

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR. County Executive

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

June 2, 2023

Miroslaw and Christine Grabowski – <u>christine@horizonpropertymgmt.com</u> 11501 Marvon Road Kingsville, MD 21087

RE:

Petitions for Variance

Case No. 2023-0076-A

Property: 1304 East Riverdale Avenue

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Grabowski:

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.

Couren & Murphy

MAUREEN E. MURPHY Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

MEM:dlm Enclosure

: Jon Skarda, Shore-line Construction - jon@shorelineconstruction.net

IN RE: PETITION FOR VARIANCE (1304 East Riverside Avenue)

2<sup>nd</sup> Election District
7<sup>th</sup> Council District
Miroslaw & Christine Grabowski
Legal Owners

BEFORE THE

\* OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE

\* HEARINGS OF

\* BALTIMORE COUNTY

Petitioners \* CASE NO. 2023-0076-A

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

#### **OPINION AND ORDER**

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") as a Petition for Variance filed by Miroslaw and Christine Grabowski, legal owners ("Petitioners") for property located at 1304 East Riverdale Avenue, Essex (the "Property"). Petitioners are requesting Variance relief from Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR"), §1B02.3.C.1 to permit a replacement dwelling with a side yard setback of 10 ft., and sum of side yard setback of 20 ft. in lieu of the required 15 ft. and 25 ft. respectively, and from the BCZR, §400.3 to permit a proposed accessory building (garage) with a height of 18 ft. in lieu of the required 15 ft. At the hearing the Petition was amended to include Variance relief to locate the detached garage in the front (street) yard and an Amended Petition was filed accordingly. (See File).

A public WebEx hearing was conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person hearing. The Petition was properly advertised and posted. Christine Grabowski appeared at the hearing in support of the Petition along with Jon Skarda of Shore-line Construction. There were no Protestants or other interested persons at the hearing.

Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") comments were received from the Department of Planning ("DOP") which this agency did not oppose the requested relief. However, Department of Environmental Protection Sustainability ("DEPS") also provided a comment opposing the

requested Variance relief due to an existing wetland and wetland buffer violation of which Petitioners were notified in September of 2021, and due to the proposed improvements violate the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area ("CBCA") requirements.

The Property is a 26,455 sf +/- (SDAT), 50 ft.-wide, waterfront lot with access to Back River. It is improved with an existing dwelling constructed in 1921 which sits off center and close to the water. It is zoned Density Residential (DR 3.5). A site plan (the "Site Plan") was submitted with the Petition (Pet. Ex. 1) and a revised site plan (the "Revised Site Plan") filed after the hearing, along with an Amended Petition (Pet. Ex. 1A). The Revised Site Plan includes the proposed detached garage.

Petitioners are proposing to construct a replacement dwelling on the Property and are in need of Variance relief for reduced side yard setbacks due to the narrow width of the lot. As shown in the architectural renderings, the front door faces E. Riverside Drive, not Back River. (Pet. Ex. 2). As such, while the Zoning Commissioner's Policy Manual ("ZCPM") instructs that the waterfront side can be considered the front yard, in this case, the front yard is the street side. Accordingly, Variance relief was requested to locate the garage in the front yard. The existing 1921 home sits at an angle and does not meet the current side yard setbacks. Thus, if the Petitioners were to renovate or add onto the existing home, they would still need Variance relief. Additionally, Petitioners are in need of storage in the garage and are requesting an additional height of 3 ft.

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).

I find that the Property is unique due to the placement of the existing home on the 50 ft. wide lot which is not centered and was constructed prior to the BCZR. I find that the Petitioners would suffer a practical difficulty and unreasonable hardship if the proposed reduced side yard setbacks were not granted because a replacement dwelling could not be constructed. In regard to the detached garage, the existing dwelling does not have a garage (at least none is shown on the Site Plan). I find that due to the fact that the Property is waterfront, it would not be appropriate or reasonable for a detached garage to be located on the waterfront side (rear) and block views of the water. Additionally, many properties in this area have detached garages located on the street side. I also find that the requested Variance relief can be granted in strict harmony with the spirit and intent of the BCZR and without injury to the health, safety or general welfare, particularly in light of the lack of opposition.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June 2023, by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County, that the Petition for Variance pursuant to BCZR, §1B02.3.C.1 to permit a replacement dwelling with a side yard setback of 10 ft. and sum of side yard setback of 20 ft. in lieu of the required 15 ft. and 25 ft. respectively, and from the BCZR, §400.3 to permit a proposed accessory building (garage) with a height of 18 ft. in lieu of the required 15 ft. located in the front yard (street side) in lieu of the rear yard, be, and they are hereby, **GRANTED**.

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 their 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 and subsequent owners shall not convert the detached garage into a dwelling unit or apartment. The detached garage shall not contain any sleeping quarters, living area, bathroom facilities or kitchen facilities.
- 3. The detached garage shall not have a separate utility or electric connection and shall connect all electrical/utility in the home.
- 4. The detached garage shall not be used for commercial or industrial purposes.
- 5. The Revised Site Plan (Pet. Ex. 1A) is attached hereto and incorporated herein in its entirety.
- 6. Prior to issuance of a building permit, Petitioners shall comply with the DEPS comment, a copy of which is attached hereto.

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

MAUREEN E. MURPHY Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

Mauren Z. Murphy

MEM/dlm

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:

Address 1304 East Riverside Avenue	Currently Zoned DR 3.5
Deed Reference 45436 / 404	10 Digit Tax Account #1511000960
Owner(s) Printed Name(s) Miroslaw and Christine Gr	rabowski
(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING X AT THE	APPROPRIATE SELECTION(S) AND ADDING THE PETITION REQUEST)
	altimore County and which is described in the plan/plat attached hereto and made a part
• • • •	The manufacture of Database Country to determine whether
or not the Zoning Commissioner should approve	ne Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County, to determine whether
2 a Special Exception under the Zoning Regu	ulations of Baltimore County to use the herein described property for
of the required 15' and 25' respectively and Section (shift of 18' in fleu of the required 15' of the zoning regulations of Baltimore County, to the	with a side yard setback of 10' and sum of side yard setback of 20' in 200.3 to permit a proposed accessory structure (garage) with a set zoning law of Baltimore County, for the following reasons: (Indicate
below your hardship or practical difficulty or land additional space, you may add an attachment to	Indicate below "TO BE PRESENTED AT HEARING". If you need
additional space, you may add an attachment to	tins petition)
	•
"to be p	presented at hearing"
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#### ZONING PROPERTY DESCRIPTION FOR #1304 E. Riverside Avenue

Beginning at a point on the west side of East Riverside Avenue which is 30 wide at a distance of 1360 feet south of the centerline of Bay Avenue which is 35 feet wide. Being Lot #27, in the subdivision of "Back River Neck Park" as recorded in Baltimore County Plat Book #7, Folio #24, containing 26,445 square feet, more or less. Located in the  $15^{th}$  Election District and  $7^{th}$  Council District.

East Riverside Avenue as shown on the plat is unimproved. The improved East Riverside Avenue bisects Lot #27 and is a dead-end.

This description is for zoning purposes only.

Site Rite Surveying, Inc Michael V. Moskunas Professional Land Surveyor Reg. No. 21175 200 E. Joppa Road Shell Building, Room 105 Towson, MD 21286

2623.0076.A

# 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 Newspaper Advertising:		
Case Number:	23.0076.4	ma
Property Address: 1304 East Rivers	ide Avenue	
Legal Owners (Petitioners): Miroslaw a		
Contract Purchaser/Lessee:n/a		
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:	<u>.</u>	
Name: Company/Firm (if applicable):	Christine Grabowski	·
Address:	1304 E. Riverside Avenue	
	Baltimore, MD 21221	
Telephone Number:	443-571-0884	

<sup>\*</sup>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.

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



TO:

Hon. Paul M. Mayhew; Managing Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

FROM:

Jeff Livingston, Department of Environmental Protection and

Sustainability (EPS) - Development Coordination

DATE:

April 20, 2023

SUBJECT:

**DEPS** Comment for Zoning Item

# 2023-0076-A

Address:

1304 East Riverside Ave

Legal Owner: Miroslaw and Christine Grabowski

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of April 17, 2023.

DEPS has reviewed the subject zoning petition for compliance with the goals of the State-mandated Critical Area Law listed in the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, Section 500.14. Based upon this review, we offer the following comments:

1. Minimize adverse impacts on water quality that result from pollutants that are discharged from structures or conveyances or that have run off from surrounding lands;

The subject property is located within a Limited Development Area (LDA), Modified Buffer Areas (MBA), and is subject to Critical Area requirements. The applicant is seeking approval for 10-foot side yard setbacks for a replacement dwelling and approval for a proposed garage with a height of 18 feet in lieu of the maximum allowed 15 feet. The proposed development must meet LDA lot coverage and 15% afforestation requirements. If the proposed development can comply with the lot coverage and 15% afforestation requirements, the relief requested can result in minimal adverse impacts to water quality.

The property currently has a wetland and wetland buffer violation of which the owners were notified in September 2021. Owners must record a Critical Area Easement along with the appropriate Declaration of Protective Covenants and submit a Buffer Management Plan for review and approval to compensate for the 2,800 square feet of vegetative impact in the wetland and 25-foot buffer. The

violation must be addressed prior to any permit approval for the proposed development.

2. Conserve fish, plant, and wildlife habitat.

This is a waterfront lot with two areas of 100-foot Critical Area modified buffer (MBA) on both the east and west portions of the property. The western buffer along Back River consists of a maintained grass lawn. A portion of the proposed home is in this MBA.

The buffer east of East Riverside Avenue contains non-tidal and tidal wetlands and encompasses the entire property east of the road. As proposed, the entirety of the proposed parking area and garage are within this MBA and exceed allowable square footage within an MBA. As a result, the proposed parking area and garage do not comply with the MBA requirements.

Since the proposed paving and garage do not comply with the MBA requirements, the proposed garage and paving will not lot aid in the conservation of fish, plant, and wildlife habitat in the watershed.

3. Be consistent with established land use policies for development in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, which accommodate growth and also address the fact that, even if pollution is controlled, the number, movement and activities of persons in that area can create adverse environmental impacts.

If the proposed development can be designed to meet requirements for Critical Area lot coverage, MBA, afforestation, and those mitigation actions as a result of the wetland and buffer violation, the relief requested can be consistent with established land-use policies.

Reviewer: Marie Brady

# **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

CASE NO. <u>2023-0076-A</u>	
PETITIONER/DEVELOPER	ZONING NOTICE
Jon Skarda	CASE #
Shoreline Construction	Regulations of Baltimore County, Will hold a virtual hearing on the property identified herein as follows:  WELLAGE TO PERLY THE AREA COUNTY AND A STANDARD
DATE OF HEARING/CLOSING	STOPAL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE TENUARD SET AND TEST AND TEST AS THE PROPERTY AS THE PROPERTY AND TEST AND TEST AS THE PROPERTY AS THE PROPERTY AND TEST AS THE PROPERTY AS THE
May 24, 2023	Hearing: WEDURSSH (NEV 2015 AT 10:00 A.M
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BALTIMORE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF	In the selection of the control of t
PERMITS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGE	MENT
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING ROOM 111	
111 WEST CHESAPEAKE AVENUE	
ATTENTION:	
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:	
THIS LETTER IS TO CERTIFY UNDER PENA	ALTIES OF PERJURY THAT THE
NECESSARY SIGN(S) REQUIRED BY LAW	WERE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY ON
THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT	
1304 E. Riverside Avenue	Sign 2
THE SIGN(S) POSTED ON May 2, 2023	<u> </u>
(MONTH, DAY,	YEAR)
SINCERLEY,	
MARTIN OGLE	Javin og
MARTIN OGLE	
9912 MAIDBROOK RD.	
PARKVILLE, MD 21234	
443-629-3411	

# **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

CASE NO. <u>2023-0076-A</u>	
PETITIONER/DEVELOPER	ZONING NOTICE
Jon Skarda	CASE # 2023-0076-A The Administrative Law Judge of Ballmore County, by authority of the Zoning Act and Regulations of Ballmore County, will hold a
Shoreline Construction	Virtual hearing on the property Identified here. In a solioper We have TO PERMIT A REPUERMENT DOLLING WITH A SIDE YARD SETBALE OF 10-71, AND SUM OF SIDE YARD SETBALE OF 10-71, AND SUM OF SIDE YARD SETBALE OF 20-71, NO USE OF THE REPUTER YER ALD
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PERMITS AND DEVELOPMENT MANAG	SEMENT
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ATTENTION:	
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:	
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NECESSARY SIGN(S) REQUIRED BY LAW	/ WERE POSTED CONSPICUOUSLY ON
THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT	
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(MONTH, DA	(Y, YEAR)
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MARTIN OGLE	0
9912 MAIDBROOK RD.	
PARKVILLE, MD 21234	
443-629-3411	

#### INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

**DATE:** April 25, 2023

TO:

Peter Gutwald, Director

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM:

Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

**SUBJECT:** Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

For April 17, 2023

Item No. 2023-0070-SPH

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

#### DPW&T Response:

The proposed 30' x 60' utility shed is located in a tidal Zone AE special hazard area per FEMA FIRM 2400100465F dated 9/26/08. The proposed utility shed is 1800 square feet. Baltimore County Building Code dated 2015 Part 124.3 (3) prohibits accessory structures greater than 900 square feet. The Administrative Variance must be denied unless the structure size is reduced.

VKD: cen cc: file

#### INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

**DATE:** April 25, 2023

TO:

Peter Gutwald, Director

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM:

Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT:

**Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting** 

For April 17, 2023 Item No. 2023-0076-A

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

Prior to building permit application, the petitioner shall contact the Office of DPW&T, to determine the Flood Protection Elevation so that the floor elevation can be set

VKD: cen cc: file

### INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Peter Gutwald, Director

**DATE:** April 25, 2023

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM:

Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

**SUBJECT:** Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

For April 17, 2023

Item No. 2023-0071-A, 0073-A, 0074-A, 0077-A & 0078-A

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

VKD: cen cc: file

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



TO: Hon. Paul M. Mayhew; Managing Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

FROM: Jeff Livingston, Department of Environmental Protection and

Sustainability (EPS) - Development Coordination

DATE: April 20, 2023

SUBJECT: DEPS Comment for Zoning Item # 2023-0076-A

Address: 1304 East Riverside Ave

Legal Owner: Miroslaw and Christine Grabowski

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of April 17, 2023.

DEPS has reviewed the subject zoning petition for compliance with the goals of the State-mandated Critical Area Law listed in the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, Section 500.14. Based upon this review, we offer the following comments:

1. Minimize adverse impacts on water quality that result from pollutants that are discharged from structures or conveyances or that have run off from surrounding lands:

The subject property is located within a Limited Development Area (LDA), Modified Buffer Areas (MBA), and is subject to Critical Area requirements. The applicant is seeking approval for 10-foot side yard setbacks for a replacement dwelling and approval for a proposed garage with a height of 18 feet in lieu of the maximum allowed 15 feet. The proposed development must meet LDA lot coverage and 15% afforestation requirements. If the proposed development can comply with the lot coverage and 15% afforestation requirements, the relief requested can result in minimal adverse impacts to water quality.

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This is a waterfront lot with two areas of 100-foot Critical Area modified buffer (MBA) on both the east and west portions of the property. The western buffer along Back River consists of a maintained grass lawn. A portion of the proposed home is in this MBA.

The buffer east of East Riverside Avenue contains non-tidal and tidal wetlands and encompasses the entire property east of the road. As proposed, the entirety of the proposed parking area and garage are within this MBA and exceed allowable square footage within an MBA. As a result, the proposed parking area and garage do not comply with the MBA requirements.

Since the proposed paving and garage do not comply with the MBA requirements, the proposed garage and paving will not lot aid in the conservation of fish, plant, and wildlife habitat in the watershed.

3. Be consistent with established land use policies for development in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area, which accommodate growth and also address the fact that, even if pollution is controlled, the number, movement and activities of persons in that area can create adverse environmental impacts.

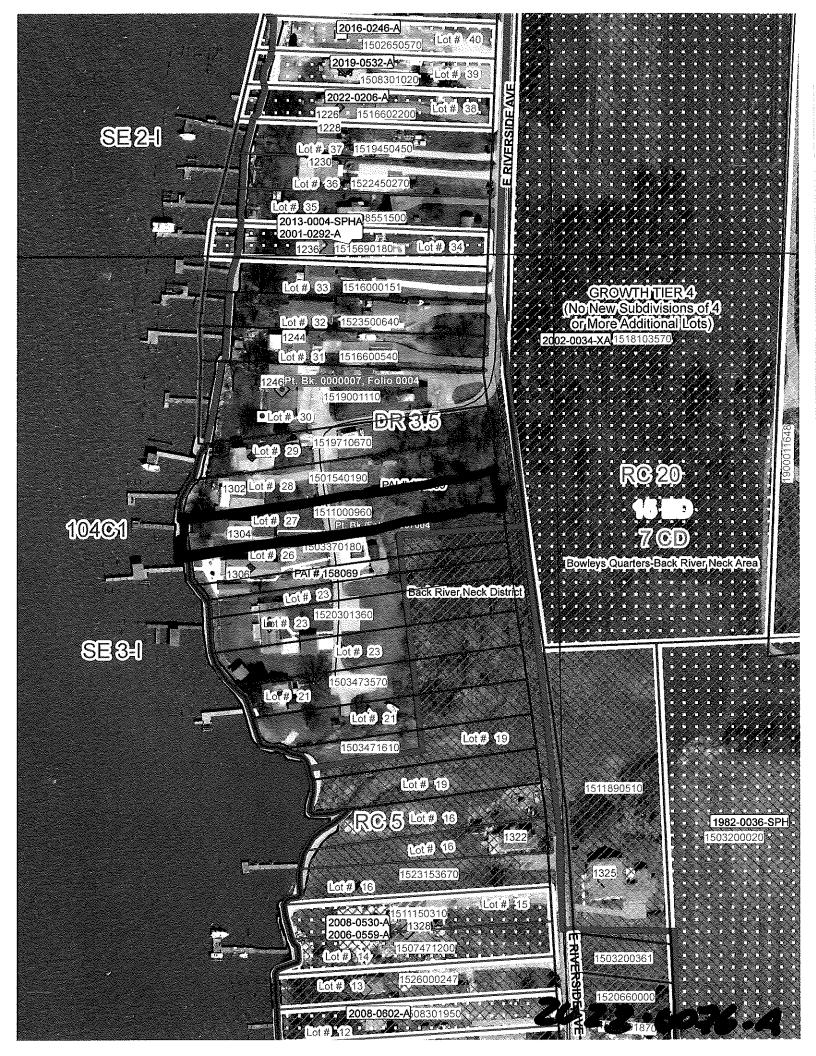
If the proposed development can be designed to meet requirements for Critical Area lot coverage, MBA, afforestation, and those mitigation actions as a result of the wetland and buffer violation, the relief requested can be consistent with established land-use policies.

Reviewer: Marie Brady

# Real Property Data Search ( ) Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY

View Map	View GroundRen	t Redemption		View GroundRent Registration			
Special Tax Recapture:	None						
Account identifier:	District - 1	5 Account Numbe	ır - 1511000	960			
		Owner Infor	mation				
Owner Name:		SKI MIROSLAW SKI CHRISTINE	Use: Principa	Use: Principal Residence:		RESIDENTIAL YES	
Mailing Address:		/ERSIDE AVE E MD 21221-6319	E AVE Deed Reference:			/45436/ 00404	
	Locati	ion & Structui	re Inform	ation			
Premises Address:		1304 E RIVERSIDE AVE Legal Descriptio BALTIMORE 21221-6319 Waterfront			1100 9	SW BAY AV RIVER NECK PARK	
Map: Grid: Parcel: Neig	hborhood: Subdiv	ision: Section: I	Block: Lot:	Assessme	ent Year:	Plat No:	
0104 0006 0226 1509	0084,04 0000		27	2021		Plat Ref: 0007/000	
Town: None							
Primary Structure Built 1921	Above Grade Livit 980 SF	ng Area Finished	d Basemen		operty Lan	nd Area County Us 34	
StoriesBasementType	Exterior	QualityFu	WHalf Bath	Garagel as	st Notice o	f Major Improvemen	
•	ARD UNITWOOD S	=		.cu.ugu.u.	31 1104105 0	i major miprovemen	
		Value Inform	nation				
	Base Value	Value		Phase-in	Assessmei	nts	
		As of		As of	_	As of	
Land:	205,600	01/01/20 205,600		07/01/202	2	07/01/2023	
Improvements	61,200	66,300					
Total:	266,800	271,900		270,200		271,900	
Preferential Land:	0	0		270,200		2. 1,000	
		Transfer Info	rmation				
Seller: PHILLIPS ALEXIS	Date: 09/09/2021			Price: \$	Price: \$261,000		
Type: ARMS LENGTH IM	Deed1: /45436/ 00404			Deed2:			
Seller: SERIO CARMELO	)	Date: 05/27/202	1		Price: \$	\$215,000	
Type: NON-ARMS LENG	TH OTHER	Deed1: /44793/	00084		Deed2:	· ·	
Seller: KAMMERMAYER	LUDWIG C	Date: 09/10/197	1		Price: \$	\$10,000	
Type: ARMS LENGTH IM	PROVED	Deed1: /05216/ 00447			Deed2:	Deed2:	
	E	xemption Info	ormation	1			
Partial Exempt Assessm	ents: Class		07/01/20	22	07/01/	2023	
County:	000		0.00				
State:	000		0.00				
Municipal:	000		0.00 0.00	) 	0.00 0.	.00	
Special Tax Recapture: N	None						
	Homes	tead Applicati	on Infor	mation			
Homestead Application	Status: No Application	ən					
	Homeowners'	Tax Credit Ap	plicatio	n Inform	ation		
Homeowners' Tax Credit	Application Status	: No Application	Date:				

2023.0076-A



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