

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR. County Executive

PAUL M. MAYHEW

Managing Administrative Law Judge

MAUREEN E. MURPHY

Administrative Law Judge

October 18, 2023

David Karceski, Esquire – <u>dhkarceski@venable.com</u>
Adam Rosenblatt, Esquire – <u>amrosenblatt@venable.com</u>
Venable, LLP
210 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 500
Towson, MD 21204

RE:

AMENDED - Petitions for Special Hearing & Variance

Case No. 2023-0170-SPHA

Property: 11503 McCormick Road

Dear Mr. Karceski and Mr. Rosenblatt:

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

c: Ryan Scully — ryan\_scully@avalonbay.com
Jacob Dortch — jdortch@dmw.com
Kristy Bischoff — kbischoff@dmw.com
Scott Foster — scotf@bctdesigngroup.com
K. Bosley — myprop@verizon.net

IN RE: PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL HEARIN	<b>NG</b> *	BEFORE THE
AND VARIANCE (11503 McCormick Road)	*	OFFICE OF
8th Election District		
3rd Council District Avalon HVTC, LLC	*	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Avaion HVIC, LLC	*	FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
Legal Owner	*	Case No. 2023-0170-SPHA
Petitioner	*	Case IVU. 2025-01/0-SFHA
		ate also

# AMENDED OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") for consideration of Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance filed by the legal owner, Avalon HVTC, LLC, ("Petitioner") for the property located at 11503 McCormick Road, Hunt Valley. The Special Hearing was filed to allow an identification sign to be erected on a canopy structure as this structural sign type is defined in Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR") §§ 450.5.B.3 and 450.5.B.6 rather than be attached to a building wall (Sign B). Variances¹ were also filed as follows:

From the BCZR § 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations.6(a), to allow a total of 4 wall-mounted identification signs (Signs A, C, E, F) accessory to a building with sign areas/faces of 84 sq. ft., 71 sq. ft. 13 sq. ft., 53 sq. ft. (for a total of 221 sq. ft.) in lieu of no wall-mounted identification sign permitted for a parcel of land without frontage on a public street

From the BCZR § 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations.6(a), to allow an identification sign to be installed on a canopy structure with a sign area/face of 9 sq. ft. and to allow the sign to extend above the vertical face of the canopy a distance of 1.5 ft. and from the wall a distance of 5 ft. in lieu of the requirement that the sign be wall-mounted (Sign B).

From the BCZR § 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations 3(a), to allow a wall-mounted directional sign with a sign area/face of 11 sq. ft. in lieu of the permitted 8 sq. ft. (Sign D).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> An Amended Variance Petition was submitted and accepted at the Hearing. The amendments made minor modifications of the square footage of several of the signs.

A public WebEx hearing was conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person hearing. The Petition was properly advertised and posted. Two interested citizens attended the hearing.

A Substantive Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") comment was received from the Department of Planning ("DOP"). They did not oppose the relief requested. In fact, DOP found that "[t]he proposed signage is compatible and functional, and it will not negatively impact the building or surrounding area.

David Karceski, Esq. and Adam Rosenblatt, Esq. with Venable, LLP appeared in support of the Petition on behalf of Avalon HVTC, LLC. Kristy Bischoff, PE, the engineer who prepared the site plan, also attended. The site plan was admitted as Petitioner's Exhibit 1. Also in attendance was Todd Connelly, a licensed architect, with BCT Design Group. The sign elevations he designed were admitted as Petitioner's Exhibit 6. Ryan Scully with Avalon Communities, Inc. appeared for Petitioner.

The case proceeded by way of a proffer by Mr. Karceski, who was assisted by Ms. Bischoff. She identified and explained a series of site photos that were admitted as Petitioner's Exhibit 4. The site is within the Hunt Valley Town Center property. It is approximately 3.38 acres and is zoned BM. Mr. Karceski explained the many unique features of the site and how these unique features necessitate the requested variance relief. The site is accessed from the Town Center's ring road and has no frontage on any public road. It is well below the grade of McCormick Road to the north. The proposed signage is needed for identification and wayfinding for the Avalon Bay residential building that is currently under construction. The proposed signage is similar to the design used for other Avalon Bay residential communities.

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).

As noted above, the site is unique in a number of ways. If the variances were denied the Petitioner would suffer practical difficulty and hardship because Avalon's residents, vendors and visitors would have trouble locating and navigating around the site. As noted by the DOP, the proposed signage is compatible with that of the other tenants in the Hunt Valley Town Center and with the Hunt Valley Timonium Master Plan and Design Guidelines.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this <u>18<sup>th</sup></u> day of October 2023 by this Administrative Law Judge that the Petition for Special Hearing to allow an identification sign to be erected on a canopy structure as defined in BCZR §§ 450.5.B.3 and 450.5.B.6 rather than be attached to a building wall (Sign B) is hereby **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Variance from BCZR § 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations.6(a), to allow a total of 4 wall-mounted identification signs (Signs A, C, E, F) accessory to a building with sign areas/faces of 84 sq. ft., 71 sq. ft. 13 sq. ft., 53 sq. ft. (for a total of 221 sq. ft.) in lieu of the no wall-mounted identification sign permitted for a parcel of land without frontage on a single public street is hereby **GRANTED**, and;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, from the BCZR § 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations.6(a), to allow an identification sign to be installed on a canopy structure with a sign area/face of 9 sq. ft. and to allow the sign to extend above the vertical face of the canopy a distance of 1.5 ft. and from the wall a distance of 5 ft. in lieu of the requirement that the sign be wall-mounted (Sign B) is hereby **GRANTED**, and;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, from the BCZR §§ 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations 3(a), to allow a wall-mounted directional sign with a sign area/face of 11 sq. ft. in lieu of the permitted 8 sq. ft. (Sign D) is hereby **GRANTED**.

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 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, Petitioner would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.

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

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MAUREEN E. MURPHY

Administrative Law Judge

October 18, 2023

David Karceski, Esquire – <a href="mailto:dhkarceski@venable.com">dhkarceski@venable.com</a>
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Kristy Bischoff — kbischoff@dmw.com
Scott Foster — scotf@bctdesigngroup.com
K. Bosley — myprop@verizon.net

Printed on recycled paper containing 30 percent post-consumer material

IN RE: PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL HEARING	*	BEFORE THE
AND VARIANCE		
(11503 McCormick Road)	*	OFFICE OF
8th Election District		
3rd Council District	*	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Avalon HVTC, LLC		
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## **OPINION AND ORDER**

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The case proceeded by way of a proffer by Mr. Karceski, who was assisted by Ms. Bischoff. She identified and explained a series of site photos that were admitted as Petitioner's Exhibit 4. The site is within the Hunt Valley Town Center property. It is approximately 3.38 acres and is zoned BM. Mr. Karceski explained the many unique features of the site and how these unique features necessitate the requested variance relief. The site is accessed from the Town Center's ring road and has no frontage on any public road. It is well below the grade of McCormick Road to the north. The proposed signage is needed for identification and wayfinding for the Brightview Assisted Living complex that is currently under construction. The proposed signage is the standard design used on all Brightview complexes.

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.

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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



### 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:

(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING  $\underline{X}$  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

 SEE ATTACHED SHEET

2.\_\_\_\_ a Special Exception under the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County to use the herein described property for a Variance from Section(s)

#### SEE ATTACHED SHEET

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

	11 O (D-	4141 \ .	
Contract Purchaser/Lessee: N/A	<b>Legal Owners (Pe</b> SEE ATTACHED SI		
Name- Type or Print	Name #1 - Type or Prin	Name #	2 - Type or Print
Signature	Signature #1	/ Slgnatu	re # 2
Mailing Address City State	Mailing Address	City	State
Zip Code Telephone # Email Address	ZIp Code Te	elephone #	Email Address
Attorney for Petitioner:	Representative to	be contacted:	
David H. Karceski, Esquire	David H. Karces	ki, Esquire	
Name- Type of Prim	Name - Type Print		
Signature Venable LLP	Signature Venable L	P	
210 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Ste. 500 Towson M	D 210 W. Pennsylvan	ia Ave., Ste. 500	Towson MD
Mailing Address City State	Mailing Address	City	State
21204 / 410-494-6285 / dhkarceski@venal	ole.com 21204 / 410-49		hkarceski@venable.com
Zip Code Telephone # Email Address	Zip Code To	elephone #	Email Address

REV. 10/4/11

### 11503 MCCORMICK ROAD

## ATTACHMENT TO PETITION FOR VARIANCE

- 1. Variance from Section 450.4.Table of Sign Regulations.6(a) of the Baltimore County Sign Regulations (B.C.Z.R.) to allow a total of 4 wall-mounted identification signs (Signs A, C, E, F) accessory to a building with sign areas/faces of 84 square feet, 38 square feet, 13 square feet, 53 square feet (for a total of 188 square feet) in lieu of the 1 wall-mounted identification sign permitted for a parcel of land with frontage on a single public street.
- 2. Variance from Section 450.4. Table of Sign Regulations. 6(a) of the B.C.Z.R. to allow an identification sign to be installed on a canopy structure with a sign area/ face of 23 square feet and to allow the sign to extend above the vertical face of the canopy a distance of 1.5 feet and from the wall a distance of 5 feet in lieu of the requirement that the sign be wall-mounted (Sign B).
- 3. Variance from Section 450.4. Table of Sign Regulations. 3(a) of the B.C.Z.R. to allow a wall-mounted directional sign with a sign area/face of 11 square feet in lieu of the permitted 8 square feet (Sign D).

#60385888v1

2023-0170-SPHA

## 11503 MCCORMICK ROAD

## ATTACHMENT TO PETITION FOR SPECIAL HEARING

1. Special Hearing to allow an identification sign to be erected on a canopy structure as this structural sign type is defined in Sections 450.5.B.3 and 450.5.B.6 of the B.C.Z.R. rather than be attached to a building wall (Sign B).

#60385888v1

2023-0170-5PMA

# 11503 McCornick ROAD

# ATTACHMENT TO PETITIONS FOR VARIANCE & SPECIAL HEARING

#### **LEGAL OWNER/PETITIONER:**

Avalon HVTC LLC Suite 1000 4040 Wilson Boulevard Arlington Virginia 222/03

By: Martin Howle, Senior Vice President – Development

Martin Howle@avalonbay.com

(703) 329-6300

#60385888v1

2023-0170-SCHA



#### **Zoning Description**

#### To Accompany a petition for Zoning Variance

#### Tax Map 42, Parcel 31

# Hunt Valley Towne Centre West Condominium A, Units RA1 and RA2 Baltimore County, Maryland

Commencing for the same at the intersection point of the centerlines of McCormick Road and York Road, thence running southwesterly with the centerline of McCormick Road approximately 2100 feet, thence Southeasterly approximately 40 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence binding on and running with the outlines of Units RA1 and RA2 as shown on the Condominium Plat entitled "Hunt Valley Town Centre West Condominium A" as recorded among the plat records of Baltimore County, Maryland in plat book 31, at folio 968, referring all courses of this description to the Maryland Coordinate System (NAD83/1991) adjustment; (1) South 05 degrees 13 minutes 12 seconds East 294.17 feet; thence (2) with a curve to the left having a radius of 87.00 feet for a length of 3.56 feet; thence (3) South 49 degrees 46 minutes 48 seconds West 175.01 feet; thence (4) with a curve to the right having a radius of 63.00 feet for an arc length of 38.48 feet; thence (5) South 84 degrees 46 minutes 48 seconds West 359.18 feet; thence (6) with a curve to the right having a radius of 25.00 feet for a length of 25.54 feet; thence (7) North 31 degrees 40 minutes 29 minutes East 100.20 feet; thence (8) with a curve to the right having a radius of 551.00 feet for an arc length of 149.61 feet; thence (9) North 47 degrees 13 minutes 54 seconds East 37.30 feet; thence (10) with a curve to the right having a radius of 726.00 feet for a length of 273.45 feet;

Page 1 of 2

2023-0170-SPHA

thence (11) North 68 degrees 48 minutes 45 seconds East 103.79 feet; thence (12) North 66 degrees 36 minutes 34 seconds East 25.81 feet to the point of beginning; containing 147,232 square feet or 3.38 acres of land, more or less, as now described by Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc.

THIS DESCRIPTION IS BASED ON THE CURRENT DEEDS / PLATS OF RECORD

AND IS FOR ZONING PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR

ANY TYPE OF PROPERTY CONVEYANCE.

July 27, 2023

Project No. 94150.Y0 (L94150.Y0)

1.28.23

# 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:	1,112-11	170-SPHA	Ī		
Case Number:	V - V -		. 4		
Property Address:	Mc C	ORMIUL	KUAA		
Legal Owners (Petitioners):	Avalon	HVIC	LLC		
Contract Purchaser/Lessee:		· IA			
PLEASE FORWARD ADVE Name: Company/Firm (if ap	pplicable):	Venable	LLP		
Address: Par	id H. 184	rus/Li			
2/0	West Pen	154/4016	Avesul	Suite 50	<u> </u>
Top	ISON MUR		1204	,	
Telephone Number:	(410) 4	94 -67	25		

<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.

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	•				VOID AF	TER 180 DA	Y\$		THORIZED SIG	SNATURE SED OVER \$25,000)

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

## **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

	2023-0170-SPHA
	RE: Case No.:
	Petitioner/Developer:
	Avalon HVTC, LLC
	October 10, 2023  Date of Hearing/Closing:
Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections County Office Building, Room 111 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204	
Attn: Kristen Lewis:	
Ladies and Gentlemen:	
This letter is to certify under the penal posted conspicuously on the property	lties of perjury that the necessary sign(s) required by law were located at:
11503 McCormic	k Road Groups 1 & 2
	September 19, 2023
The sign(s) were posted on	(Month, Day, Year)

ZONING NOTCE

SURSATISEME

WE WIND AND ARRIVED HER STATES AND ARRIVE

Sincerely,

**September 19, 2023** 

(Signature of Sign Poster)

(Date)

SSG Robert Black

(Print Name)

1508 Leslie Road

(Address)

**Dundalk, Maryland 21222** 

(City, State, Zip Code)

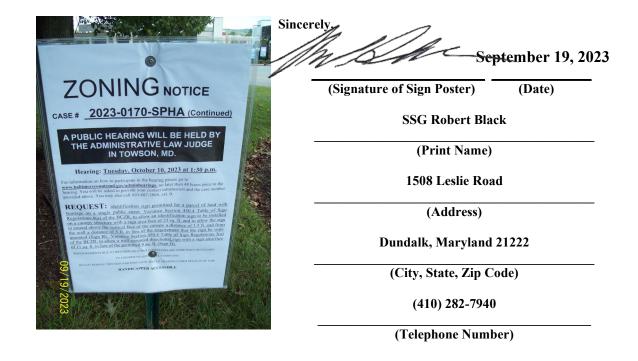
(410) 282-7940

(Telephone Number)

## **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

2023-0170-SPHA

RE: C	Case No.:
F	Petitioner/Developer:
	Avalon HVTC, LLC
1	October 10, 2023  Date of Hearing/Closing:
Baltimore County Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections County Office Building, Room 111 111 West Chesapeake Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204 Attn: Kristen Lewis: Ladies and Gentlemen:	
This letter is to certify under the penalties of perjury the posted conspicuously on the property located at:	hat the necessary sign(s) required by law were
11503 McCormick Road	SIGN 2
•	nber 19, 2023
The sign(s) were posted on(Month,	, Day, Year)



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October 10, 2023  Date of Hearing/Closing:
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Ladies and Gentlemen:
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September 19, 2023
The sign(s) were posted on(Month, Day, Year)



September 19, 2023

(Signature of Sign Poster) (Date)

SSG Robert Black

(Print Name)

1508 Leslie Road

(Address)

Dundalk, Maryland 21222

(City, State, Zip Code)

(410) 282-7940

(Telephone Number)

# BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** C. Pete Gutwald **DATE:** 9/14/2023

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

**FROM:** Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2023-0170-SPHA

**INFORMATION:** 

Property Address: 11503 McCormick Road

**Petitioner:** Avalon HVTC LLC, c/o Martin Howle, Senior Vice President

**Zoning:** BM

Requested Action: Special Hearing, Variance

The Department of Planning has reviewed the petition for the following:

Special Hearing -

1. To allow an identification sign to be erected on a canopy structure as this structural sign type is define in Sections 450.5.B.3 and 450.5.B.6 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR), rather than be attached to a building wall (Sign B);

#### Variance -

- 2. From Section 450.4.Table of Sign Regulations.6(a) of the BCZR to allow a total of four wall-mounted identification signs (Signs A, C, E, F) accessory to a building with sign area/faces of 84 square feet, 38 square feet, 13 square feet, and 53 square feet (for a total of 188 square feet) in lieu of the one wall-mounted identification sign permitted for a parcel of land with frontage on a single public street;
- 3. From Section 450.4.Table of Sign Regulations.6(a) of the BCZR to allow an identification sign to be installed on a canopy structure with a sign area/face of 23 square feet and to allow the sign to extend above the vertical face of the canopy a distance of 1.5 feet and from the wall a distance of 5 feet in lieu of the requirement that the sign be wall-mounted (Sign B); and
- 4. From Section 450.4.Table of Sign Regulations.3(a) of the BCZR to allow a wall-mounted directional sign with a sign area/face of 11 square feet in lieu of the permitted 8 square feet (Sign D).

The subject site is an approximately 3.38 acre parcel in the Hunt Valley area. It is part of the Hunt Valley Towne Center, which is located at the northeast corner of the signalized intersection of Shawan Road and McCormick Road. The site is a mixed-use development, which includes retail and department stores, restaurants, fast food establishments, a grocery store, a movie theater, transportation stops (light rail and bus), and apartments. The 15<sup>th</sup> Plan Refinement for the Hunt Valley Towne Center (PAI # 08-0251) included the proposed Avalon Bay apartment building, a parking garage, and an elderly housing

component, now known as Brightview Hunt Valley. The Avalon Bay apartment building is the subject of the zoning petition at hand.

Brightview Hunt Valley was the subject of recent Zoning Case 2023-127-SPHA. The case was for Variance relief and a Special Hearing for signage similar to that proposed for Avalon Bay. The Department of Planning had no objections to the relief requested in that case.

The site is within the boundary of the Hunt Valley/Timonium Design Guidelines outlined in the Comprehensive Manual of Development Policies (CMDP). The Hunt Valley/Timonium Master Plan, adopted October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1998, provides background on, recommendations for, and general design guidelines for the plan boundary area. The Hunt Valley/Timonium Design Guidelines section of the CMDP provides design guidelines to confirm good design quality to make sure the Hunt Valley/Timonium area is an attractive, desirable environment to work, life, and shop. Both of these documents recommend improving the visual quality of properties within the plan boundary area.

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the representative for the petition submitted a colored copy of the site plan and the signage details to the Department of Planning via email. The proposed signage is consistent with the styles and colors of the proposed Avalon apartment building, as well as with the signage proposed for the adjacent Brightview Hunt Valley.

The Department of Planning has no objections to the requested Variance relief or Special Hearing. The proposed signage is compatible and functional, and it will not negatively impact the building or surrounding area.

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

**Division Chief:** 

Prepared by:

Krystle Patchak

SL/JGN/KP

c: David Karceski

David Birkenthal, Community Planner Ngone Seye Diop, Community Planning Division Chief Jeff Perlow, Zoning Review Kristen Lewis, Zoning Review Office of Administrative Hearings People's Counsel for Baltimore County

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

Special Tax Recapture:	Mone					CONTRACT AND AND AND AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY OF THE P	PRODUCTION AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE P
	NONE						
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