

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, IR. County Executive

MAUREEN E. MURPHY Chief Administrative Law Judge ANDREW M. BELT Administrative Law Judge DEREK J. BAUMGARDNER Administrative Law Judge

May 8, 2024

Thomas L. Baker – bakerthomas@gmail.com Montserrat I. Ferrer 17746 Big Falls Road Whitehall, MD 21161

RE:

Petition for Special Hearing

Case No. 2024-0091-SPH

Property: 17746 Big Falls Road

Dear Petitioners:

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,

ANDREW M. BELT

Administrative Law Judge

for Baltimore County

AMB:dlm Enclosure

IN RE: PETITION FOR SPECIAL HEARING	*	BEFORE THE
(17746 Big Falls Road) 7 th Election District		
7 th Election District	*	OFFICE OF
3 rd Council District		
Thomas Baker and Montserrat Ferrer	*	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Legal Owners		
	*	FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
Petitioners		
	*	Case No. 2024-0091-SPH

* * * * * * * *

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") for consideration of a Petition for Special Hearing filed on behalf of Thomas Baker and Montserrat Ferrer ("Petitioners") for the property located at 17746 Big Falls Road, White Hall (the "Property"). The Petition for Special Hearing from the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR") §§ 400.4(B)(1) and 500.7, to allow an accessory apartment within a pre-existing accessory building on the same owner-occupied property as the principal single-family detached dwelling; to be occupied by a blood related family member.

A hearing was conducted remotely via WebEx on May 6, 2024. The Petition was advertised and posted as required by the BCZR. The Petitioner, Thomas Baker appeared *pro se*. There were no Protestants or interested citizens at the hearing.

Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") comments were received from the Department of Planning ("DOP"), Building Permits Review ("BPR"), State Highway Administration ("SHA") and Development Plans Review ("DPR") these agencies did not oppose the requested relief.

The property is approximately 4 acres and is zoned RC 4. The Petitioner explained that he and his wife had executed the required Declaration of Understanding with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections, ("PAI") as required by BCZR, § 400.4(B)(3) and BCZR § 400.4(B)(1) in regards to his wife's mother, Alison Moore, residing in an accessory barn-type structure already existing on the subject property.

The subject barn being a two- level, approximately 832 sq. ft structure. (Less than 1,200 ft.) The barn will be converted into a one -bedroom living area, using the existing utility meter and septic area for the principal dwelling. Mr. Baker testified that the subject barn is approximately 175 ft. from the nearest neighboring dwelling and has existed on the property since 1974. No exterior alteration is proposed to the existing barn and there is to be no driveway leading to the barn. Mr. Baker further confirmed that the proposed accessory apartment conformed with the Special Exception standards found in BCZR, § 502.1

SPECIAL HEARING

A hearing to request special zoning relief is proper under BCZR, § 500.7 as follows:

The said Zoning Commissioner shall have the power to conduct such other hearings and pass such orders thereon as shall, in his discretion, be necessary for the proper enforcement of all zoning regulations, subject to the right of appeal to the County Board of Appeals as hereinafter provided. The power given hereunder shall include the right of any interested person to petition the Zoning Commissioner for a public hearing after advertisement and notice to determine the existence of any purported nonconforming use on any premises or to determine any rights whatsoever of such person in any property in Baltimore County insofar as they are affected by these regulations.

"A request for special hearing is, in legal effect, a request for a declaratory judgment." *Antwerpen v. Baltimore County*, 163 Md. App. 194, 877 A.2d 1166, 1175 (2005). And, "the administrative practice in Baltimore County has been to determine whether the proposed Special Hearing would

be compatible with the community and generally consistent with the spirit and intent of the regulations." *Kiesling v. Long*, Unreported Opinion, No. 1485, Md. App. (Sept. Term 2016).

As prospective tenant, Alison Moore meets the definition of a "immediate family member" as defined by BCZR, § 101 and as required by BCZR, § 400.4(C)(1)(b), and as the Petitioners' plans to convert their accessory garage into an apartment are consistent with the requirements of BCZR, § 400.4(B), the Petitioners' Request for Special Hearing is granted subject to conditions.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this 8th day of May, 2024 by this Administrative Law Judge, that the Petition for Special Hearing from the BCZR §§ 400.4(B)(1) and 500.7, to allow an accessory apartment within a pre-existing accessory building on the same owner-occupied property as the principal single-family detached dwelling; to be occupied by a blood related family member be and is 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, Petitioner would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.
- 2. The accessory apartment shall not be used for commercial purposes.
- 3. The accessory apartment shall not be converted into a second dwelling beyond the scope of BCZR, § 400.4. The accessory apartment shall only be utilized by the persons named in the use permit who are immediate family members as defined in BCZR, § 101.1, and may not be used by any persons not named in the use permit for any other reason (including family members not otherwise named). When the accessory apartment is no longer occupied by the persons named in the use permit, or if the Property is sold, the use permit shall terminate. Upon termination, the renovations constructed for the accessory apartment will be removed and the accessory building will be restored to its original condition.

- 4. The accessory apartment shall not have separate utility, gas and electric and/or water/sewerage connections or services. All services shall connect to the house.
- 5. Prior to the issuance of the use permit, Petitioners shall file and record at their expense, an executed and notarized Declaration of Understanding, along with a property description and a site plan showing the proposed improvements, along with a copy of this Order, in the Land Records of Baltimore County, and file a copy of the same with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections.
- 6. Petitioners shall renew the use permit with Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections every two (2) years by filing a renewal on a form approved by Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections, to be dated from the month of the Order herein, and shall list the name of any person(s) occupying the accessory apartment.
- 7. Petitioners must comply with the DPR and BPR ZAC comments, copies of which are attached hereto and made a part thereof.

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

ANDREW M. BELT Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

AMB:dlm

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Peter Gutwald, Director

DATE: April 10, 2024

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM:

Derek M. Chastain

Bureau of Building Plans Review

SUBJECT:

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

Case 2024-0091-A

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

BPR: Please provide building permit showing compliance with the IRC, 2015 edition.

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO:

Peter Gutwald, Director

DATE: April 8, 2024

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM:

Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT:

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting Case 2024-0091-SPH

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

DPR: No comment.

DPW-T: No exception taken.

Landscaping: No comment.

Recreations & Parks: Need to address additional Residential Development Unit and 1,000 square feet of open space required or fee in lieu. No greenways affected.



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_	17746 Big Falls F	Road, White Hall, MD 21161	Currently Zo	oned RC 4
Deed Refe	erence 45037	/ 239	10 Digit Tax Account #16-00-007802	
Owner(s)	Printed Name(s)	nomas Lanier Baker and Montserrat Isab	pel Ferrer	
	(SELECT THE HEA	ARING(S) BY MARKING X AT THE	E APPROPRIATE SELECTION(S) AND ADDING	THE PETITION REQUEST)
	signed, who own ar reby petition for an:		altimore County and which is described in the plar	n/plat attached hereto and made a part
		ng under Section 500.7 of the missioner should approve	ne Zoning Regulations of Baltimore Cou	nty, to determine whether
an acc detach	essory apartment ed dwelling, to be	, within a pre-existing accessor coccupied by a blood-related fa	y building on the same owner-occupied propartily member.	perty as the principal single-family
2 8	Special Excep	otion under the Zoning Reg	ulations of Baltimore County to use the	herein described property for
3. 8	a Variance from	Section(s)		
of the ze	oning regulation	is of Baltimore County, to th	ne zoning law of Baltimore County, for t	he following reasons: (Indicate
below y	your hardship	or practical difficulty or	indicate below "TO BE PRESENTED	AT HEARING". If you need
		may add an attachment to		
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		advertised as prescribed by the zor		
l/ we agre Baltimore Legal Ow	e to pay expenses	of above petition(s), advertising, po rsuant to the zoning law for Baltimo : I / we do so solemnly declare and	sting, etc. and further agree to be bound by the ze	
Contra	ct Purchaser/L	essee:	Legal Owners (Petitioners):	
				ntserrat Isabel Ferrer
Name - T	ype or Print		Name #1 – Type of Print	Name #2 – Type or Print
Signature			Signature #1	Signature # 2
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Zip Code	/ Telephon	e # Email Address	21161 / 443-858-8333 Zip Code Telephone #'s (Cell and Ho	/ bakerthomas@gmail.com me) Email Address
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Attorne	ey for Petitione	r:	Representative to be contacted:	
Name - T	ype or Print		Name – Type or Print	
Signature	•		Signature	
Mailing A	ddress	City State	Mailing Address	City State
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0 11	mber 2024-0	091-SPA Filing Date 4	/ 1 / 24 Do Not Schedule Dates	Reviewer
Case Nu	mber ava 75 O	Filing Date	DO NOT Scriedule Dates	TO THE WOLL

ZONING DESCRIPTION FOR 17746 Big Falls Road, White Hall, MD 21161

Beginning at a point at the center of Big Falls Road, which is 26 feet wide at the distance of 236 feet south west of the centerline of the nearest improved intersecting street, Hicks Road, which is 24 feet wide. Thence the following courses and distances: S.88 20' 18" W 811.50', S.04 02' 00" E 294.44', S.85 49' 28" E 579.59, N.19 50' 02" W 350.52, N.88 20' 18" E 308.23, N.48 20' 18" E 31.11, back to the point of beginning as recorded in Deed Liber JLE 43475, Folio 114, containing 4.003 acres. Located in 4 Election District and 3 Council District.

DECLARATION OF UNDERSTANDING

THIS DECLARATION OF UNDERSTANDING (her this	20 23 by a	nd between Thoma	as Baker/Montserrat Ferrer
17746 Big Falls Road, White Hall MD	21161		7
Address	Zip Cod	le Co	ouncil District / Election District
Accessory apartments submitted: 1 Special Hearing/Variances Case No(s):	Addition	Detached Accessor Approved: Yes Approved: Yes Approved: Yes	No O
Will owner receive compensation? Yes or No	o X		
	Recitals		
A. The Declarant(s) who is/are also the owner(s) special hearing to:	of this property ha	s/have filed an applica	ation for a use permit and/or
permit temporary use of acc	essory apartm	ent by mother/mot	ther-in-law

2024-0091-5PH

DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

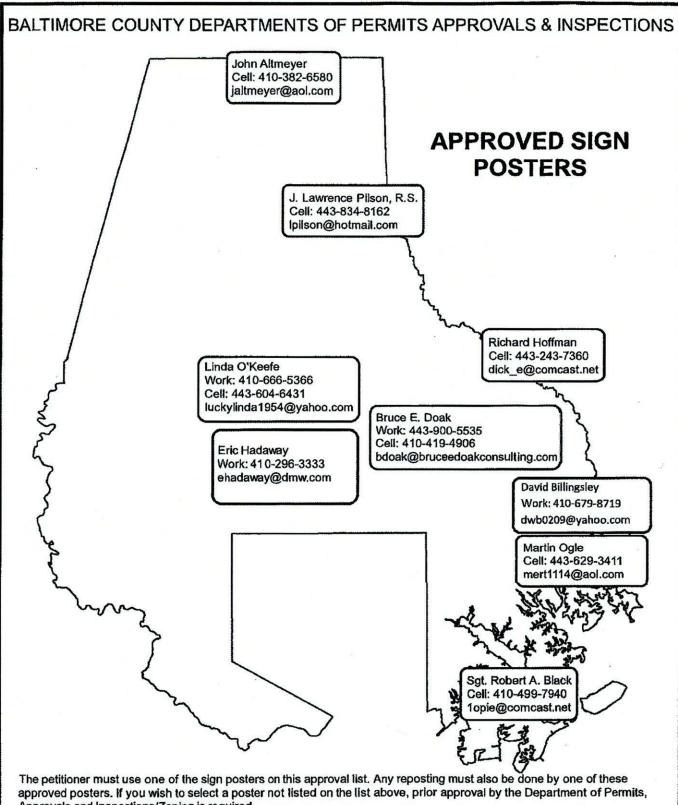
The Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR) require that notice be given to the general public/ neighboring property owners relative to property which is the subject of an upcoming zoning hearing. For those petitions which require a public hearing, this notice is accomplished by posting a sign on 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: 2024-0091-8PH
Property Address: 17746 Big Falls Rd White Hall MD, 21181
Property Address: 17746 Big Falls Rd White Hall MD, 21161 Legal Owners (Petitioners): Morrias Baker / Montserrat Ferrer
Contract Purchaser/Lessee:
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:
Name: Company/Firm (if applicable):
Name: Company/Firm (if applicable): Thomas Bake(Address: 17746 Big Falls Rd, White Hall M Z1161
Telephone Number: 443 - 858 - 8333

^{*}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.



Approvals and Inspections/Zoning is required.

This depositment is not accessisted with any of the above posters, nor do we recommend any specific one. We do suggest

This department is not associated with any of the above posters, nor do we recommend any specific one. We do suggest that you contact a number of them to compare prices, since their charges may vary.

Rev 9/22/2022

2024-0091-SPH

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DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

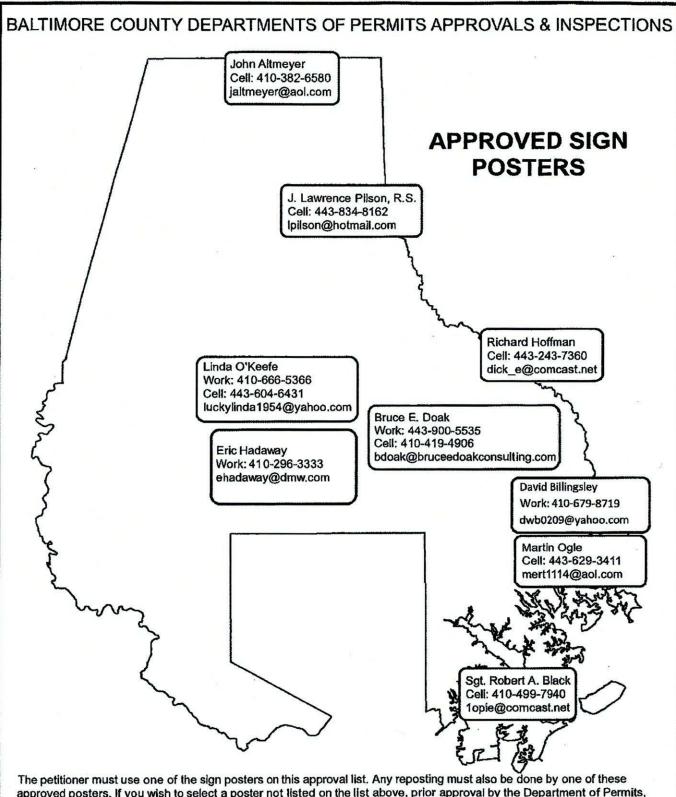
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Property Address: 17746 Big Falls Rd White Hall M, 21181
Property Address: 17746 Big Falls Rd White Hall MD, 21161 Legal Owners (Petitioners): Morrias Baker / Morris Erret Ferret
Contract Purchaser/Lessee:
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERTISING BILL TO:
Name: Company/Firm (if applicable):
Name: Company/Firm (if applicable): Thomas Bake(Address: 17746 Big Falls 12d, White Hall M 21161
Telephone Number: 443 - 858 - 8333

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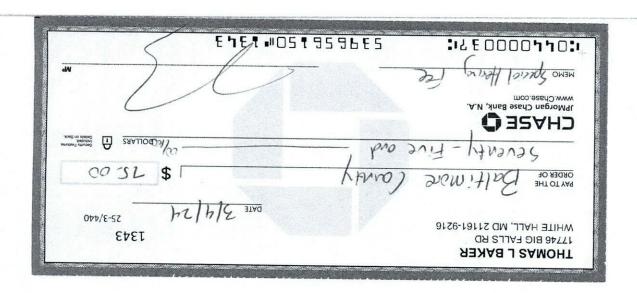


approved posters. If you wish to select a poster not listed on the list above, prior approval by the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections/Zoning is required.

This department is not associated with any of the above posters, nor do we recommend any specific one. We do suggest that you contact a number of them to compare prices, since their charges may vary.

Rev 9/22/2022

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PLEASE PRESS HARD!!!!

2024-0091-SPH



CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Date: 4-13-24

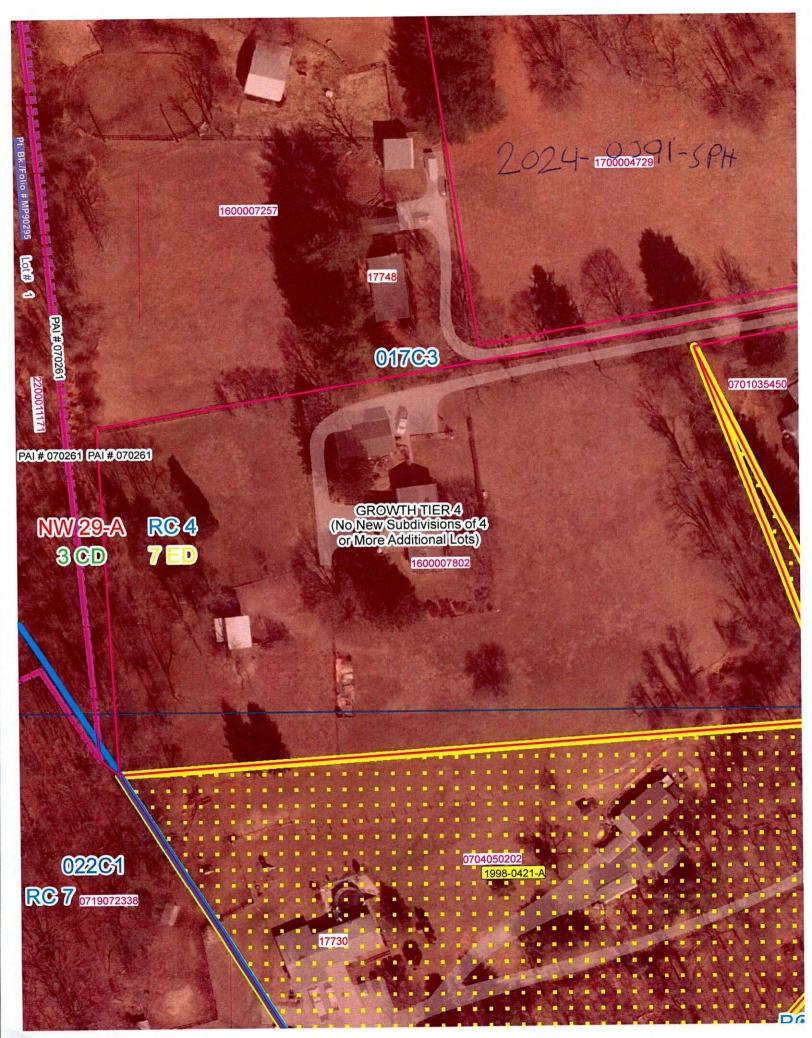
RE: Case Number: 2024-00	91-5PH
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	J. LAWRENCE PILSON
	(Printed Name of Sign Poster)
ATTACH PHOTGRAPH	
	1015 Old Barn Road
	(Street Address of Sign Poster)
	Parkton, MD 21120
	(City, State, Zip Code of Sign Poster)
	410-343-1443
	(Telephone Number of Sign Poster)

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Homeowners' Tax Credit Application Status: No Application

2024-081-5PH



INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Peter Gutwald, Director DATE: April 10, 2024

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM: Derek M. Chastain

Bureau of Building Plans Review

SUBJECT: Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

Case 2024-0091-A

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

BPR: Please provide building permit showing compliance with the IRC, 2015 edition.

Inter-Office Correspondence



TO: Hon. Maureen E. Murphy; Chief Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings

FROM: Jeff Livingston, Department of Environmental Protection and

Sustainability (EPS) - Development Coordination

DATE: April 9, 2024

SUBJECT: DEPS Comment for Zoning Item # 2024-0091-SPH

Address: 17746 BIG FALLS RD.

Legal Owner: Thomas Baker, Montserrat Ferrer

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of April 9, 2024.

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

Additional Comments:

Reviewer: Earl D. Wrenn

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Peter Gutwald, Director DATE: April 8, 2024

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM: Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT: Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

Case 2024-0091-SPH

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

DPR: No comment.

DPW-T: No exception taken.

Landscaping: No comment.

Recreations & Parks: Need to address additional Residential Development Unit and 1,000 square feet of open space required or fee in lieu. No greenways affected.

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: C. Pete Gutwald **DATE:** 4/10/2024

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM: Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2023-0091-SPH

INFORMATION:

Property Address: Thomas Lanier Baker **Petitioner:** 17746 Big Falls Road

Zoning: RC 4

Requested Action: Special Hearing

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

Special Hearing -

a. To approve an accessory apartment, within a pre-existing accessory building on the same owner-occupied property as the principal single-family detached dwelling, to be occupied by a blood-related family member

The subject property is located along Big Falls Road in the White Hall area of Baltimore County. The property consists of an approximately 4.0-acre parcel zoned RC-4 and improved with a dwelling unit and a barn. The property is surrounded by forest, and farms including rural residential neighborhoods.

The applicant intents to renovate the interior of an accessory structure on the property where the owner resides. The purpose of this renovation is to house a family member (mother in-law). The specific structure in question is a barn, the applicant intends to change the use of the barn to a dwelling unit. According to the applicant, there will be no alterations to the barn's existing footprint, height, or overall dimensions.

The Department finds that the requested relief does not pose any risk to the R.C.4 zoning classification and does not have any objections to the request. A Declaration of Understanding was submitted with the request.

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

Prepared by:

Krystle Patchak

SL/JGN/KP

c: Thomas Lanier Baker
Abigail Rogers, Community Planner
Jeff Perlow, Zoning Review
Kristen Lewis, Zoning Review
Office of Administrative Hearings
People's Counsel for Baltimore County

Division Chief:

Ienifer Gl Nugent