IN RE: PETITION FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION

(1608 E. Joppa Road) 9th Election District 6th Council District Helena M. Walker, et al. Legal Owners

Verano Holdings, LLC Contract Purchaser/Lessee

BEFORE THE

OFFICE OF

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

Case No. 2022-0292-X

Petitioners

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") for consideration of a Petition for Special Exception filed on behalf of Helene M. Walker, Leo John Walker, Alexandria Walker, Celeste Barstis, Sheila Stedman, Julia M. MacDowell, William Walker, legal owners, and Verano Holdings, LLC, contract purchaser/lessee, ("Petitioners") for the property located at 1608 E. Joppa Road, Towson (the "Property"). The Special Exception Petition was filed. pursuant to the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR") 4D-102.A.2: to permit a medical cannabis dispensary in a Commercial Revitalization District.

Due to the COVID-19, a public WebEx hearing was conducted virtually in lieu of an in-The Petition was properly advertised and posted. Christopher Fotopoulos person hearing. appeared on behalf of Verano Holdings, LLC. Philip C. Dales, Esquire represented the Petitioners. Zach Fisch, the engineer who prepared the site plan also attended. The site plan was admitted as Petitioners' Exhibit 5.

Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") was received from the Department of Planning ("DOP"). They did not oppose the requested relief. Bruce Knauff, a Board Member of the Associates of Loch Raven Village community association also attended. On behalf of the Board, he expressed opposition to the proposed cannabis dispensary on the grounds that it is, in their view, likely to exacerbate traffic congestion and that this use is not in keeping with the Loch Raven Revitalization Plan.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Fotopoulos was the first witness. He is an Executive Vice President with Verano Holdings, LLC, the parent company of Zen Leaf, the proposed medical cannabis dispensary. He explained that Verano Holdings was founded in 2015 and currently operates 120 cannabis dispensaries and 15 cultivation centers across the country. They currently own and operate a cannabis dispensary at 101 E. Chesapeake Avenue in Towson and plan to move that operation to this proposed location. He explained that this new location is an ideal site because as a former bank building it has a drive-thru window and a vault where they can store their product. Verano Holdings has converted numerous former bank buildings into dispensaries. He further noted that the site has 38 existing parking spaces, which is 20 more than what is required under the parking regulations given the square footage of the building. He stated that in his experience these cannabis dispensaries are compatible with the sort of mixed residential and commercial uses found in the Loch Raven Village neighborhood.

The engineer, Mr. Fisch, testified next. He was accepted as an expert in engineering and site design. He explained the site plan in some detail. The property is approximately 33,803 sq. ft., and is zoned BM. It is within the Loch Raven Commercial Revitalization District. He stated that he believes that repurposing the vacant bank building into this cannabis dispensary is in keeping with the revitalization goals. He explained the ingress and egress from East Joppa Road, and the vehicular and pedestrian traffic flows within the site, which will be essentially the same as existed when the bank was open. He explained that no exterior changes are proposed to the building, other than cosmetic improvements. The drive-thru window and lane will be retained.

He noted that there is substantial existing landscaping that will remain. Upon questioning by counsel, he testified that the proposed cannabis dispensary will comply with all of the requirements of BCZR Sec. 502.1, and that it will have no greater impacts at this location than are inherent to the use.

SPECIAL EXCEPTION

Under Maryland law, a special exception use enjoys a presumption that it is in the interest of the general welfare, and therefore, valid. *Schultz v. Pritts*, 291 Md. 1 (1981). The *Schultz* standard was revisited in *Attar v. DMS Tollgate*, *LLC*, 451 Md. 272 (2017), where the court of appeals discussed the nature of the evidentiary presumption in special exception cases. The court again emphasized a special exception is properly denied only when there are facts and circumstances showing that the adverse impacts of the use at the particular location in question would be above and beyond those inherently associated with the special exception use.

I appreciate Mr. Knauff's participation at the hearing on behalf of the Associates of Loch Raven Village, and I understand their concerns about traffic, and the other potential impacts of this cannabis dispensary. But the County Council has deemed this to be an appropriate use in this BM zone, and within the Revitalization District. Further, based on the exhibits and testimony detailed above, I find that the adverse impacts of the proposed use at this Property are no worse than those inherently associated with this type of use elsewhere in the zone, and therefore the Special Exception relief must be granted. Without reiterating the testimony above, I find that the proposed Special Exception use meets each of the factors in BCZR, §502.1 and can be granted within the spirit and intent of the BCZR.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this <u>25th</u> day of **January 2023**, by this Administrative Law Judge, that the Petition for Special Exception pursuant to the BCZR 4D-102. A.2: to permit a medical cannabis dispensary in a Commercial Revitalization District is hereby, **GRANTED**; and

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

- 1. Petitioners may apply for necessary permits and/or licenses upon receipt of this Order. However, Petitioners are 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, Petitioners would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.
- 2. Petitioners must comply with the DOP comment, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part thereof.

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

PAUL M. MAYHEW

Managing Administrative Law Judge

for Baltimore County

PMM:dlm



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR. County Executive

PAUL M. MAYHEW
Managing Administrative Law Judge
MAUREEN E. MURPHY
Administrative Law Judge

January 25, 2023

Philip C. Dales, Esquire – <u>dales@dalesassociates.com</u> 181 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, MD 21401

RE:

Petition for Special Exception

Case No. 2022-0292-X

Property: 1608 E. Joppa Road

Dear Mr. Dales:

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

Pursuant to Baltimore County Code § 32-3-401(a), "a person aggrieved or feeling aggrieved" by this Decision and Order 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,

PAUL M. MAYHEW

Managing Administrative Law Judge

for Baltimore County

PMM:dlm

Enclosure

Bruce Knauff – <u>brknauff@gmail.com</u> Chris Fotopoulos – <u>chris.fotopoulos@verano.com</u> Sara Neild – neild@dales associates.com Zach Fisch – <u>zfisch@fsheri.com</u>

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO:

C. Pete Gutwald

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM:

Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2022-292-X

INFORMATION:

Property Address:

1608 East Joppa Road, Towson

Petitioner:

Leo Walker et al.

Zoning:

BM

Requested Action:

Special Exception

The Department of Planning has reviewed the petition for a Special Exception from Section 4D-102.A.2 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations to permit a medical cannabis dispensary in a Commercial Revitalization District.

The subject site is a 33,798 square foot parcel zoned BM and was previously a SunTrust Bank. Per the petition, the property lessees are proposing minor interior renovations to accommodate the proposed use of a medical cannabis dispensary. Page 2 of the 5 page letter submitted by the representative states: "There are no proposed changes to the existing building and site changes include only a drive through and adding a few additional parking spaces." In a January 3rd, 2023 voicemail left by the representative's associate for the Department of Planning, it was explained that this line of the letter was an error; the drive through is existing and will remain, and no exterior alterations are proposed to the site.

The site is surrounded by other commercial uses, including a Dunkin Donuts, auto repair shop, gas station, and a proposed Arby's Restaurant (PAI # 09-0471).

The property is within the boundaries of the Loch Raven Commercial Revitalization District, the Loch Raven/Baynesville Design Review Panel, the Towson Community Plan, and the Eastern Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan.

The Department of Planning has no objections to the requested Special Exception, as the proposed use is consistent with the existing commercial nature of East Joppa Road. It should be noted that, because of the properties location within the boundary of the Loch Raven/Baynesville Design Review Panel, should any exterior alterations be proposed, they are subject to prior review and approval by the Design Review Panel. The applicant may contact the Department of Planning at 410-887-3482 for additional information on the Design Review Panel and its review.

For further information concerning the matters stated herein, please contact Taylor Bensley at 410-887-3482.



DATE: 12/13/2022

Prepared by:

Taylor Bensley

SL/JGN

c: Philip C. Dales
Leo Walker
David Birkenthal
Ngone Seye Diop
Office of Administrative Hearings
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

Division Chief:

Jenifer G. Nugent

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

ATTENTION: KRISTEN LEWIS

DATE: 1/2/2023

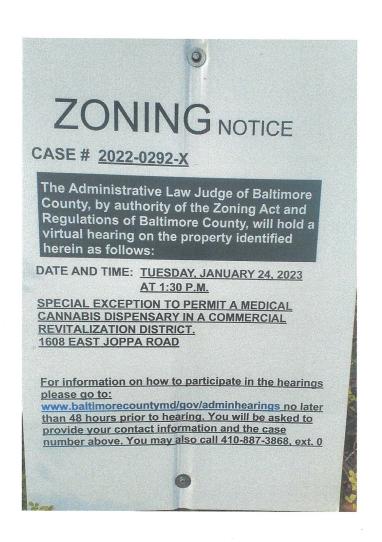
Case Number: <u>2022-0292-X</u>

Petitioner / Developer: PHILIP DALES

Date of Hearing: JANUARY 24, 2023

This is to certify under the penalties of perjury that the necessary sign(s) required by law were posted conspicuously on the property located at: 1608 EAST JOPPA ROAD

The sign(s) were posted on: <u>JANUARY 2, 2023</u>



Linda O Keefe
(Signature of Sign Poster)

Linda O'Keefe

(Printed Name of Sign Poster)

523 Penny Lane
(Street Address of Sign Poster)

Hunt Valley, MD 21030 (City, State, Zip of Sign Poster)

410-666-5366

(Telephone Number of Sign Poster)



Background Photo 1st Sign @ 1608 East Joppa Rd. ~ 1/2/2023



Background Photo 2^{nd} sign @ 1608 East Joppa Rd. $\sim 1/2/2023$ CASE # 2022-0292-X

ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA ROOM 123, COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING DISTRIBUTION MEETING December 12, 2022 FORMAL OR INFORMAL RESPONSE DUE AT December 19, 2022 Meeting

* Agenda Only+ Agenda and Petition& Agenda and Plat# Agenda, Petition and Plat

Distribution:

- * Administrative Law Judge, Commissioner (Paul M. Mayhew), MS #4103, dwiley@baltimorecountymd.gov; dmignon@baltimorecountymd.gov
- * PAI, Zoning Review H.O. Hearing File (Kristen Lewis), klewis@baltimorecountymd.gov
- * PAI, Zoning Review DRC/ZAC Meeting File (Jeff Perlow), <u>JPerlow@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>

 * PAI, Development Management (Lloyd Moxley), MS # 1105, <u>Imoxley@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>
- * PAI, Code Enforcement (Lisa Henson), MS # 1105, lhenson@baltimorecountymd.go
- * PAI, Building Inspection (Matt Gawel), mg@baltimorecountymd.gov
- * Economic Development Commission, Business Develop. (Stanley Jacobs), MS # 4300, siacobs@baltimorecountymd.gov
- * Highways (Tom Hargis), MS #1003 thargis@baltimorecountymd.gov
- * Neighborhood Improvements (Marcia Williams), MS #4201, myneighborhoodimprovment@baltimorecountymd.gov
- * County Council, District 3, (Tom Bostwick), MS #2201, council1@baltimorecountymd.gov tbostwick@baltimorecountymd.gov
- * Mike Ruby (Newspaper), mildmanneredcomm@aol.com
- + People's Counsel, rwheatley@baltimorecountymd.gov
- + IF CRITICAL AREA, Maryland Office of Planning (Joseph Griffiths), joseph.griffiths@maryland.gov
- + Kathy Are, kare@baltimorecountymd.gov
- & State Highway Administration, Access Permits Division (Steven Autry), SAutry@mdot.maryland.gov
- & Fire Department (Inspector Muddiman), MS # 1102F, dmuddiman@baltimorecountymd.gov
- & PAI, Development Plans Review (Vishnu Desai), vdesai@baltimorecountymd.gov
- # People's Counsel (Peter Zimmerman), MS #4204 pzimmerman@baltimorecountymd.gov
- # Planning Office (Jenifer Nugent), MS # 4101, <u>inugent@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>; Henry Ayakwah <u>hayakwah@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>; Taylor Bensley <u>tbensley@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>
- # DEPS (Jeff Livingston) 2 copies of each, MS # 1319, <u>jlivingston@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>; Steve Ford, sford@baltimorecountymd.gov
- # IF FLOODPLAIN, Maryland Department of the Environment, kevin.wagner@maryland.gov
- # Public Works (Terry Curtis), MS #1315, tcurtis@baltimorecountymd.gov
- * IF ELDERLY HOUSING, Community Development, MS #1102M
- * IF TOWER, Tower Coordinator, c/o OIT, MS #2007
- # IF HELICOPTER, Police Department, Aviation Unit (Officer Taylor or Sqt. Wines)
- # IF PAWN SHOP, Police Department, Burglary/Pawn Unit (Det. Kropfelder), MS #1102E

The attached information is being forwarded to you for comment. Your comments should reflect any conflicts with the codes, standards, or regulations of your office or department. Development representatives that attend the meeting should be prepared to submit their agency's response as either "no comment", "written comment" or "more review time required" within one week at the next meeting. If no written response is received within two weeks, it is assumed that your agency has "no comment". All written comments must reference the ZAC item number. All comments received will be compiled and included in the zoning/development file for review and consideration by the hearing officer during the course of the upcoming zoning/development hearing.

If your agency or section is not represented at the meeting, you should return your written comments to the Department of Permits and Development Management (PDM), Room 111, County Office Building, 111 West Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204 (Mail Stop #1105), Attention: Kristen Lewis

If you have any questions regarding a particular zoning petition, please contact the Zoning Review Planner (see initials after item number) at 410-887-3391.

ZAC AGENDA

Case Number: 2022-0292-X
Existng Use: COMMERCIAL Prop

Reviewer: Christina Frink
Proposed Use: COMMERCIAL

Type: SPECIAL EXCEPTION

Legal Owner: Walker (Multiple legal owners) **Contract Purchaser:** Verano Holdings, LLC.

Critical Area: No Flood Plain: No Historic: No Election Dist: 9 Council Dist: 6

Property Address: 1608 E JOPPA RD

Location: Property located on the North side of E. Joppa Rd.; 143 feet East of Green Pastures Dr.

Existing Zoning: BM

Area: 33,803 SQ FT.

Proposed Zoning:SPECIAL EXCEPTION:

BCZR 4D-102.A.2: To permit a medical cannabis dispensary in a Commercial Revitalization District.

Attorney: Philip Dales
Prior Zoning Cases: None
Concurrent Cases: None
Violation Cases: None

Closing Date:

Miscellaneous Notes: Multiple Legal owners

PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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

To the Office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County for the property located at:

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PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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

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PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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

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

Office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County for the property located at:

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Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the zoning law for Baltimore	County.							
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PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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

office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County for the property located at:

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Address 1608 E. Joppa Road, Towson, Mary	Currently Zoned
Deed Reference <u>27472</u> / <u>00432</u>	10 Digit Tax Account # _ 2 _ 1 _ 0 _ 0 _ 0 _ 0 _ 7 _ 5 _ 0 _ 1
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(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING \underline{X} AT THE	APPROPRIATE SELECTION(S) AND ADDING THE PETITION REQUEST)
he undersigned, who own and occupy the property situate in Ba ereof, hereby petition for an:	altimore County and which is described in the plan/plat attached hereto and made a part
a Special Hearing under Section 500 7 of th	ne Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to determine whether
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	SHELLA O STEDMAN
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ignature	Signature #1 Signature #2
	13500 HUNTING HILL WAY NORTH POTOMAC MD
Mailing Address City State	Mailing Address City / State
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ip Code Telephone # Email Address	Zip code Telephone #3 (cell and home)
ttorney for Petitioner:	Representative to be contacted:
Philip C. Dales	LEO JOHN WALKER
lame - Type or Print	Name - Type or Print
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Signature 181 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD	P.O. Box 837 BELLYVILLE VA
Aailing Address City State	Mailing Address City State
21401 / (410) 266-9500 / pdales@liffwalsh.com	22611 1240-372-3310 1-Jawalkero7@com
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PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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

To the Office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County for the property located at:

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The undersigned, who own and occupy the property situate in Balti hereof, hereby petition for an:	imore County and which is des	cribed in the plan/pla	at attached he	ereto and made a part
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Legal Owner(s) Affirmation: I / we do so solemnly declare and af which is the subject of this / these Petition(s).	firm, under the penalties of per	jury, that I / We are	the legal owner	er(s) of the property
Contract Purchaser/Lessee:	Legal Owners (Petitio	ners):		
Verano Holdings, LLC		AC DO WELL	Name #2	Type or Print
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Attorney for Petitioner: Philip C. Dales	I FO JoH	1 1 /	EN	
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Mailing Address City State 21401 , (410) 266-9500 , pdales@liffwalsh.com	Mailing Address		City	State
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CASE NUMBER 20 08 2-4 Filling Date 12/8	Do Not Sched	dule Dates		Reviewer



PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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

Office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County for the property located at:

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which is the subject of this / these Petition(s).	affirm, under the penalties of perjury, that I / We are the legal owner(s) of the property
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Attorney for Petitioner:	Representative to be contacted:
Philip C. Dales	Les John Walker
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PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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

To the Office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County for the property located at:

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COUNSEL*
ADMITTED IN DC †
ADMITTED IN FL ‡
ADMITTED IN WV ↓
ADMITTED IN VA‡

TERRENCE C. LIFF JAMES. R. WALSH THOMAS W. SIMMONS JAMES E. CROSSAN † ‡ GREGORY J. FERRA PHILIP C. DALES † MELISSA MENKEL MCGUIRE † 1 JONATHAN W. MCGOWAN BRADLEY T. WALSH * ERIN M. SHAFFER * PAUL A. SKRICKUS* ABBY K. MOYNIHAN*†+ MARK L. FULTON, III ANDRE S. HABIB KELLY E. CALLAHAN ALANNA C. CASEY JOSHUA A. WELBORN

181 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY, SUITE 200 ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 TELEPHONE (410) 266-9500 FACSIMILE (410) 266-7699 WWW.LIFFWALSH.COM

August 26, 2022

PHILIP C. DALES

pdales@liffwalsh.com

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SPECIAL EXCEPTION PETITION

NAME OF PLAN:

Zen Leaf at 1608 E. Joppa Road

PETITIONER:

Leo John Walker, Sheila O'Neill Stedman,

Juliana Marie MacDowell,

Alexandra Marie Hoffman, William Beall Walker, Helene Monica McCarron, and Celeste Marie Walker

(collectively, the "Owner")

and

Verano Holdings, LLC (the "Lessee")

LOCATION:

1608 E. Joppa Road, Towson, Maryland 21286

ACCOUNT IDENTIFIER:

2100007501

TAX MAP; GRID, PARCEL:

Tax Map 0070; Grid 0017; Parcel 0539

ZONING:

BM - Business Major

Leo John Walker, Sheila O'Neill Stedman, Juliana Marie MacDowell, Alexandra Marie Hoffman, William Beall Walker, Helene Monica McCarron, and Celeste Marie Walker, the coowners of the Property, defined hereinafter, (collectively, the "Owner") and Verano Holdings, LLC, a Maryland limited liability company (the "Lessee", together with the Owner, collectively, the "Petitioner") seek a special exception approval to allow a medical cannabis dispensary facility (the "Proposed Use") to be operated at 1608 E. Joppa Road, Towson, Maryland 21286 (the "Property") pursuant to Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR"), § 502.1.





Property Background

The Property is conveniently located less than a quarter mile from I-695 and is approximately .7759 acres, with a current above grade living area of approximately 2,740 SF. The Property is zoned BM – Business Major and is located in the Loch Raven Commercial Revitalization District. See Attachment A for the Zoning Map. The Property is designated as Lot 1 of the recorded subdivision plat known as "Property of Pizza Hut of Maryland Incorporated", recorded among the Baltimore County Land Records at S.M. Liber 59, folio 50.

Proposed Use

The Lessee currently owns and operates a licensed medical cannabis dispensary facility, Zen Leaf – Towson (the "Business"), located at 101 E Chesapeake Ave, Suite 102, Towson, Maryland 21286 ("Current Location"). After four successful years at the Current Location, Lessee intends to relocate the Business to the Property to improve patient access to the dispensary and maximize the availability of the important medical services the Business provides. The Lessee and Owner will execute a lease agreement, allowing Lessee to occupy and use the Property for the Proposed Use, subject to the grant of this special exception approval. A SunTrust Bank (now a Truist) currently exists the Property. Lessee will conduct minor renovations to the interior of the building to accommodate the Proposed Use. There are no proposed changes to the existing building and site changes include only a drive through and adding a few additional parking spaces. See Attachment C for site plan.

The building at the Property will be renovated to provide the following improvements from the Current Location:

- 1. Increased surveillance measures to promote safety;
- 2. Ten (10) additional point-of-sale stations for improved patient access;
- 3. Increased sales floor size to better facilitate patient transaction times;
- 4. Larger consultation room for patients/caregivers to confidentially and comfortably discuss their medical needs with company personnel; and
- 5. A larger vault to maintain patient supply and provide expanded product offerings for the Business's registered patients and qualified caregivers.

Review Criteria

Medical cannabis dispensaries are a permitted use in the BM – Business Major district. BCZR, § 4D-102. However, a medical cannabis dispensary is permitted in the BM – Business major district only by special exception if it is also located in a Commercial Revitalization District. BCZR, § 4D-102. Since the Property is located in the BM – Business Major District and the Loch Raven Commercial Revitalization District, the Proposed Use may only be permitted by special exception.

Pursuant to BCZR, § 502.1, before any special exception may be granted, it must appear that the use for which the special exception is requested will not:

2022-0292-x



- a. Be detrimental to the health, safety or general welfare of the locality involved;
- b. Tend to create congestion in roads, streets or alleys therein;
- c. Create a potential hazard from fire, panic or other danger;
- d. Tend to overcrowd land and cause undue concentration of population;
- e. Interfere with adequate provisions for schools, parks, water, sewerage, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences or improvements;
- f. Interfere with adequate light and air;
- g. Be inconsistent with the purposes of the property's zoning classification nor in any other way inconsistent with the spirit and intent of these Zoning Regulations;
- Be inconsistent with the impermeable surface and vegetative retention provisions of these Zoning Regulations; nor
- i. Be detrimental to the environmental and natural resources of the site and vicinity including forests, streams, wetlands, aquifers and floodplains in an R.C.2, R.C.4, R.C.5 or R.C.7 Zone, and for consideration of a solar facility use under Article 4F, the inclusion of the R.C. 3, R.C. 6, and R.C. 8 Zones.

A. The Proposed Use Will Not Be Detrimental To The Health, Safety, Or General Welfare Of The Locality.

The Proposed Use will not be detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of the locality. The Business currently provides critical medical care to the local community. The approval of the Proposed Use will allow the Business to continue to provide access to a medical care product which already promotes the health and wellness of the locality at a location which is more convenient and readily accessible to the public.

B. The Proposed Use Will Not Create Congestion In Roads, Streets Or Alleys Therein.

The Proposed Use will not create congestion in roads, streets or alleys. There is direct access to E Joppa Road from the Property and ample parking and queuing space on site, which mitigates the possibility of traffic congestion. Further, the Proposed Use will include a drive through service which will promote the safe, efficient and orderly flow of vehicles coming and going from the facility. The facility will have a dedicated parking lot with ample spaces to accommodate all patients and employees. The parking lot has approximately thirty five (35) parking spaces, with three (3) being handicapped accessible. See Attachment C. The previous bank use and the proposed use are not associated with substantially different levels of traffic or parking demand. Additionally, the proposed use replaces an already existing use in the very near vicinity with the same impact on road networks and parking resources.

C. The Proposed Use Will Not Create A Potential Hazard From Fire, Panic Or Other Danger.

2022-0292-4



The Proposed Use will not create a potential hazard from fire, panic or other danger. The renovations in connection with the Proposed Use will consist of providing a large sales floor size which will create ample standing room for customers to queue and move about the dispensary. The parking lot has ready access and space for emergency services vehicles.

D. The Proposed Use Will Not Tend To Overcrowd Land And Cause Undue Concentration Of Population.

The Proposed Use will not overcrowd the land nor cause undue concentration of population. As stated, the Proposed Use does not include any new construction or additional use of land area. The efficiency of the drive through will allow customers and patients to come and go with ease without needing to park and exit their vehicles.

E. The Proposed Use Will Not Interfere With Adequate Provisions For Schools, Parks, Water, Sewerage, Transportation Or Other Public Requirements, Conveniences Or Improvements.

The Proposed Use will not interfere with adequate provisions for schools, parks, water sewerage, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences or improvements. Existing infrastructure will adequately serve the Proposed Use.

F. The Proposed Use Will Not Interfere With Adequate Light And Air.

The Proposed Use will not interfere with adequate light and air. The majority of the alterations the Lessee intends to make to the existing structure located upon the Property are minor interior renovations. There will be no alterations to the structure or upon the Property which will affect the adequacy of light and air in the surrounding area.

G. The Proposed Use Will Not Be Inconsistent With The Purposes Of The Property's Zoning Classification Nor In Any Other Way Inconsistent With The Spirit And Intent Of These Zoning Regulations.

The Proposed Use will not be inconsistent with the purposes of the BM District or the BCZR. There is no express stated intent for the BM District in the BCZR, however, the "Citizen's Guide to Zoning in Baltimore County" provides that this district is for "Large scale, more intensive commercial" uses. See Attachment B. The Proposed Use is consistent with the other commercial retail uses permitted in this district and is compatible with the existing intensive commercial nature of the locality. E Joppa Road flows into the large commercial and retail hub of Towson Town Center, which is host to a plethora of businesses, including, inter alia, wellness shops and health care centers. The relocation of the Business to this commercial hub will contribute to the commercial and economic vitalization of the area. With this relocation, the Business will bring its existing clientele, who will continue to patronize the Business and become new patrons of surrounding local businesses.





H. The Proposed Use Will Not Be Inconsistent With The Impermeable Surface And Vegetative Retention Provisions Of These Zoning Regulations.

The Proposed Use will not be inconsistent with the impermeable surface and vegetative retention provisions of the BCZR. Lessee will only be conducting minor interior renovations of the Property and thus will not have any effect on impermeable surfaces or vegetation.

I. The Proposed Use Will Not Be Detrimental To The Environmental And Natural Resources Of The Site And Vicinity Including Forests, Streams, Wetlands, Aquifers And Floodplains In An R.C.2, R.C.4, R.C.5 Or R.C.7 Zone, And For Consideration Of A Solar Facility Use Under Article 4F, The Inclusion Of The R.C. 3, R.C. 6, And R.C. 8 Zones.

This special exception criterion is acknowledged, however, it is not applicable since the Property is located within the BM – Business Major District, which is not any of the zoning districts listed hereunder.

Conclusion

For the above-stated reasons, the Petitioner respectfully requests that the special exception for the Proposed Use at 618 E. Joppa Road be granted. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

LIFF, WALSH & SIMMONS LLC

Philip C. Dales

Liff, Walsh & Simmons LLC 181 Harry S. Truman Parkway

Suite 200

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

2022-0292-4

ZONING PROPERTY DESCRIPTION FOR 1608 E. JOPPA ROAD, BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTH SIDE OF EAST JOPPA ROAD WHICH IS 70 FEET WIDE AT THE DISTANCE OF 143 FEET EAST OF THE CENTERLINE OF THE NEAREST IMPROVED INTERSECTING STREET BEING GREEN PASTURES DRIVE WHICH IS 40 FEET WIDE.

BEING LOT #1 IN THE SUBDIVISION OF "FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT – PROPERTY OF PIZZA HUT OF MARYLAND, INC. AND GEO. H. RUCKER REALTY CORP.", RECORDED IN BALTIMORE COUNTY PLAT BOOK #59, FOLIO #50, CONTAINING 0.772 ACRES. LOCATED IN THE (9) ELECTION DISTRICT AND (6) COUNCIL DISTRICT.

2022-0292-X

DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

The Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (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 News	spaper Advertising:
Case Nur	mber:
Property .	Address: 1608 E. Joppa Road, Towson, Maryland 21286 (Tax ID: 2100007501)
Legal Ow	Leo John Walker, Sheila O'Neill Stedman, Juliana Marie MacDowell, Alexandra Marie Hoffman, William Beall Walker, ners (Petitioners): Helene Monica McCarron, and Celeste Marie Walker
	Purchaser/Lessee: Verano Holdings, LLC
PLEASE	FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:
Name: C	company/Firm (if applicable): Verano Holdings, LLC
Address:	Attention: Sammy Dorf and Wes McGowan
	234 W. Ohio Street, Suite 1, Chicago, Illinois 60654
Telephon	e Number: billing@verano.com or sammy@verano.holdings

^{*}Failure to advertise and/or post a sign on the property within the designated time will result in the Hearing request being delayed. The delayed Hearing Case will be cycled to the end of pending case files and rescheduled in the order that it is received. Also, a \$250.00 rescheduling fee may be required after two failed advertisings and/or postings.



Real Property Data Search () Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

View Map View	GroundRent R	edemption		View Grou	undRent Registration	
Special Tax Recapture: None	erianista erikanisek et estimber (erikanise erikanise erikanise erikanise					
Account Identifier:	District - 0	9 Account Numb	er - 2	2100007501		
		Owner Informati	on			
Owner Name:	LOREN W			ncipal Reside		
Mailing Address:	PO BOX 8	37 LE VA 22611-0837	De	ed Reference:	: /27472/00432	
	Locati	on & Structure In	form	ation		
Premises Address:	1608 E JOI 0-0000			gal Descriptio	1608 E JOPPA RD PIZZA HUT OF MD INC	
Map: Grid: Parcel: Neighborho 0070 0017 0539 20000.04	od: Subdivis	sion: Section: Bloc	k: Lo 1	t:Assessment 2023	Year: Plat No: Plat Ref: 0059/ 0050	
Town: None	0000			2025		
2004 2,740 StoriesBasementType BRANCH BA	Exterior	QualityFull/Half Ba	thG		98 SF 06 ice of Major Improvement	
		Value Information	on			
	Base Value	Value		Phase-in A	ssessments	
Land:	837,900	As of 01/01/2020 837,900	ri.	As of 07/01/2022	As of 07/01/2023	
Improvements	767,000	767,000				
Total:	1,604,900	1,604,900		1,604,900		
Preferential Land:	0					
		Transfer Informati	tion			
Seller: LOREN HELENE		Date: 11/24/2008			Price: \$0	
Type: NON-ARMS LENGTH OT	HER	Deed1: /27472/ 00	432		Deed2:	
Seller: KENT HELENE D,TRUST	TEE	Date: 11/12/2003			Price: \$0	
Type: NON-ARMS LENGTH OT	HER	Deed1: /19634/ 00	544		Deed2:	
Seller: PIZZA HUT OF MAR YL Type: ARMS LENGTH IMPROV		Date: 10/06/1988 Deed1: /07992/ 00	006		Price: \$400,000 Deed2:	
	E	xemption Inform	atio	1	100 May 100 Ma	
Partial Exempt Assessments:				/01/2022	07/01/2023	
County:	000		0.0			
State:	000		0.0	00	0.001	
Municipal:	000		0.0)O[0.001	
Special Tax Recapture: None	Homes	tead Application	nfor	mation		
Homestead Application Statu		& B				
		Tax Credit Applic	atio	n Information		
Homeowners' Tax Credit App		(2007)			20	



