposed Spaces	Peak 15 Min. Occupancy Rate w/ Proposed Space Count
Thursday, 8/11/16	12:15-1:15	33/50	66%
Friday, 8/12/16	11:00-12:00	30/50	60%
Saturday, 8/13/16	10:00-11:00	35/50	70%

Using the existing parking occupancy counts with the 50 proposed parking spaces, the highest average hourly parking occupancy rate is 70 percent.

We believe that the parking reduction that creates 50 on-site spaces would continue to provide an effective parking supply where the peak demand does not exceed 70 percent during the peak hour. Therefore, we conclude the site with the stated parking reduction is adequate.

If you should wish to discuss this in more detail, please do not he sitate to contact our office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Traffic Concepts, Inc.

Mark Keeley, PTP Project Manager

Enclosures:

Parking Lot Occupancy Count Sheets

## PARKING LOT OCCUPANCY COUNT

PARKING LOT: McDONALDS - 9108 BELAIR RD

COUNTY: BALTIMORE

COUNT BY: B. PAGE

DATE: 8/11/2016

WEATHER: OVERCAST

DAY: THURSDAY

TIME	# OF PARKED CARS
11:00-11:15	35
11:15-11:30	31
11:30-11:45	29
11:45-12:00	22
12:00-12:15	. 23 -
12:15-12:30	. 31
12:30-12:45	31 4
12:45-1:00	33
1:00-1:15	36
1:15-1:30	28 .
1:30-1:45	29
1:45-2:00	24

TRAFFIC CONCEPTS, INC.
7525 CONNELLEY DRIVE, SUITE B
HANOVER, MARYLAND 21076
(410) 760-2911 FAX (410) 760-2915
E-MAIL TRAFFIC@TRAFFIC-CONCEPTS.COM

## PARKING LOT OCCUPANCY COUNT

PARKING LOT: McDONALDS - 9106 BELAIR RD

**COUNTY: BALTIMORE** 

COUNT BY: B. PAGE

DATE: 8/12/2016

WEATHER: OVERCAST

DAY: FRIDAY

TIME	# OF PARKED CARS
11:00-11:15	35
11:15-11:30	30
11:30-11:45	29
11:45-12:00	26
12:00-12:15	26
12:15-12:30	24
12:30-12:45	32
12:45-1:00	25
1:00-1:15	25
1:15-1:30	29
1:30-1:45	30
1:45-2:00	30

TRAFFIC CONCEPTS, INC.
7525 CONNELLEY DRIVE, SUITE B
HANOVER, MARYLAND 21076
(410) 760-2911 FAX (410) 760-2915
E-MAIL TRAFFIC@TRAFFIC-CONCEPTS.COM

## PARKING LOT OCCUPANCY COUNT

PARKING LOT: McDONALDS - 9106 BELAIR RD

COUNTY: BALTIMORE

COUNT BY: B. HEADLEY

DATE: 8/13/2016

**WEATHER: OVERCAST** 

DAY: SATURDAY

TIME	# OF PARKED CARS IN LOT	
7:00-7:15	9	
7:15-7:30	10	
7:30-7:45	14	હ
7:45-8:00	15	
8:00-8:15	16	-
8:15-8:30	16	
8:30-8:45	19	
8:45-9:00	28	
9:00-9:15	32	
9:15-9:30	24	
9:30:9:45	. 24	
9:45-10:00	33	
10:00-10:15	41	
10:15-10:30	32	
10:30-10:45	30	
10:45-11:00	-35	
11:00-11:15	31	
11:15-11:30	35	
11:30-11:45	31	
11:45-12:00	27	
12:00-12:15	29	
12:15-12:30	24	
12:30-12:45	20	
12:45-1:00	18	·

TRAFFIC CONCEPTS, INC. 7525 CONNELLEY DRIVE, SUITE B HANOVER, MARYLAND 21076 (410) 760-2911 FAX (410) 760-2915





**RESTAURANT SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES** 

## ENERGY

Restaurants use energy to produce products and to provide a quality experience. Energy has an impact on the environment as well as the cost to run the business. Integral to our business, energy efficiency has been part of McDonald's for many years. Each restaurant feature can have incremental impact and helps our progress within the McDonald's 20×2020 by Design strategy.

Prototypical ENERGY features:

- LED Dining Room Lighting
- . LED Building Signage
- Energy Management Systems (EMS)
- High Efficiency Packaged Rooftop Units (RTU)
- High Efficiency Gas Water Heaters
- Greenheck Vari-Green Exhaust Fans
- Occupancy Sensors
- LOV Fryers
- · High Density
- · High Efficiency Hand Dryers
- · Reflective White Roofing
- · LED Exterior Building Lighting
- · LED Freezer/Cooler Lighting

Water is an important resource for all of life. We have introduced water efficient fixtures and equipment that helps to reduce restaurant water use. Similar to Energy, each restaurant feature can have an incremental impact and helps our progress within the McDonald's 20×2020 by Design strategy.

Prototypical WATER features:

- . High Efficiency Toilets
- · High Efficiency Urinals
- High Efficiency Faucets
- · Low Flow Spray Valves

Whether helping to divert waste from landfills or by selecting waste sensitive building materials, we are focused on waste reduction. Here are common waste reduction practices within our restaurants.

Prototypical WASTE features:

- Environmentally Packaged Cleaning Products
- . Low-mercury Fluorescent Lamps
- · Cooking Oil Recycling (where applicable) . Common Use of Building Materials with
- Recycled Content
- · Cardboard Recycling (where applicable)



RESTAURANT SUSTAINABILITY

**U.S. Restaurant Development** 



Incorporating sustainable elements into our restaurants can help the environment while delivering a modern restaurant experience.



## Iwona Rostek - Zarska, P.E.

24 English Saddle Court Parkton, Maryland, 21120 410-343-1208

#### **Professional Registration**

Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Maryland (1995) PE 21245

#### Education

Masters of Science in Civil Engineering, Polytechnic of Bialystok / Technical University, Bialystok, Poland, June 1981, with honors

Essex Community College, Baltimore, MD (1982 - 1984) placed on the Dean's Highest List for Fall, 1983

- Computer Programming
- Engineering Courses and Learning English language

Continuing Professional Competency: Various courses of study, seminars, webinars, conferences, in-house training

## **Summary of Qualifications**

- Licensed professional engineer with over 30 years of experience in site development engineering, planning and management for various commercial, industrial, institutional and residential projects.
- Background in design, budget management, project scheduling, project coordination with the
  design team, design and construction supervision, obtaining regulatory land-use approvals and
  permits, bidding procedures, and employees training.
- Experience in developing innovative and the most cost effective design solutions.
- Strengths in design and analysis of storm water management facilities, water and wastewater systems, close and open channel drainage systems, site grading, erosion and sediment control, site planning, roads, flood plains.
- Knowledge and experience with preparation of drawings using CADD

## Work Experience:

February 1999 - present

Principal with the engineering firm of Baltimore Land Design Group, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland. Responsible for overall engineering and administrative tasks.





September 28, 2016

Mr. Lee May Area Construction Manager - McDonald's USA, L.L.C. Atlantic Group - Capitol Team 6903 Rockledge Drive, Suite 1100, Bethesda, MD 20817

Dear Mr. May:

The Perry Hall/White Marsh Business Association would like to express our support of the plans to remodel/rebuild the McDonald's location on Belair Road in our community.

The plans presented and sent to us seem very reasonable and should provide a much needed update to the look of the property and our neighborhoods.

Revitalization in this area is a very important component to the continued success and growth of our long-established community.

We are pleased to support your efforts and help in any way that we can.

Lynn Richardson,

Sym ann Richardson

President



#### BALTIMORE COUNTY ZONING HEARING OUTLINE

#### MCDONALD'S - 9100-9106 Belair Road

#### **JULY 3, 2017**

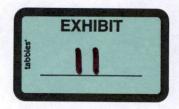
#### 2017-0298-A

#### I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. Caroline Hecker and Justin Williams Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP
- 2. Lee May McDonald's Corporation, Area Construction Manager Petitioner
- 3. Iwona Rostek-Zarska Baltimore Land Design Group Project Engineer
- 4. Scott Rardin Owner/Operator of 9100-9106 Belair Road McDonald's
- 5. This is a petition for the variances necessary for McDonald's to demolish its existing restaurant and rebuild a new construct a new 4,699-SF restaurant with a reconfigured double drive-thru lane.

#### II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

- 1. The Property, which is located in the Perry Hall area of Baltimore County, is comprised of 3 separate parcels and has a site area of 2.859 acres (124,524 SF). It is currently improved with a 5,343-SF McDonald's restaurant.
- 2. Zoning Classification: The store and parking lots are zoned B.L. A significant portion of the Property, which is and will remain unimproved, is located in the rear of the Property and is zoned D.R. 1.
- 3. The Property is located along the Belair Road commercial corridor at the northwest corner of Belair Road and India Avenue. A KFC is located to the north of the Property along Belair Road. A small development of single family dwellings property are located to the west of the Property along India Avenue.
  - i. Exhibit 1 Zoning Map/ Photo
  - ii. Exhibit 2 Streetview Photos
- 4. McDonald's has operated at the Property since 1980.



- 5. The restaurant, which has the capacity to seat approximately 108 patrons, operates dining and drive-thru service 24 hours daily.
- 6. The Property is within the Perry Hall Revitalization Area and subject to provisions of the Perry Hall Community Plan.

#### III. PROPOSED CONDITIONS

1. McDonald's is proposing to raze the existing restaurant and redevelop the Property with a 4,699-square foot restaurant containing 88± seats. The total project represents an investment of approximately \$3 million.

#### i. Exhibit 3 - Site Plan

2. While the current restaurant is located in the northeast corner of the Property, the new restaurant will be located in the middle of the site with dual drive-thru lanes and ingress and egress points onto Belair Road and India Avenue.

#### 3. Landscaping:

#### i. Exhibit 4 – Landscape Plan

- ii. As indicated on the Landscape Plan, the proposed landscaping exceeds County requirements as 85 planting units are proposed, and only 74 planting units required. Along Belair Road, a 20-foot landscaped setback is proposed between the parking lot and road, while only a 10-foot non-landscaped setback is required.
  - 1. As will be explained in further detail below, the State Highway Administration may potentially take a 13-foot wide portion of the Property's frontage along Belair Road. We have proactively requested a variance to permit the remaining 7-foot setback to be sufficient in the event that SHA ends up taking the 13-wide portion of the Property.

#### 4. Design Elements:

i. A review of the site plan and building elevations reveal the high quality of the proposed redevelopment.

#### 1. Exhibit 5 – Elevations of Proposed Building

ii. As indicated in the Department of Planning's Zoning Advisory Committee Comment, the project received Design Review Panel approval on May 25, 2017. The site plan prepared and submitted in connection with the instant petition, and in consultation with the Department of Planning, differs slightly different in that it adds a row of parking along Belair Road. The Planning ZAC

Comment notes that the plan is consistent with the design guidelines established within the Perry Hall Community Plan, which include:

1. New buildings should be predominantly designed with brick and oriented parallel to the road.

The proposed building is predominately brick with cultured stone accents to enhance customer entrances and visual interest.

2. Pedestrian amenities and landscaping are strongly encouraged. For new construction, a landscaped strip of no less than eight feet with street trees shall be provided next to the road.

Pedestrian access to Bel Air Road is provided and extensive landscaping is proposed. A 20-foot landscaped strip is currently proposed. It should be noted that a variance is requested to permit a 7-foot setback in lieu of 10 feet along Belair Road, however, that variance is being requested so that in the event the State Highway Administration carries out a potential road widening, a future variance would not be necessary.

3. Building entries should face the road. Storefront display windows should be included, if feasible.

Both elevations facing public roads have exterior entrances. While storefront windows displays are not applicable to fast-food restaurants, the customer dining areas have windows facing both public roads.

4. Parking bays should be located along the sides and rear of the lot, and parking should be minimized in the front. For new construction, any buildings shall be placed as close to the road as possible, with parking concentrated in the back and no more than one row of parking allowed in the front.

Parking is provided along all sides of the Property. Parking provided in the front is minimized with only one row provided, and the site layout was pushed as closely to Belair Road as possible to avoid negative impacts on nearby residential areas.

5. Commercial buildings that are located near a residential neighborhood should respect the scale and character of the surrounding neighborhood.

The 20'-2.5" single-story building respects the scale of the surrounding neighborhood.

6. Signage should be integrated with the building design. Freestanding signs are discouraged; ground-mounted signs are encouraged.

The only freestanding sign on the site is the existing sign and it is small relative to the size of the site and complies with the Sign Regulations.

7. Loading docks and delivery areas should be screened with walls that match the style of the buildings and landscaping.

No dedicated loading docks are proposed. The store's deliveries typically last less than 30 minutes and occur less than 3 times per week during off-peak hours.

8. Dumpsters and drive-thru windows should be located and positioned in a way that is the least obtrusive to the surrounding neighborhood.

The drive-thru ordering area is adjacent to the KFC (a like-use). While the drive-thru windows do face a residential area, by keeping the improved portions of the site close to Belair Road and by maintaining the unimproved portion of the site in the rear, the residential areas are buffered from the service windows. The dumpster area is proposed to be located within a brick enclosure and further screened by a number of trees.

#### 5. Parking:

- i. A total of 50 parking spaces and 4 bicycle spaces will be provided.
- ii. Traffic Concepts, Inc. conducted a study of the parking utilization rates during the peak periods on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in August 2016 (8/11-8/13/2016). The study revealed that the highest parking occupancy in a 15-minute period was 41 spaces. The operator, Scott Rardin, would testify that the study is in line with his experience that the parking lot is never fully utilized.

#### 1. Exhibit 6 – Parking Study

- iii. With a reduction in restaurant size and addition of drive-thru queuing lane, Traffic Concepts concluded the proposed 50 parking spaces is adequate as peak demand will not exceed 70% utilization.
- iv. Mr. Rardin would further testify that in the unlikely event that the parking lot were full, the customers would leave the parking lot and go to one of the many other quick-service restaurants in the vicinity. McDonald's would certainly seek to prevent this from happening, and thus, it is in its best interest to make sure enough parking is provided.

#### 6. Signage:

i. As indicated on the building elevations and signage plan, the new restaurant will incorporate McDonald's new, contemporary design, including its new signage package.

#### 1. Exhibit 7 – Signage Plan

- ii. The contemporary, upscale look of the restaurants represents a move away from the bright, plastic look of older McDonalds' restaurants. For example, the mansard roof with white beams will be replaced with stylish brick, cultured stone, and accent metals.
- iii. Five wall-mounted enterprise signs on the faces of the building are proposed: 2 signs on the front of the building; 2 signs on the non-drive-thru side of the building; and 1 sign on the rear of the building.
- iv. Also proposed are two "canopy"-style directional signs on the front and non-drive-thru sides of the building. These signs will have the word "Welcome" above the face of the canopy, rather than printed directly on the face of the canopy.
- v. Finally, directional signs over the drive-thru lanes and new menu boards are proposed.

#### 7. Sustainability:

i. McDonald's has set a goal of 20% increase in the energy efficiency of its restaurants, and this building is being designed to help meet that goal with multiple sustainable features.

#### 1. Exhibit 8 – Building Sustainability Exhibit

- ii. The redevelopment also must comply with modern stormwater management regulations and a micro-bioretenion facility is proposed to be located in the rear of the site to treat runoff.
  - 1. In meetings with residential neighbors in connection with the redevelopment, many attendees indicated they were pleased that a stormwater management facility was proposed for the rear of the site as the existing conditions allow for pooling of water in the rear of the site.

#### IV. REQUESTED ZONING RELIEF

1. Section 409.6.A.2 to permit 50 off-street parking spaces in lieu of the required 76 parking spaces.

- 2. Section 409.8.A.4 to permit parking facilities to be setback 7 feet from the right-of-way line of a public street in lieu of the required 10 feet.
- 3. Section 1B01.1.B.1.(e)(3) to permit clearance and the installation of a stormwater management pond (ESD Practice #1) within the 50-foot landscape buffer.
- 4. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 5(a)(VI), to permit 5 wall-mounted enterprise signs on building façades in lieu of the permitted 3 signs.
- 5. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit a directional sign of 10.7 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet ("Drive-Thru" Sign).
- 6. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(b)(VII) to permit two directional signs of 9.67 feet in height in lieu of the permitted 6 feet ("Order Here" Signs).
- 7. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3 (II) to permit two canopy-type directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Welcome" Signs).
- 8. Section 450.5.B.3.b to permit the erection of two canopy-type signs above the face of the canopy in lieu of the requirement that the sign be on the face of the canopy ("Welcome" Signs).
- 9. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 5(f)(VII) to permit two order boards of 6.75 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet.
- 10. Section 450.4 Attachment 1, 3(II) to permit two projected directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Pay Here/Pick Up Here" Signs").

#### V. VARIANCE - LEGAL STANDARDS

- 1. The Site Plan was prepared under the supervision of Iwona Zarska, a licensed professional engineer and an expert in site engineering. She would testify that the Property meets the standard for granting the necessary variances under Section 307.1 of the BCZR and the test in *Trinity Assembly of God v. People's Counsel*, 407 Md. 53, 80 (2008).
  - i. Exhibit 9 Zarska, C.V.

#### 2. <u>Legal standards:</u>

i. Section 307.1 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR" or "Zoning Regulations") authorizes the Administrative Law Judge to "grant variances from height and area regulations, from off-street parking regulations and from sign regulations ... in cases where special circumstances or conditions exist that are peculiar to the land or structure which is the subject of the variance

request and where strict compliance with the Zoning Regulations for Baltimore County would result in <u>practical difficulty or unreasonable hardship</u>.... Furthermore, any such variance shall be granted only if in strict harmony with the <u>spirit and intent</u> of said height, area, off-street parking or sign regulations, and only in such manner as to grant relief <u>without injury to public health</u>, <u>safety and general welfare</u>.

#### 3. <u>Uniqueness</u>:

- i. The Property is unique for several reasons:
  - 1. An approximate 1.6 acre-portion of the Property is zoned D.R.1, which limits the ability to design a parking lot and stormwater management features that meet the requirements of the Zoning Regulations. The orientation of the zoning line, which is slanted, and not perpendicular limits the ability to add more parking (which cannot be provided in the DR.1 zoned portion of the Property).
  - 2. The State Highway Administration may potentially be acquiring approximately 13 feet of the Property's Belair Road frontage. If taken, the Property would lose approximately 3,200 square feet of its property and not provide full setbacks from Belair Road. To prevent this condition, the variance is being requested proactively.
  - 3. The Property is a corner lot with frontage on two streets; the site's ingress/egress points on each of these two different streets is also unique as it requires additional signage to help motorists identity the building as a McDonald's as they approach the property.

#### 4. Practical Difficulty or Hardship:

- i. The Petitioner would experience a practical difficulty if the Zoning Regulations were strictly interpreted:
  - 1. <u>Parking</u>: The BCZR would require Petitioner to provide 76 parking spaces; however, because the Property is split-zoned and irregularly shaped, only 50 spaces can be provided. Without the parking variance, the new modern and efficient McDonald's could not be constructed on the Property.
  - 2. <u>Setbacks</u>: The Zoning Regulations require the parking facilities to be setback 10 feet from Belair Road. The parking facilities are currently proposed to be setback 20 feet from Belair Road; however, if SHA ends up taking the 13-foot portion of the Property's frontage along Belair Road, then, a 7-foot setback is the most that could be provided.

Additionally, the residential zoning of the rear of the Property triggers the need to provide a 50-foot landscape buffer; however, because of

the narrow width of the commercially-zoned portion of the Property, the stormwater management pond must be located within the buffer area. Without this variance, the McDonald's could not be constructed on the Property.

3. <u>Signs</u>: The strict application of the Zoning Regulations would create practical difficulties for McDonald's, as this restaurant would deviate from the standard style of other McDonald's restaurants if the proposed signs were not permitted. Due to the size of the site and multiple ingress/egress points, additional signage is necessary to safely direct traffic around the drive-thru lanes and into the site.

#### 5. Spirit and Intent:

- i. The granting of these variances is in harmony with the purpose of the Zoning Regulations, as they will promote the health, security, comfort, convenience, orderly development and other aspects of the general welfare of the community by permitting McDonald's to dramatically upgrade its existing store. The significant \$3 million capital investment will improve the general welfare of the surrounding neighborhood.
  - 1. Parking: The reduction of parking spaces is consistent with the spirit and intent of the Zoning Regulations as the intent of the off-street parking regulations is to provide adequate parking on-site to meet the demands of the use. There will be 50 parking spaces for the proposed ±88-seat restaurant, which is more than adequate based on the Operator's experience and the parking study prepared by Traffic Concepts., which confirmed the sufficiency of 50 spaces.

Moreover, the construction of a second drive-thru queuing lane, which will improve the efficiency of the drive-thru operation and increase the percentage of drive-thru sales and further reduce the need for on-site parking.

2. <u>Setbacks</u>: The variances to permit a 7-foot setback between parking spaces and Belair Road and to permit the stormwater management pond within the 50-foot landscape buffer are in harmony with the spirit and intent of the BCZR.

The purpose of the setback from Belair Road is to create an area where plantings can be used to screen headlights from traffic on the adjacent road. A 20-foot setback from Belair Road is proposed to be provided; even in the event that SHA takes a 13-foot portion of the Property's frontage along Belair Road, the 7-foot landscaped buffer will still provide sufficient space for bushes to grow and screen headlights.

The landscape buffer is intended to provide screening and buffering from dissimilar housing types. The stormwater management pond will still be effective in providing buffering as it will be a vegetated microbioretention facility.

In meetings with the residents of the surrounding neighborhood, people were pleased to hear that upgraded stormwater management features were proposed that would lead to an improvement of the current condition in which pooling occurs.

3. <u>Signage</u>: The granting of the signage variances is consistent with the spirit and intent of the BCZR, as the proposed signs will permit the restaurant to be visible to passing motorists and safely direct traffic in and around the site. Those signs will provide the proper business identification, and therefore, enhance its success. The proposed signs are tasteful, have face areas much smaller than permitted, and are not a distraction to the passing motorists or pedestrians.

The property has frontage on two streets—Belair Road and India Avenue—and therefore requires additional signage to be visible from both directions and to direct pedestrian and vehicular traffic from both streets.

The interior signage will facilitate safe and efficient navigation by motorists and pedestrians within the site, especially on a small site.

Similar signage packages have been approved at over 20 other McDonald's locations in Baltimore County. Because the same signage packages have been permitted, approved and installed at other McDonald's sites in Baltimore County, and it is known to and understood by customers, it will aid navigability on this difficult site.

ii. Finally, the project has the support of the Perry Hall/White Marsh Business Association.

#### 1. Exhibit 10 – Support Letter

- 6. Without Injury to Public Health, Safety, and General Welfare:
  - i. The granting of the variance will not be injurious to public health, safety, or general welfare. Overall, it will have no greater impacts than the existing store, and the new modern store will comply with modern stormwater management regulations and comply with the guidelines of the Perry Hall Community Plan.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

....

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the petition for variances be granted.

#### 1. Exhibit 11 – Hearing Outline

#### **Debra Wiley**

From:

Hecker, Caroline <checker@rosenbergmartin.com>

Sent?

Monday, May 07, 2018 4:39 PM Jeff Mayhew; John E. Beverungen

To: Cc:

Debra Wiley

Subject:

RE: Case No. 2017-0298-A - 9106 Belair Road - Request for Clarification

Attachments:

05.07.18 ltr J. Beverungen re 9106 Belair Road 1.pdf

It is attached for your reference. Thanks for your help.

#### Caroline L. Hecker

Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP 25 South Charles Street, 21st Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21201 (410) 727-6600 (410) 727-1115 Fax



From: Jeff Mayhew [mailto:jmayhew@baltimorecountymd.gov]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 4:32 PM

To: Hecker, Caroline <checker@rosenbergmartin.com>; John E. Beverungen <jbeverungen@baltimorecountymd.gov>

Cc: Debra Wiley <dwiley@baltimorecountymd.gov>

Subject: RE: Case No. 2017-0298-A - 9106 Belair Road - Request for Clarification

Thanks. Would the Department of Planning get a copy of the material you drop off to the ALI?

Jeff

From: Hecker, Caroline [mailto:checker@rosenbergmartin.com]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 1:16 PM

To: John E. Beverungen < jbeverungen@baltimorecountymd.gov>

Cc: Debra Wiley <<u>dwiley@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>>; Jeff Mayhew <<u>imayhew@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>>

Subject: RE: Case No. 2017-0298-A - 9106 Belair Road - Request for Clarification

#### **Debra Wiley**

From:

Hecker, Caroline <checker@rosenbergmartin.com>

Sent:

Monday, May 07, 2018 1:16 PM

To:

John E. Beverungen

Cc:

Debra Wiley; Jeff Mayhew

Subject:

RE: Case No. 2017-0298-A - 9106 Belair Road - Request for Clarification

Thank you very much. I appreciate your quick reply.

#### Caroline L. Hecker

Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP 25 South Charles Street, 21st Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21201 (410) 727-6600 (410) 727-1115 Fax



From: John E. Beverungen [mailto:jbeverungen@baltimorecountymd.gov]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 1:13 PM

To: Hecker, Caroline <checker@rosenbergmartin.com>

Cc: Debra Wiley <dwiley@baltimorecountymd.gov>; Jeff Mayhew <jmayhew@baltimorecountymd.gov>

Subject: RE: Case No. 2017-0298-A - 9106 Belair Road - Request for Clarification

Ms. Hecker,

I have reviewed your letter and the prior zoning order and plan submitted in the above matter. Based on that review I can confirm that it is acceptable to have one-way counter-clockwise traffic movement to service the drive thru lane and two-way traffic movement in the small area along India Avenue.

Since you indicated the Department of Planning requested this confirmation I have copied Mr. Mayhew, and would ask that he forward a copy of this correspondence to the member of his staff handling this matter. Thanks.

John Beverungen

ALJ

-> From: Hecker, Caroline [mailto:checker@rosenbergmartin.com]

Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 9:18 AM

To: John E. Beverungen < jbeverungen@baltimorecountymd.gov>

Cc: Lee May <lee.may@us.mcd.com>; Valek Zarski <VZarski@bldginc.com>; Williams, Justin

<JWilliams@rosenbergmartin.com>

Subject: Case No. 2017-0298-A - 9106 Belair Road - Request for Clarification

#### Dear Judge Beverungen:

The attached request for clarification concerning the above-referenced case will be delivered to your office today. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

#### Caroline L. Hecker

Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP 25 South Charles Street, 21st Floor Baltimore, Maryland 21201 (410) 727-6600 (410) 727-1115 Fax





# CONNECT WITH BALTIMORE COUNTY www.baltimorecountymd.gov



May 7, 2018

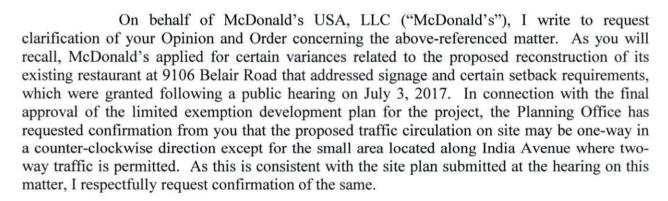
# VIA HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

John E. Beverungen Administrative Law Judge Baltimore County Office of Administrative Hearings 105 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 103 Towson, MD 21204 jbeverungen@baltimorecountymd.gov

Re:

Request for Clarification McDonald's – 9106 Belair Road Case No. 2017-0298-A





At the July 3, 2017 hearing, the proposed site plan for the new McDonald's restaurant was submitted as Exhibit 3. As shown on this site plan, a copy of which is enclosed for your reference, traffic circulation was proposed to move one-way around the restaurant in a counter-clockwise direction around the drive-thru lane. Due to the narrowness of the site, one-way circulation around the drive-thru lane is critical to vehicular and pedestrian safety, and having two-way traffic in this area could create conflicts. Along India Avenue, however, there is no drive-thru lane and, as a result, two-way traffic is appropriate.

Although the enclosed Opinion and Order includes a condition that "interior vehicular circulation around the restaurant structure shall be one-way in a counter-clockwise direction," I believe this condition was intended to speak broadly to the general pattern of traffic circulation around the drive-thru lane, and not to prohibit two-way circulation on the India Avenue side of the building. This condition does not impact any of the requested variances, nor does it conflict with any of the comments submitted by the various County agencies in



John E. Beverungen Administrative Law Judge Baltimore County Office of Administrative Hearings May 7, 2018 Page 2

connection with this application. As a result, I respectfully request that you confirm that the traffic circulation may be one-way in a counter-clockwise direction around the drive-thru lane and not in the area located along India Avenue, as shown on the site plan submitted at the July 3, 2018 hearing.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I would be happy to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this matter in more detail should you have any questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide you with any additional information.

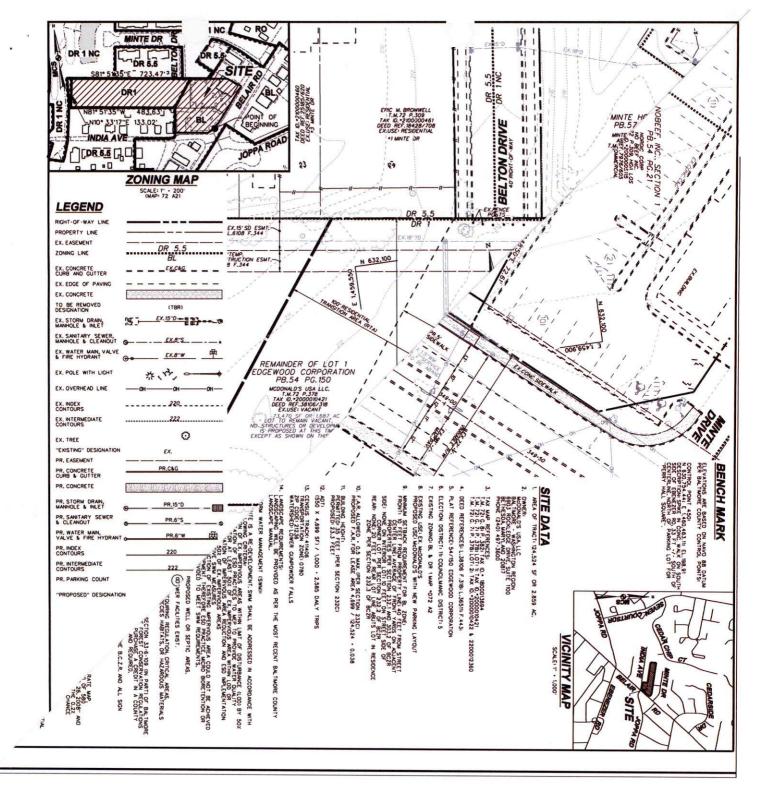
Sincerely,

Caroline L. Hecker

Caroling Hecker

Enclosures ND: 4835-9323-9653, v. 1

cc: McDonald's USA, LLC (via electronic mail w/enclosures)
Baltimore Land Design Group, Inc. (via electronic mail w/enclosures)
Justin A. Williams, Esq. (via electronic mail w/enclosures)



IN RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE (9100-9106 Belair Road)	*	BEFORE THE OFFICE
(9100-9106 Belair Road) 11 <sup>th</sup> Election District 5 <sup>th</sup> Council District	*	OF ADMINISTRATIVE
McDonald's USA, LLC  Legal Owner	*	HEARINGS FOR
Petitioner	*	BALTIMORE COUNTY
i chuonei	*	CASE NO. 2017-0298-A

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*

#### **OPINION AND ORDER**

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for Baltimore County as a Petition for Variance filed by McDonald's USA, LLC, legal owner of the subject property ("Petitioner"). Petitioner is requesting variance relief from the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("B.C.Z.R") as follows: (1) § 409.6.A.2 to permit 50 off-street parking spaces in lieu of the required 76 parking spaces; (2) § 409.8.A.4 to permit parking facilities to be setback 7 feet from the right-of- way line of a public street in lieu of the required 10 ft.; (3) § 1B01.1.B.1.(e)(3) to permit clearance and the installation of a storm water management pond (ESD Practice #1) within the 50-foot landscape buffer; (4) § 450.4 to permit 5 wall-mounted enterprise signs on building facades in lieu of the permitted 3 signs; (5) § 450.4 to permit a directional sign of 10.7 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet ("Drive-Thru" sign); (6) § 450.4 to permit two directional signs of 9.67 feet in height in lieu of the permitted 6 feet ("Order Here" signs); (7) to permit two canopy-type directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wallmounted or freestanding ("Welcome" signs); (8) § 450.5.B.3.b to permit the erection of two canopy-type signs above the face of the canopy in lieu of the requirement that the sign be on the face of the canopy ("Welcome" signs); (9) to permit two order boards of 6.75 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet; and (10) to permit two projected directional signs in lieu of the

requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Pay Here/Pick Up Here" signs). A site plan was marked as Petitioner's Exhibit 3.

Iwona Rostek-Zarska, Valek Zarski, and Lee May appeared in support of the petition. Caroline L. Hecker, Esq. and Justin Williams, Esq. represented the Petitioner. There were no protestants or interested citizens in attendance. The Petition was advertised and posted as required by the B.C.Z.R. Substantive Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received from the Bureau of Development Plans Review (DPR), Department of Planning (DOP), and the State Highway Administration (SHA).

The site is approximately 124,524 square feet (2.859 acres) in size and split-zoned B.L/DR 5.5. The site is improved with a McDonald's restaurant which has operated at the site since 1980. As it has at many locations throughout Baltimore County, Petitioner proposes to raze the existing restaurant and construct in its place a modern, environmentally sensitive structure. The great majority (i.e., 7 of 10) of the variance relief sought pertains to the new signage at the restaurant, which would be in keeping with the signage approved in other cases involving refurbished or rebuilt McDonald's restaurants.

A variance request involves a two-step process, summarized as follows:

- (1) It must be shown the property is unique in a manner which makes it unlike surrounding properties, and that uniqueness or peculiarity must necessitate variance relief: and
- (2) If variance relief is denied, Petitioner will experience a practical difficulty or hardship.

Cromwell v. Ward, 102 Md. App. 691 (1995).

The property is irregularly shaped and split-zoned. As such it is unique. If the Regulations were strictly interpreted Petitioner would experience a practical difficulty because it would be unable to construct the proposed improvements. Finally, I find that the variances can be granted in

harmony with the spirit and intent of the B.C.Z.R., and in such manner as to grant relief without injury to the public health, safety and general welfare. This is demonstrated by the lack of community and/or Baltimore County opposition.

The second variance request seeks approval for a 7 ft. surface parking setback in lieu of the required 10 ft. However, as shown on the plan McDonald's proposes to install a 20 ft. landscape buffer along the Belair Road frontage. Petitioner seeks this variance in case the SHA moves forward with its plan to widen Belair Road, which could result in a loss of 13 ft. of McDonald's property abutting the roadway.

The third variance request seeks relief from the Residential Transition Area (RTA) regulations to allow a micro-bioretention pond to be installed within the 50 ft. buffer in the DR-1 zone. Having reviewed this request in greater detail I do not believe the RTA regulations are applicable in the first instance. As an initial matter, those regulations apply when the property to be "developed is zoned D.R." B.C.Z.R. § 1B01.1.B.1.b. Here, the commercial building and parking lot are in the B.L. zone. In addition, a bioretention pond is not a "residential transition use" since it is not enumerated among the uses permitted by right or by special exception in the D.R. zones. B.C.Z.R. §§ 1B01.1.B.1.d; 1B01.1.A; and 1B01.1.C. <u>See</u>, <u>People's Counsel v. Surina</u>, 400 Md. 662, 693 (2007) (recognizing stormwater management devices not among uses listed as permitted in Baltimore County's resource conservation zones). As such, this request will be dismissed as unnecessary.

The DOP ZAC comment included a recommendation Petitioner remove from the plan the parking space nearest to Belair Road. Petitioner indicated it would prefer not to remove the space, and advised the dimensions and positioning of the space satisfy all County regulations. As such I will not include this item as a condition in the final order.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, this 6th day of July, 2017, by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County that the Petition for Variance as follows: (1) § 409.6.A.2 to permit 50 off-street parking spaces in lieu of the required 76 parking spaces; (2) § 409.8.A.4 to permit parking facilities to be setback 7 feet from the right-of- way line of a public street in lieu of the required 10 ft.; (3) § 450.4 to permit 5 wall-mounted enterprise signs on building facades in lieu of the permitted 3 signs; (4) § 450.4 to permit a directional sign of 10.7 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet ("Drive-Thru" sign); (5) § 450.4 to permit two directional signs of 9.67 feet in height in lieu of the permitted 6 feet ("Order Here" signs); (6) to permit two canopy-type directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Welcome" signs); (7) § 450.5.B.3.b to permit the erection of two canopy-type signs above the face of the canopy in lieu of the requirement that the sign be on the face of the canopy ("Welcome" signs); (8) to permit two order boards of 6.75 feet in height in lieu of the maximum permitted 6 feet; and (9) to permit two projected directional signs in lieu of the requirement that such signs be wall-mounted or freestanding ("Pay Here/Pick Up Here" signs), be and is hereby GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Petition for Variance seeking relief from B.C.Z.R. § 1B01.1.B.1(e)(3) to permit clearance and the installation of a storm water management pond (ESD Practice #1) within the 50-foot landscape buffer, be and is hereby DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE AS UNNECESSARY.

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

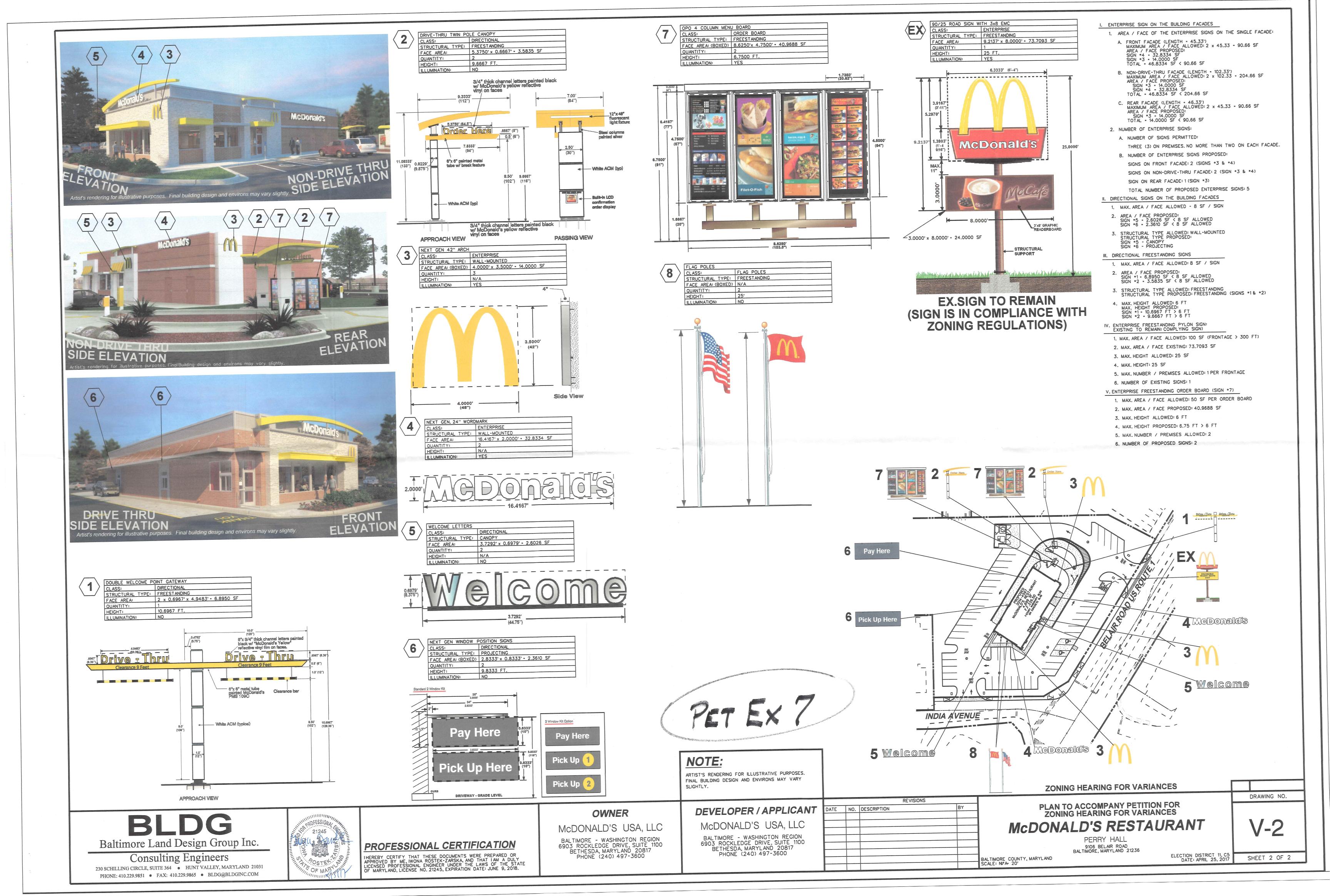
- Petitioner may apply for necessary permits and/or licenses upon receipt of this Order. However, Petitioner is hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at its own risk until 30 days from the date hereof, during which time an appeal can be filed by any party. If for whatever reason this Order is reversed, Petitioner would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.
- 2. Petitioner must obtain from SHA an entrance or access permit for the site.

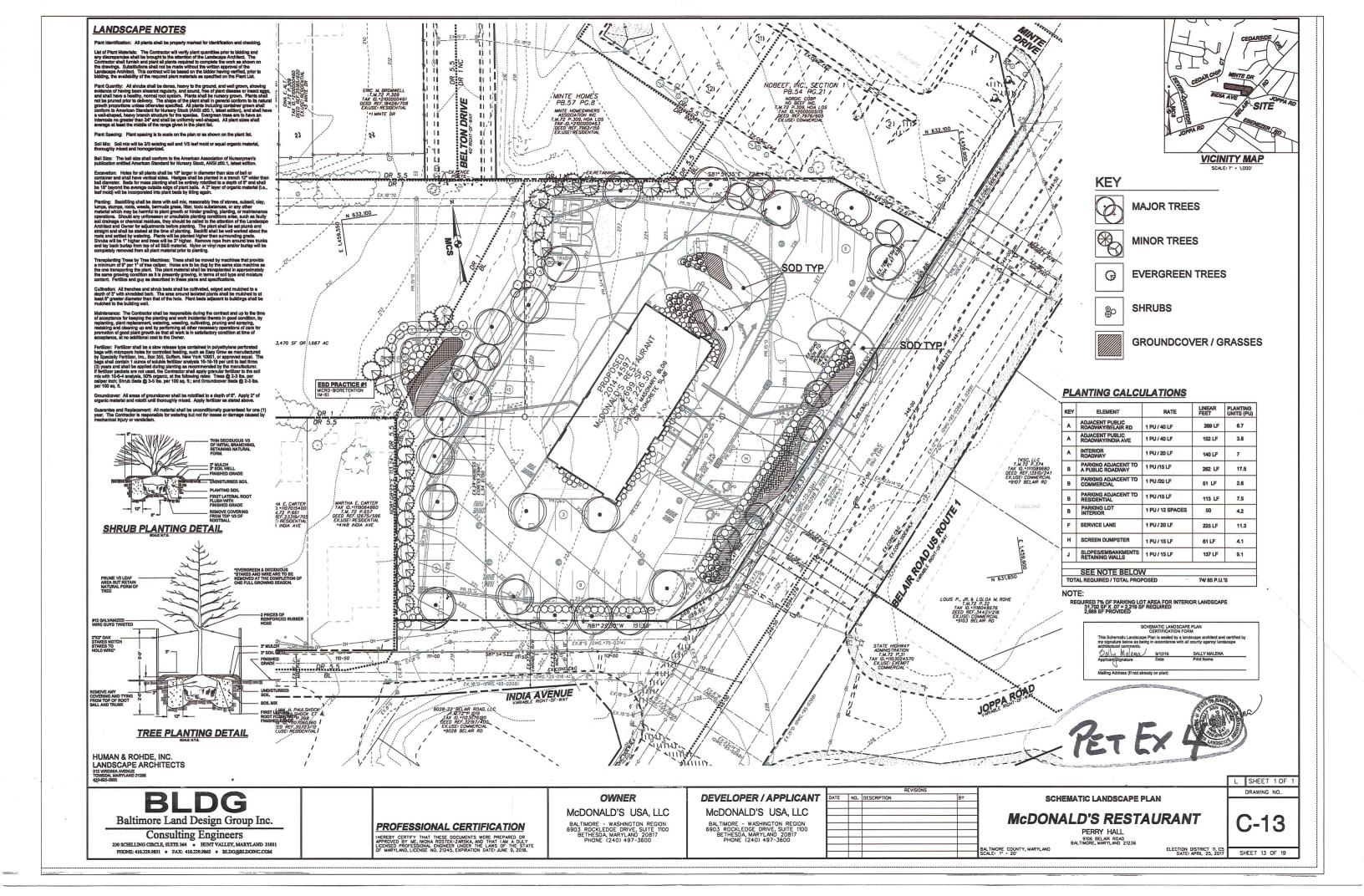
- 3. Petitioner must submit for approval by Baltimore County landscape and lighting plans for the site.
- 4. Petitioner must submit to Baltimore County elevation drawings showing dumpster enclosure(s), which shall be constructed primarily of brick.
- 5. The U.S. Route 1/Belair Road access point shall be right turn in right turn out only, with appropriate signage to alert motorists to this restriction.
- 6. The landscape buffer along Route 1/Belair Road shall be 20 ft. wide and shall not be reduced (as contemplated by variance request #2) unless and until the SHA widens Belair Road at this location.
- 7. Interior vehicular circulation around the restaurant structure shall be one-way in a counter-clockwise direction.

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

Signed
JOHN E. BEVERUNGEN
Administrative Law Judge for
Baltimore County

JEB:dlw



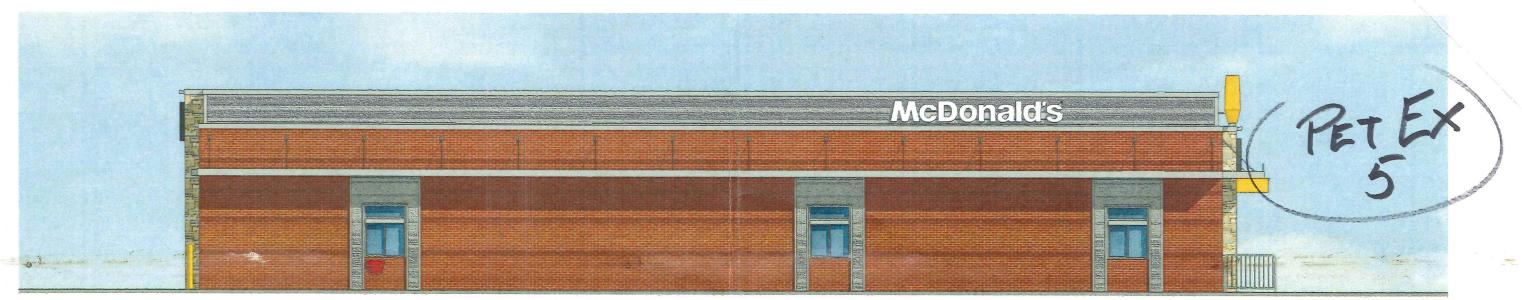




Front Elevation Rear Elevation



Non-Drive-Thru Side Elevation



Drive-Thru Side Elevation

