

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR. County Executive

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

September 25, 2024

Jennifer Busse, Esquire – <u>jbusse@rosenbergmartin.com</u> Rosenberg Martin Greenberg, LLP 25 S. Charles Street, 21st Floor Baltimore, MD 21201

RE: Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance

Case No. 2024-0185-SPHA Property: 7660 Belair Road

Dear Ms. Busse:

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

c: Carolyn Rau - Grocery Outlet - <u>crau@cfgo.com</u>

IN RE: PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL HEARING	*	BEFORE THE
AND VARIANCE	at.	OFFICE OF
(7660 Belair Road)	*	OFFICE OF
14th Election District		
6th Council District	*	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Belair Beltway Partnership		
Legal Owner	*	FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
Grocery Outlet, Inc.		
Contract Purchaser/Lessee	*	Case No. 2024-0185-SPHA
Petitioners	*	

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") for consideration of Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance filed by Belair Beltway Partnership, legal owner and Grocery Outlet, Inc., contract lessee ("Petitioners") for the property located at 7660 Belair Road (the "Property"). The Special Hearing was filed pursuant to the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR"), §500.7, to approve two existing freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted 1 per frontage, signs located on separate parcels but serve the same shopping Center. In the alterative Variance and if required, relief as follows:

- 1) From BCZR §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations § 7.(b) to permit 2 existing freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted 1 per frontage.
- 2) From BCZR §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations §5.(d) to permit 5 wall mounted enterprise signs in lieu of the permitted one per separate exterior customer entrance.
- 3) From BCZR §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations §5.(d) to permit a wall mounted enterprise sign on a building face without a separate exterior customer entrance (sign for Mercy facing Belair Road).
- 4) And for any other relief deemed necessary by the Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ").

A public WebEx hearing was conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person hearing on September 24, 2024. The Petition was properly advertised and posted. Carolyn Rau,

representative of Grocery Outlet, Inc. appeared in support of the Petition. Representing Kimley-Horn was Matthew Bishop, PE, the engineer who prepared the redlined site plan, which is marked as Exhibit 4. Jennifer Busse, Esquire of Rosenberg, Martin and Greenberg, LLP, represented the Petitioners. There were no interest parties or interested citizens that attended the hearing.

Zoning Advisory Committee ("ZAC") comments were received from the Department of Planning ("DOP") and the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability ("DEPS"), which agencies did not oppose the relief requested.

The subject property is 14.24 acres and is improved with a commercial shopping center, Belair Beltway Plaza. The subject property fronts Belair Road, near the exits to the Beltway. The shopping center tenants include multiple restaurants, doctor's offices, an urgent care, and a bank. The Petitioners are proposing signage for a new Grocery Outlet store which occupies the space previously used by Horizon Cinemas.

The case proceeded by way of a proffer by Ms. Busse. She explained that the Grocery Outlet will occupy a site in the shopping center that sits over 500 ft. from Belair Road. Additionally, there are several PAD sites within the shopping center, along with mature trees which are part of already existing landscaping on the site. Ms. Busse further noted that the subject property inclines steeply to the southwest in keeping with the hilly nature of Belair Road in that area. (Pet. Ex. 3) She further explained that mature trees flank the site to the southwest and northeast, causing the visibility of the two existing freestanding joint identification signs to be limited to one direction. These signs are located on separate parcels of the shopping center and mark two separate entrances. (Pet. Ex. 3) Finally, Ms. Busse noted that in keeping with DOP comments, the Grocery Outlet will provide a walkable shopping option for the surrounding residential community. (Pet. Ex. 5)

Ms. Busse proffered that the 5 proposed signs for the Grocery Outlet include the front entrance sign and 4 other signs on the front and west side façade which increase visibility of the site that sits back a considerable distance from Belair Road. (Pet. Ex. 2) During the hearing for the instant case, Ms. Busse noted that the sign to be located on the side of the Grocery Outlet will need additional variance relief due to the lack of a separate side entrance. That request will be incorporated in this Opinion and Order. The remaining signs at issue exist presently on the subject property and have done so for some time.

VARIANCE

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, it is clear that the site is unique in its orientation to Belair Road and sloped topography. Additionally, the existence of mature trees in and around the site, as well as the existence of various internal PAD sites, creates a unique challenge in providing adequate signage that will achieve business visibility and wayfinding. Consequently, the denial of variance relief for the new signage and the signage already existing on the subject property would create a practical difficulty for the Petitioner. I further find that the requested variance relief can be granted in harmony with the spirit and intent of the BCZR and in such a manner as to grant relief without injury to the public health, safety and welfare as demonstrated by the lack of opposition. Consequently, all requested variance relief is granted. Additionally, as to the Grocery Outlet sign to be placed on the west side of the building, variance relief is granted from BCZR §450.4, Table

of Sign Regulations §5.(d) to permit a wall mounted enterprise sign on a building face without a separate exterior customer entrance.

SPECIAL HEARING

As variance relief has been granted as to Petitioners' request pursuant to BCZR, §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations§ 7.(b) to permit 2 existing freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted 1 per frontage, Petitioners' Special Hearing request is *Moot* and will not be addressed.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED this <u>25th</u> day of **September**, 2024 by this Administrative Law Judge that the Petition for Special Hearing from BCZR, §500.7 to approve two existing freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted 1 per frontage, signs located on separate parcels but serve the same shopping center, be and is hereby **MOOT**, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Petition for Variance relief from BCZR, §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations, § 7.(b) to permit 2 existing freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted 1 per frontage, be and is hereby **GRANTED**, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, from BCZR §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations, §5.(d) to permit 5 wall mounted enterprise signs in lieu of the permitted one per separate exterior customer entrance, be and is hereby **GRANTED**; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, from BCZR §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations, §5.(d) to permit a wall mounted enterprise sign on a building face without a separate exterior customer entrance (sign for Mercy facing Belair Road), be and is hereby **GRANTED**; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, from BCZR §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations, §5.(d) to permit a wall mounted enterprise sign on a building face without a separate exterior customer entrance (sign on west side of Grocery Outlet), be and is hereby **GRANTED**.

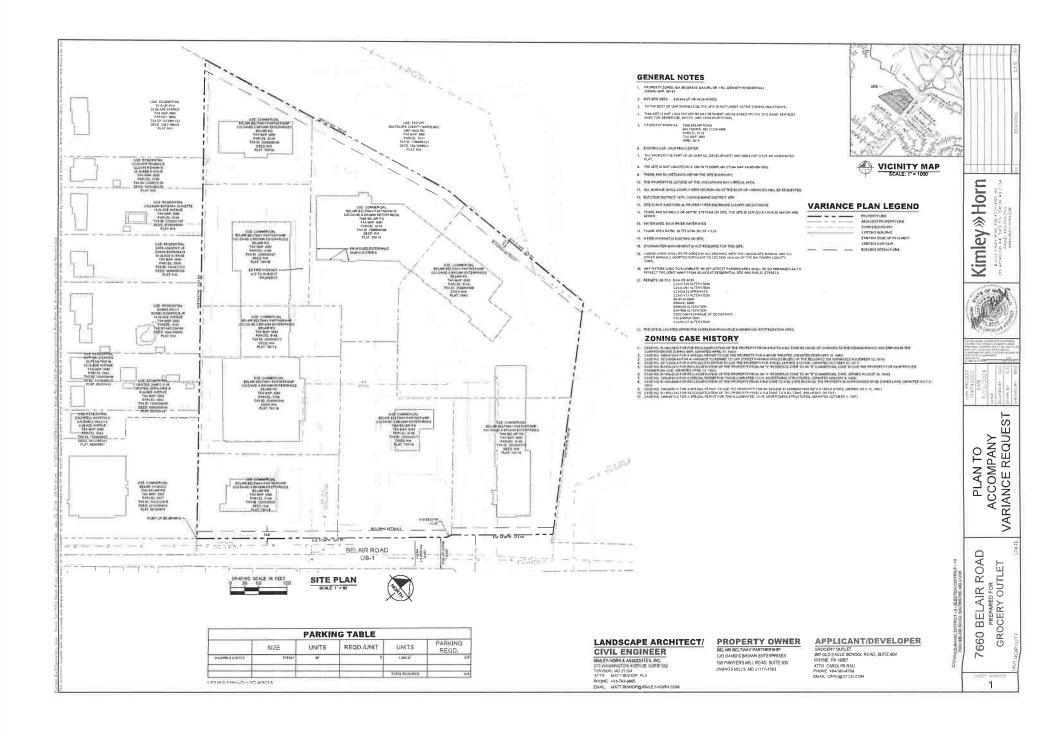
The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

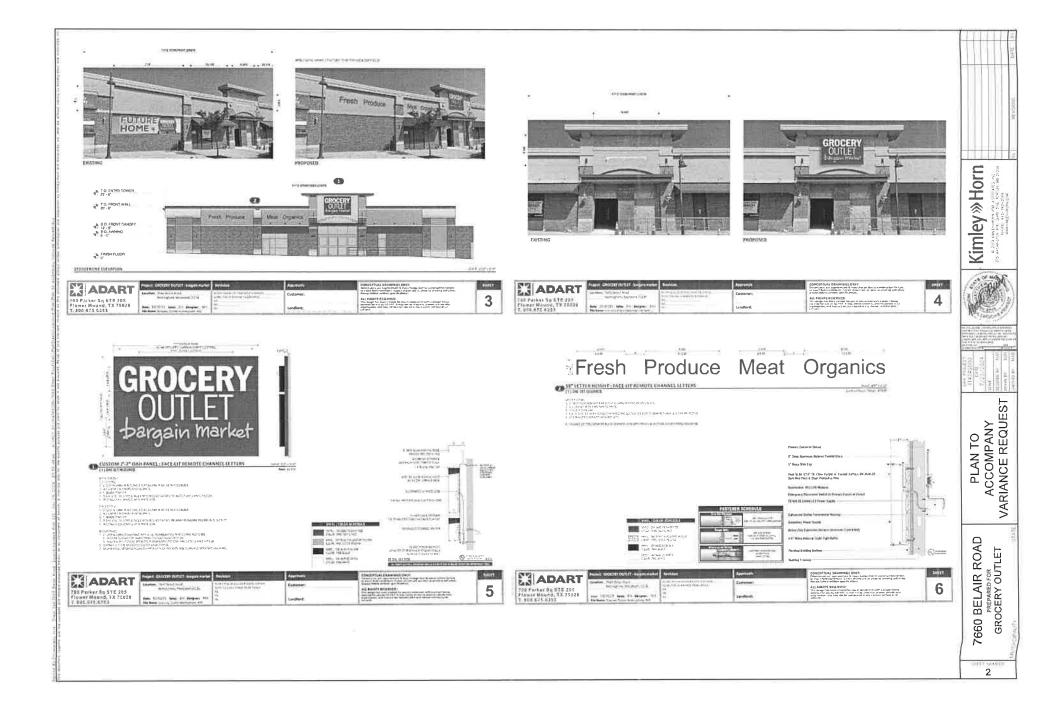
- 1. Petitioners may apply for necessary permits and/or licenses upon receipt of this Order. However, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until 30 days from the date hereof, during which time an appeal can be filed by any party. If for whatever reason this Order is reversed, Petitioners would be required to return the subject property to its original condition.
- 2. The Site Plan (Pet. Ex. 4) shall be attached hereto and incorporated herein in its entirety.

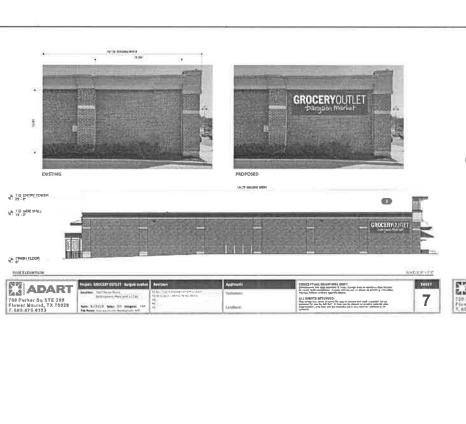
Any appeal of this decision must be made within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

ANDREW M. BELT Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County

AMB/dlm











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Kimley»Horn



ACCOMPANY
VARIANCE REQUEST PLAN TO

7660 BELAIR ROAD PREPARED FOR GROCERY OUTLET

3

OFFIC	E OF BUD	GET ANI	IARYLANI D FINANC RECEIPT	E	Sub Rev/	No . Date:	233 8/5	418 /zozy	
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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	I DOWN SECTION	
Case Number:	2024-0185-SPHA	
Property Address:	7660 Belair Rd	
Legal Owners (Petitioners):		
Contract Purchaser/Lessee	: Grocery Outleto	
PLEASE FORWARD ADVI Name: Company/Firm (if a Address:	The hand the desire	1.8
	ZIST Plan	
<u> </u>	Balto MD 21201	- T
Telephone Number:		

*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.



Certificate of Posting

Case# 2024-0185-SPHA

Petitioner/Developer

Rosenberg Martin Greenberg

Jennifer Busse

Date of Hearing/Closing

September 24, 2024

Baltimore County Department of Permits and Management

County Office Building Room 111; 111 West Chesapeake Ave. Towson Md. 21204 Attention:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is to certify under penalties of perjury that the necessary sign/signs required by law were posted conspicuously on the property located at

7660 Belair Road August 31, 2024. Signs 1A & 2A

Sincerely, Martin Ogle

yoskr gl

Martin Ogle

9912 Maidbrook Road

Parkville, Md. 21234

443-629-3411

Search Result for BALTIMORE COUNTY View GroundRent Redemption

View GroundRent Registration

Special Tax Recapture: None

Account Identifier:

District - 14 Account Number - 2500006568

Owner Information

Owner Name:

BELAIR BELTWAY PARTNERSHIP C/O DAVID S BROWN ENTERPRISESPrincipal Residence:NO

COMMERCIAL

Mailing Address:

SUITE 900

Deed Reference:

Use:

100 PAINTERS MILL RD

OWINGS MILLS MD 21117-4793

Location & Structure Information

7660 BELAIR RD BALTIMORE 21236-4088 Legal Description: 2.1597 AC PARCEL 4

7660-7696 BELAIR RD NWR

BELAIR BELTWAY MALL

Map: Grid: Parcel: Neighborhood: Subdivision: Section: Block: Lot: Assessment Year: Plat No: 0081 0010 0148 10000.04

Premises Address:

0000

2025

Plat Ref: 0079/119

Town: None

Primary Structure Built Above Grade Living Area Finished Basement Area

Property Land Area County Use

2.1600 AC

Stories Basement Type Exterior Quality Full/Half Bath Garage Last Notice of Major Improvements

Value Information

	Base Value	Value	Phase-in Assessments	
		As of 01/01/2022	As of 07/01/2024	As of 07/01/2025
Land:	864,000	864,000		
Improvements	3,776,600	3,776,600		
Total:	4,640,600	4,640,600	4,640,600	
Preferential Land:	0			

Transfer Information

Seller: Type:	Date: Deed1:	Price: Deed2:	
Seller:	Date:	Price:	
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:	
Seller:	Date:	Price:	
Type:	Deed1:	Deed2:	

Exemption Information

Partial Exempt Assessments:Class		07/01/2024	07/01/2025
County:	000	0.00	
State:	000	0.00	
Municipal:	000	0.00	0.00
Special Tax Recapture	e: None		

Homestead Application Information

Homestead Application Status: No Application

Homeowners' Tax Credit Application Information

Homeowners' Tax Credit Application Status: No Application

Date:

2024-0185-SPHA



PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S)

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

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

Address_7660 Belair Road	which is presently zoned BM
Deed References: 0079/119	10 Digit Tax Account # 2 5 0 0 0 0 6 5 6 8
Property Owner(s) Printed Name(s) Belair Beltway	Partnership
(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING \underline{X} AT THE APPROPRIM	ATE SELECTION AND PRINT OR TYPE THE PETITION REQUEST)
The undersigned legal owner(s) of the property situate in B and plan attached hereto and made	altimore County and which is described in the description a part hereof, hereby petition for:
4 VV - Special Heaving under Section 500 7 of the Zoning	Populations of Baltimore County, to determine whether
1. XX a Special Hearing under Section 500.7 of the Zoning or not the Zoning Commissioner should approve	Regulations of Baltimore County, to determine mission
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2 Special Exception under the Zoning Regulations of	f Baltimore County to use the herein described property for
2 a Special Exception under the Zonling Regulations of	T Datimore County to doe the note in december property in
3. <u>XX</u> a Variance from Section(s)	
please see attached	
	C. I. S. U. S. Harring recommen
of the zoning regulations of Baltimore County, to the zo	oning law of Baltimore County, for the following reasons:
you need additional space, you may add an attachment	indicate below "TO BE PRESENTED AT HEARING". If
TO BE PRESE	NTED AT HEARING
Down to the bounded and advantised as prescribed by the gening regulation	one
Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by the zoning regulating, or we, agree to pay expenses of above petition(s), advertising, posting, etc.	c. and further agree to and are to be bounded by the zoning regulations
and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the zoning law for I Legal Owner(s) Affirmation: I / we do so solemnly declare and affirm, unde	Baltimore County.
Legal Owner(s) Amirmation: 17 we do so solerthly declare and anithin, under which is the subject of this / these Petition(s).	if the perfattes of perfaty, that it was allotted to logar office (by or was property)
	Lawet Owners (Betitioners)
Contract Purchaser/Lessee:	Legal Owners (Petitioners):
Grocery Outlet	Belair Beltway Partnership c/o David S. Brown Enterprises
Name- Type or Print	Name #2 – Type or Print Name #2 – Type or Print
Signature	Signature #1 Howard S. Brown Signature #2
992 Old Eagle School Rd, Ste. 904 Wayne PA	100 Painters Mill R, Ste. 900 Owings Mills MD
Mailing Address City State	Mailing Address City State
19087 / 484-501-8709 / crau@cfgo.com	21117 / /
Zip Code Telephone # Email Address	Zip Code Telephone # Email Address
Attorney for Petitioner:	Representative to be contacted:
	Jennifer Busse - Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP
Jennifer Busse - Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP Name- Type or Print	Name - Type or Print
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Signature	Signature
·	V
25 S. Charles Street, 21st FL Baltimore MD Mailing Address City State	25 S. Charles Street, 21st FL Baltimore MD Mailing Address City State
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21201 / 410-727-8647 /jbusse@rosenbergmartin.com	Zip Code Telephone # In Justice Of Telephone
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CASE NUMBER 2017 OINS WHA Filing Date / /	Do Not Schedule Dates: Reviewer
CASE NUMBERO-TO TARY TO STAND AND CONTROL AND AND CONTROL AND CONT	Do Not Schedule Dates: Reviewer



PETITION FOR ZONING HEARING(S) To be filed with the Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

To the Office of Administrative Law of	_	
Address 7660 Belair Road	which is pres	sently zoned BM
Deed References: 0079/119	10 Digit 1 ax Account #_2	500006568
Property Owner(s) Printed Name(s) Belair Beltway	raithership	
(SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING X AT THE APPROPRIA	TE SELECTION AND PRINT OR TY	PE THE PETITION REQUEST)
The undersigned legal owner(s) of the property situate in Ba and plan attached hereto and made	altimore County and which is on a part hereof, hereby petition	lescribed in the description for:
1. a Special Hearing under Section 500.7 of the Zoning	Regulations of Baltimore Cou	nty, to determine whether
the Zenine Commissioner should engrous		
مام	see attached	,
f and the second se		
2 a Special Exception under the Zoning Regulations of		
a Special Exception under the Zonning Regulations of	Balamore County to dec and .	ione account of property
3. XX a Variance from Section(s)		
please see attached		
of the zoning regulations of Baltimore County, to the zo	ning law of Baltimore County	, for the following reasons:
(Indicate below your hardship or practical difficulty or	indicate below "TO BE PRE	SENTED AT HEARING". If
you need additional space, you may add an attachment	to this petition)	
TO BE PRESE	NTED AT HEARING	
10 52 1 1252		
Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by the zoning regulation	ens.	
I or we, agree to pay expenses of above petition(s), advertising, posting, etc	, and further agree to and are to be bo	ounded by the zoning regulations
and restrictions of Baltimore County adopted pursuant to the zoning law for E Legal Owner(s) Affirmation: I / we do so solemnty declare and affirm, unde	r the penalties of perjury, that I / We a	re the legal owner(s) of the property
which is the subject of this / these Petition(s).		
Contract Purchaser/Lessee:	Legal Owners (Petitioners)):
Contract Furchasen Lessee.		
Grocery Outlet	Dolait Dolait Ly	o David S. Brown Enterprises
Name-Type or Print	Name #1 – Type or Print	Name #2 – Type or Print
CARLYN RALL		1
Signature	Signature #1	Signature # 2
992 Old Eagle School Rd, Ste. 904 Wayne PA	100 Painters Mill R, Ste. 900	Owings Mills MD
Mailing Address City State	Mailing Address	City State
19087 / 484-501-8709 / crau@cfgo.com	21117	
Zip Code Telephone # Email Address	Zip Code Telephone #	Email Address
5 Defference	Dange antative to be conta	ectod:
Attorney for Petitioner:	Representative to be conta	icteu.
Jennifer Busse - Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP	Jennifer Busse - Rosenberg Ma	artin Greenberg LLP
Name- Type or Print	Name - Type or Print	
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Signature	Signature	
25 S. Charles Street, 21st FL Baltimore MD	25 S. Charles Street, 21st FL	Baltimore MD
Mailing Address City State	Mailing Address	City State
	21201 / 410-727-8647	/jbusse@rosenbergmartin.com
21201 / 410-727-8647 /jbusse@rosenbergmartin.com Zip Code Telephone # Email Address	Zip Code Telephone #	Email Address
•		

CASE NUMBER 2024-0185-SHA Filing Date 8 15 2024 Do Not Schedule Dates:

Attachment to Zoning Petition for Variance and Special Hearing 7660 Belair Road

Petition for Special Hearing to approve 2 existing freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted 1 per frontage, signs located on separate parcels but serve the same shopping center.

In the alternative, and if required, Petition for Variance from BCZR \$450.4, Table of Sign regulations \$7.(b) to permit 2 existing freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted 1 per frontage.

Petition for Variance from BCZR §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations §5.(d) to permit 5 wall mounted enterprise signs in lieu of the permitted one per separate exterior customer entrance.

Petition for Variance from BCZR §450.4, Table of Sign Regulations §5.(d) to permit a wall mounted enterprise sign on a building face without a separate exterior customer entrance (sign for Mercy facing Belair Road).

And for any other relief deemed necessary by the Administrative Law Judge.

4859-3995-5656, v. 1

2024-0185-SPHA

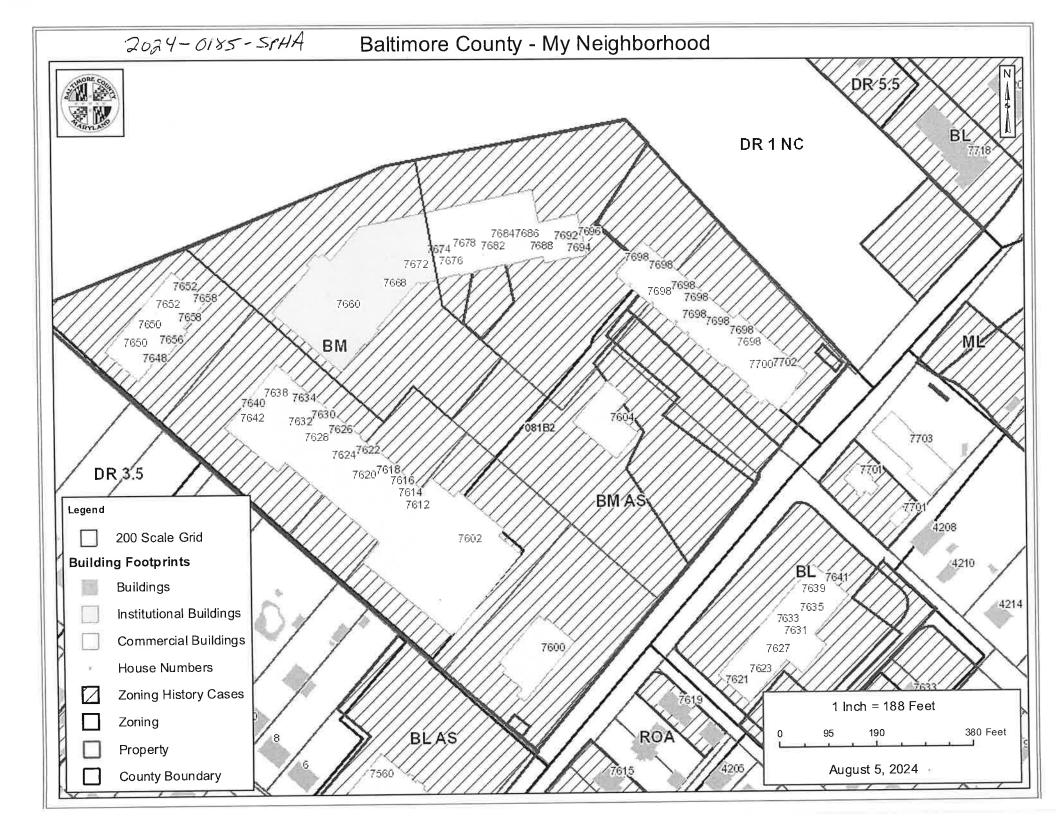
Zoning Property Description for Variance Petition 7660 Belair Road

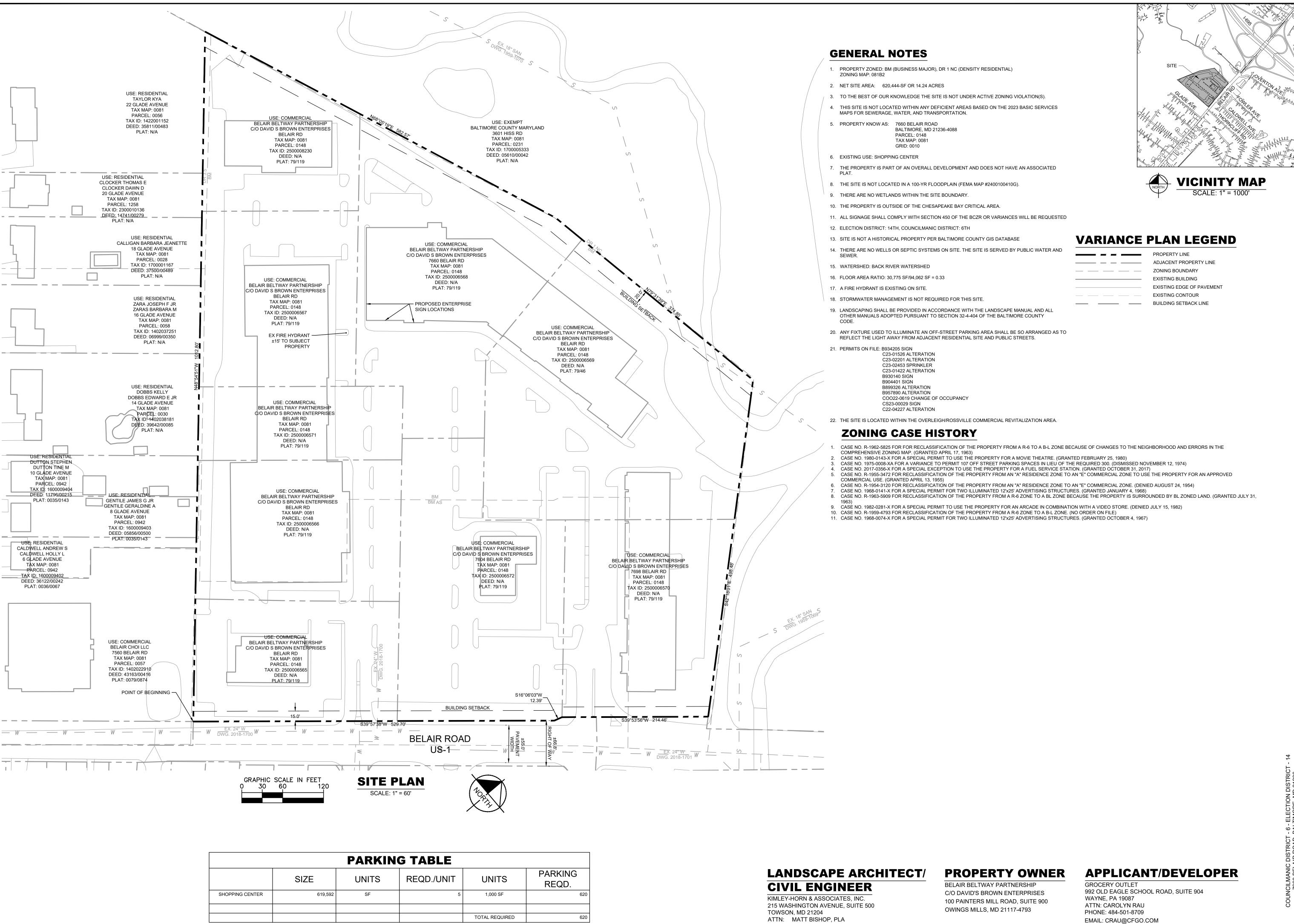
Beginning at a point located 340' from the intersection of Glade Avenue and Belair Road which has a right of way width of ± 70 feet **Thence** the following courses and distances, referred to the Maryland Coordinate System (NAD '83/91):

- 1. North 48 degrees 54 minutes 51 seconds West, 1,012.80' to a point
- 2. North 68 degrees 5 minutes 19 seconds East, 582.57' to a point
- 3. North 79 degrees 31 minutes 39 seconds East, 374.85' to a point
- 4. South 42 degrees 18 minutes 1 second East, 498.48' to a point
- 5. South 39 degrees 53 minutes 56 seconds West, 214.46' to a point
- 6. South 16 degrees 6 minutes 3 seconds West, 12.39' to a point
- 7. South 39 degrees 57 minutes 38 seconds West, 529.70' to a point and place of beginning.

Containing an area of 620,444 square feet or 14.24 acres of land, more or less and being located in the 14th Election District and 6th Council District of Baltimore County Maryland.







EXISTING PARKING = 780 SPACES

PHONE: 443-792-9995

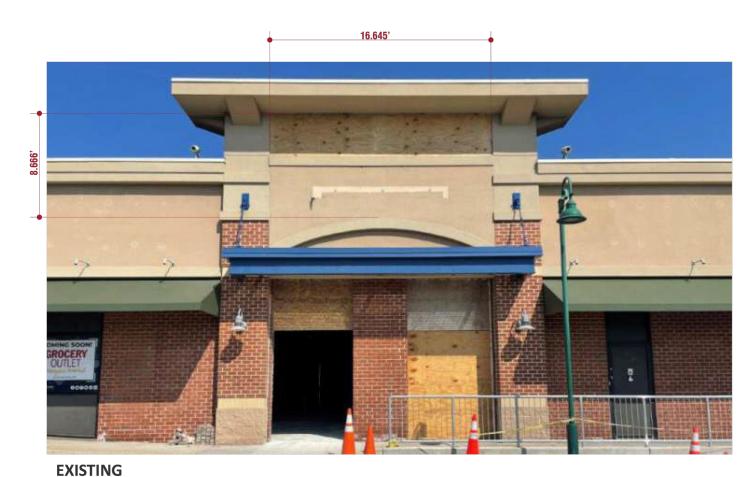
EMAIL: MATT.BISHOP@KIMLEY-HORN.COM

PARED OR APPROVED BY ME. AND TH ANDSCAPE ARCHITECT UNDER THE LAWS HE STATE OF MARYLAND.

9

SHEET NUMBER





700 Parker Sq STE 205

T. 800.675.6353

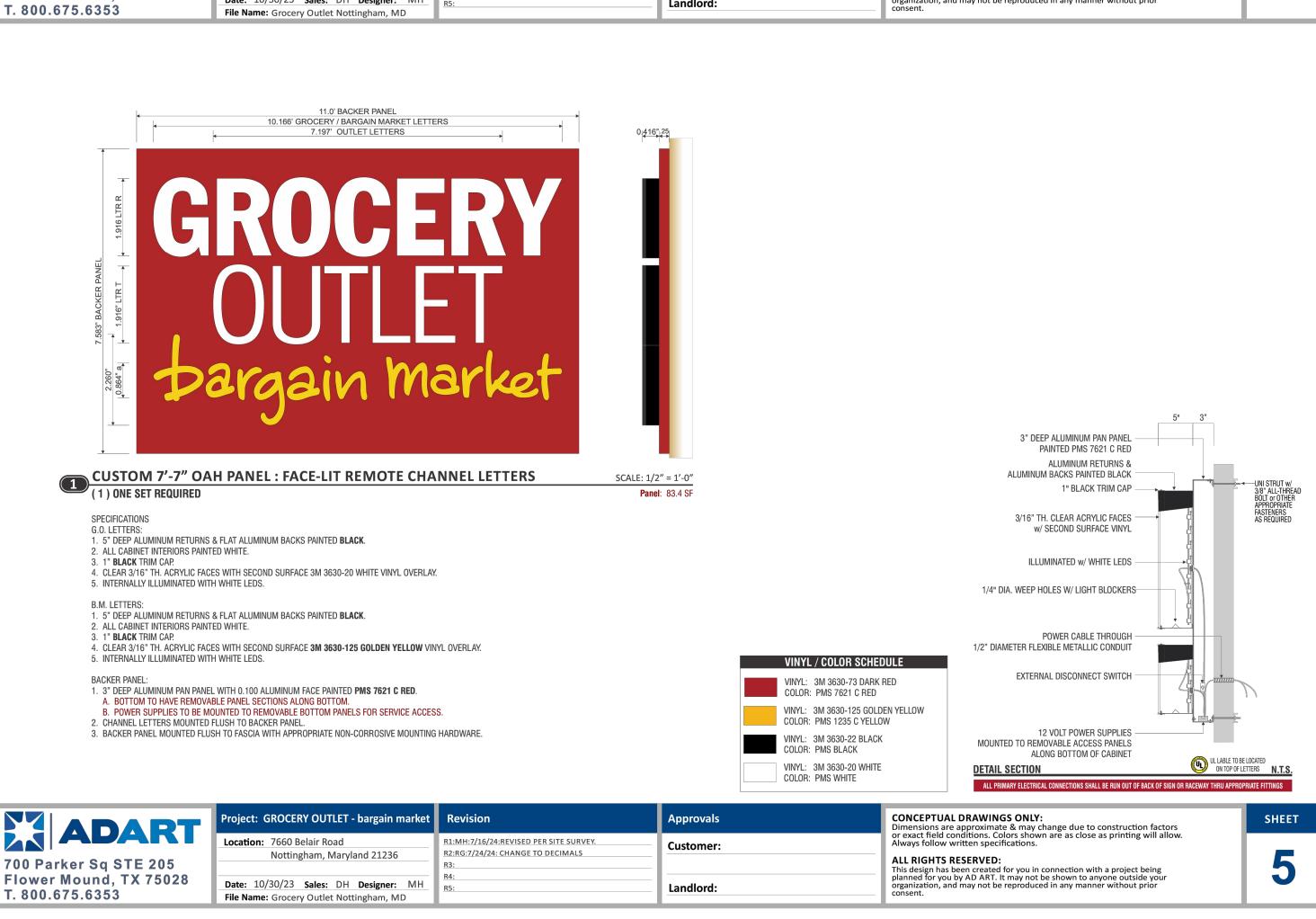
Flower Mound, TX 75028

117.5' STOREFRONT LENGTH

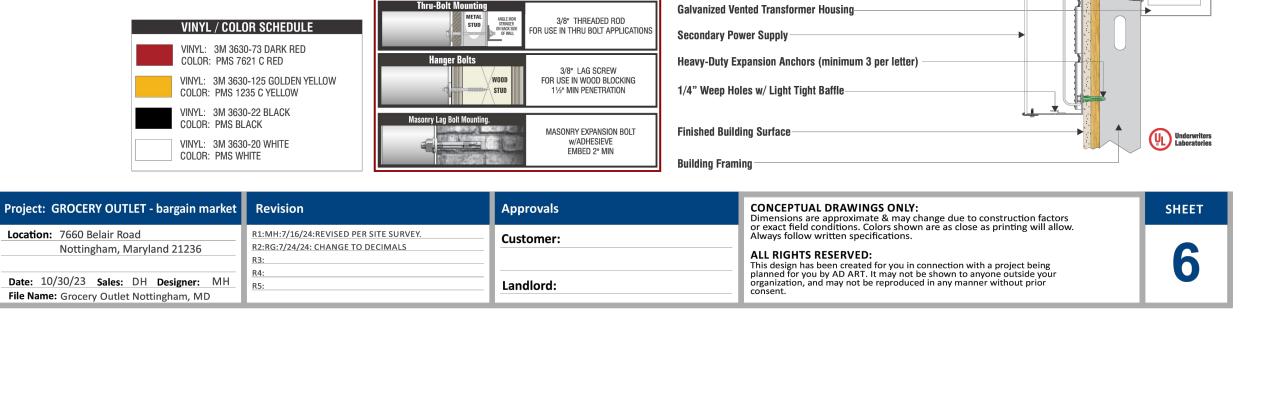






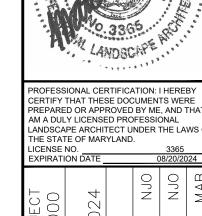






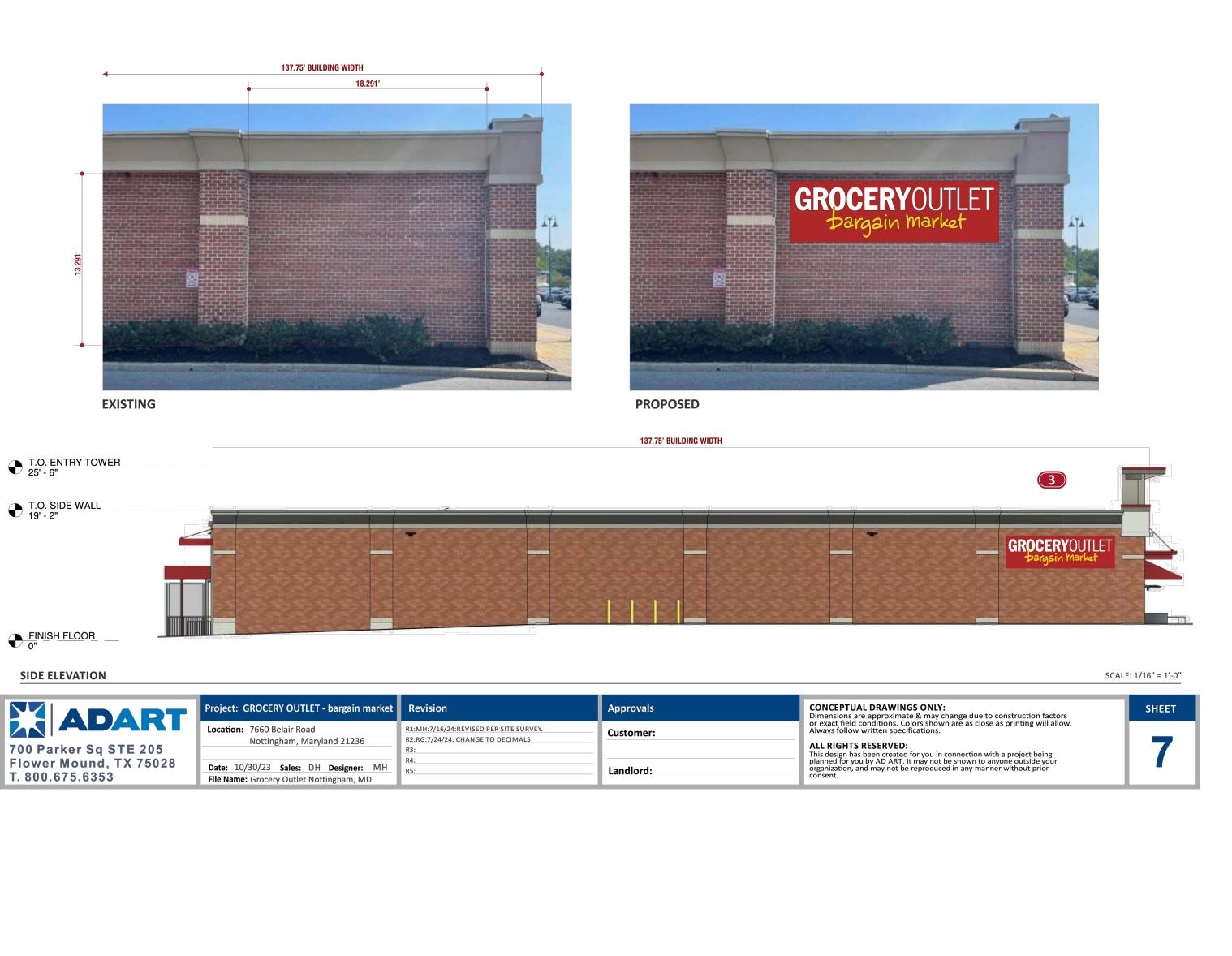
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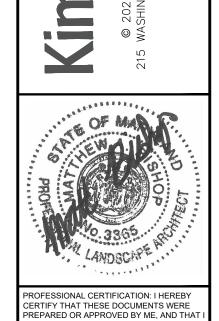


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SHEET NUMBER







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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION: I HEREBY
CERTIFY THAT THESE DOCUMENTS WERE
PREPARED OR APPROVED BY ME, AND THA'
AM A DULY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT UNDER THE LAWS
THE STATE OF MARYLAND.
LICENSE NO. 3365
EXPIRATION DATE 08/20/2024

ACCOMPANY
IANCE REQUEST

7660 BELAIR ROAD
PREPARED FOR
GROCERY OUTLET

SHEET NUMBER

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: C. Pete Gutwald **DATE:** 8/26/2024

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM: Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2024-0185-SPHA

INFORMATION:

Property Address: 7660 Belair Road

Petitioner: Belair Beltway Partnership, c/o David S. Brown Enterprises

Zoning: BM

Requested Action: Special Hearing, Variance

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

Special Hearing -

1. To approve two existing freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted one per frontage, with signs located on separate parcels but serving the same shopping center; and

Variance -

- 2. In the alternative to the Special Hearing and if required, from Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (BCZR) Section 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations Section 7.(b) to permit two freestanding joint identification signs in lieu of the otherwise permitted one per frontage;
- 3. From BCZR Section 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations Section 5.(d) to permit five wall mounted enterprise signs in lieu of the permitted one per separate exterior customer entrance; and
- 4. From BCZR Section 450.4 Table of Sign Regulations Section 5.(d) to permit a wall mounted enterprise sign on a building face without a separate exterior customer entrance (sign for Mercy facing Belair Road); and
- 5. For any other relief deemed necessary by the Administrative Law Judge.

The subject site is part of an approximately 14.24 acre shopping center known as Belair Beltway Plaza. The shopping center has many existing tenants, including, but not limited to, multiple restaurants, a doctor's office, a physical therapy office, a dentist's office, a nail salon, an urgent care, and a bank. The tenant space that is the subject of this Zoning Petition is an end space towards the rear of the shopping center and was previously occupied by Horizon Cinemas, a movie theater that closed in early 2023.

Uses surrounding the subject site vary. Immediately surrounding the site along Belair Road, uses are primarily commercial and include uses such as a gas station, mechanic, tire store, restaurants, commercial spaces, and offices. South of the subject site beyond Belair Road and west of the subject site, uses are primarily residential with single-family detached residential dwellings on varying sized lots.

Per the Petition and submitted signage package, Grocery Outlet is moving into the space previously occupied by Horizon Cinemas and they are proposing signage on the front and west facades of the building. The signage appears to be consistent with other Grocery Outlets in the Baltimore County area.

Also included in the Petition is approval for one existing wall mounted sign for Mercy Care Physicians and two existing freestanding signs for Belair Beltway Plaza. Per Google Streetview, the freestanding signs are located along Belair Road at the ingress/egress points of the shopping center.

The site is within the boundary of the Overlea/Fullerton Community Plan, adopted December 7th, 2009. The plan outlines strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within the plan area boundary. The plan lists shopping centers as one of the strengths, vacant businesses/storefronts as one of the weaknesses, and grocery stores the elderly could walk to as a possible opportunity (pages 43-45).

The Department of Planning has no objections to the requested Special Hearing and Variance relief. Three of the signs (two freestanding and one wall mounted) are existing and have been in place for quite some time. The proposed signs for Grocery Outlet are similar to other Grocery Outlet locations in Baltimore County. Further, the signs appear to be scaled to the façades and provide necessary identification and advertising for the grocery store.

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

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