

KATHERINE A. KLAUSMEIER County Executive

March 6, 2025

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

Dino La Fiandra, Esquire – <u>del@lafiandralaw.com</u> The Law Office of Dino C. La Fiandra, LLC 100 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 305 Towson, MD 21204

RE:

Petitions for Special Hearing & Variance

Case No. 2024-0254-SPHA Property: 2301 York Road

Dear Mr. La Fiandra:

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: Kristy Bischoff - <u>kbischoff@dmw.com</u>
Mark Keeley - <u>mkeeley@traffic-concepts.com</u>
Bill Flax - <u>bill.flax@ohanagp.com</u>
Josh Beyer - <u>josh.beyer@ohanagp.com</u>
Sidney Baierlein- sydbaierlein@gmail.com

IN RE: PETITIONS FOR SPECIAL HEARING	*	BEFORE THE
AND VARIANCE		
(2301 York Road)	*	OFFICE OF
8 th Election District		
3 rd Council District	*	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
York Road 2301, Inc.		
Legal Owner	*	FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
Ohana Growth Partners, LLC		
Contract Purchaser/Lessee	*	
Petitioners	*	Case No. 2024-0254-SPHA

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") as Petitions for Special Hearing and Variance filed by legal owner, York Road 2301, Inc., and the contract purchaser/lessee, Ohana Growth Partners, LLC (the "Petitioners"), for the property located at 2301 York Road, Timonium (the "Property"). A Petition for Special Hearing was filed pursuant to the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations ("BCZR"), § 409.12.B, to permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required, as shown on the plan to accompany petition for Zoning Hearing, to approve an amendment to the approved site plan in Zoning Case No. 2012-0178 SPHA as shown on the plan, and for such other and further relief as this case may require. Variance relief was filed pursuant to BCZR, § 409, to permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required.

A public WebEx hearing was conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person hearing on March 5, 2025. The Petition was properly advertised and posted. Petitioner's representatives, Josh Beyer, Chief Development Officer, and Bill Flax, Director of Construction, for Ohana Growth Partners, LLC, appeared in support of the Petition along with Kristy Bischoff, PE and J. Mark Keeley, PTP. Dino La Fiandra, Esquire represented the Petitioners. There were no interested parties or Protestants who appeared at the hearing.

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

Mr. La Fiandra proffered Petitioners' case. The Property is approximately 6.17 acres of land located along Maryland 45 (York Road) in Timonium and is located in the MR/DR 2 zone. This property includes a Lazy Boy Furniture Store, Tile Shop and a restaurant which is located on the edge of the subject property that fronts York Road. The portion of property which was previously used for a La-Z-Boy Furniture Store is now proposed for use as a gym. (Planet Fitness) (Pet. Ex. 2) As noted on the site plan, BCZR, § 409.12.B requires that 342 parking spaces be provided. (Pet. Ex. 2) The Petitioner is proposing 186 parking spaces, with additional public parking being available on the service road that runs in front of the on-site restaurant. A previous modified parking plan was approved for 188 spaces in Zoning Case No. 2012-0178-SPHA. Mr. Keeley, who prepared a Parking Demand Study for the proposed site, confirmed that 186 parking spaces are sufficient for the needs of the site, whose current parking area is already underutilized. (Pet. Ex. 4) Mr. Keely further explained that many patrons of the restaurant make use of the public parking that is available directly adjacent to the restaurant building, while patrons of the other onsite retail uses tend to park in close proximity to the establishment which they intend to patronize. He further explained that the gym use would be most intensive in the hours before and after the average workday and not during peak traffic hours.

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). Based on the Parking Demand Study conducted by Mr. Keely, the fact that the current parking area is underutilized and will continue to be so, and the fact that the most intensive patronage of the proposed gym will occur during non-peak hours, the Petitioners has provided uncontradicted evidence that 186 parking spaces will be appropriate for the proposed uses. Additionally, the existence of the additional public parking available along the service road entering the site, provides additional parking options for restaurant patrons, and further alleviates the need for additional spaces in the site's designated parking area. Accordingly, the Petitioners' request for Special Hearing relief is granted, being compatible with the community and generally consistent with the spirit and intent of the regulations.

VARIANCE

- (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).

The subject site is unique in its odd shape and configuration as this has been previously found to be so in prior Zoning Case No. 2012-0178-SPHA. Additionally, I find that Petitioners will experience a practical difficulty if variance relief were denied. Accordingly, Petitioners'

variance requested is granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, this 6th day of March 2025, by the Administrative Law

Judge for Baltimore County that the Petition for Special Hearing pursuant to BCZR Section

409.12.B, to permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required, as shown on the

plan to accompany petition for Zoning Hearing, and to approve an amendment to the approved site

plan in Zoning Case No. 2012-0178-SPHA as shown on the plan, be and is hereby **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petition for Variance from BCZR, Section 409, to

permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required. be and is hereby, GRANTED;

and

The relief granted herein shall be subject to the following:

1. Petitioners may apply for necessary permits and/or licenses upon receipt of this Order. However, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at 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. In that the subject property is not being altered other than the nature of the use of one of its retail units, a new landscape plan in not required. In the event that

additional lighting is contemplated, a new lighting plan would be appropriate.

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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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 2301 York Road which is presently zoned MR/DR 2 Deed References: 27573/405 10 Digit Tax Account # 350 0009 7.80 Property Owner(s) Printed Name(s) York Road 2301, Inc. (SELECT THE HEARING(S) BY MARKING 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 Please see attachment. a Special Exception under the Zoning Regulations of Baltimore County to use the herein described property for ✓ a Variance from Section(s) Please see attachment. 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. Property is to be posted and advertised as prescribed by the zoning regulations. I, or we, agree to pay expenses of above petition(s), advertising, posting, etc. 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 Baltimore County. Legal Owner(s) Affirmation: I / we do so solemnly declare and affirm, under the penalties of perjury, that I / We are the legal owner(s) of the property which is the subject of this / these Petition(s). Contract Purchaser/Lessee: Legal Owners (Petitioners): Ohana Growth Partners, LLC York Road 2301, Inc. Name- Type or Print Name #1 - Type or Print Name #2 - Type or Print Signature Signature #1 Signature # 2 212 W. Padonia Road 17 Stenersen Lane Mailing Address City State Mailing Address City State 21093 443-4189019 21030 /410-252-1020 Zip Code Telephone # **Email Address** Zip Code Telephone # Email Address Attorney for Petitioner: Representative to be contacted: Dino C. La Fiandra, Esquire Díno C. La Fiandra, Esquire The Law Office of Dino C. La Fiandra, LLC The Law Office of Dino C. La Fiandra, LLC Name Type or Print Name - Type or Print Signature 100 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 305 Signature 100 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 305 Towson, Maryland 21204 Mailing Address State Mailing Address State 21204 443-204-3473 21204 443-204-3473 / dcl@lafiandralaw.com /dcl@lafiandralaw.com Zip Code Telephone # **Email Address** Zip Code **Email Address**

CASE NUMBER 2024 - 0254 - SAHA Filing Date 11 12212024 Do Not Schedule Dates:

2301 York Road Petition for Zoning Hearing Continuation Sheet

Petition for Special Hearing:

- To approve a modified parking plan pursuant to BCZR §409.12.B to permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required, as shown on the Plan to Accompany Petition for Zoning Hearing.
- 2. To approve an amendment to the approved site plans in Zoning Case 2012-178-SPHA as shown on the Plan to Accompany Petition for Zoning Hearing.
- 3. For such further and other relief as this case may require.

Petition for Variance:

From BCZR, §409 to permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required.

2024-0254-SPHA



Zoning Property Description for 2301 York Road (MD Rte. 45)

Baltimore County, Maryland

Beginning at a point on the east side of the York Road Service Drive which is a variable width right of way at the distance of 550 feet northwesterly of the centerline of the nearest improved intersecting street being York Road (MD Rte 45) which is 66 feet wide. Said point of beginning being a point on the South 18 degrees 30 minutes 21 seconds East 437.56 foot line as laid out and shown on a plat entitled "Stratford Industrial Site" dated June 19, 1957, and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore County, Maryland, in Plat Book G.L.B. 24, Page 36, said point of beginning being 357.35 feet from the end of said line, thence leaving said point of beginning and binding reversely on a portion of said line of the abovementioned plat as now described, referring all courses of this description to the Maryland Coordinate System (NAD 83), (1) North 18 degrees 52 minutes 03 seconds West 80.21 feet, thence (2) Northwesterly by a line curving to the right, having a radius of 468.00 feet, for a distance of 250.78 feet (the arc of said curve being subtended by a chord bearing North 03 degrees 30 minutes 59 seconds West 247.79 feet, thence (3) Northwesterly by a line curving to the left, having a radius of 82.00 feet, for a distance of 41.84 feet (the arc of said curve being subtended

by a chord bearing of North 02 degrees 46 minutes 57 seconds West 41.39 feet), thence

(4) North 72 degrees 36 minutes 01 seconds East 630.79 feet, thence (5) South 01

degrees 41 minutes 04 seconds West 550.00 feet, thence (6) South 89 degrees 38

minutes 18 seconds West 542.61 feet to the point of beginning; containing 268,760

square feet or 6.170 acres of land, more or less, as now described by Daft-McCune-Walker, Inc. in November 2024.

THIS DESCRIPTION HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR ZONING PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR PROPERTY CONVEYANCE PURPOSES.

Project No. 05082 (L05082)



BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Peter Gutwald, Director DATE: December 2, 2024

Department of Permits, Approvals

FROM: Vishnu Desai, Supervisor

Bureau of Development Plans Review

SUBJECT: Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting

Case 2024-0254-SPHA

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: If Special Hearing and / or Zoning Relief is granted a Landscape Plan is required per the Baltimore County Landscape Manual and a Lighting Plan is also required for any additional proposed lighting.

Recreations & Parks: No comment LOS & No Greenways affected.



Permits, Approvals and Inspections

111 W CHESAPEAKE AVE TOWSON, MD 21204 4108873353 WWW.BALTIMORECOUNTYMD.GO

Cashier: Jason S. 04-Nov-2024 9:29:36A

Transaction 102595
1 Petition Before ALJ \$1,000.00

Total

\$1,000.00

CREDIT CARD SALE VISA 8825 \$1,000.00

Retain this copy for statement validation

Station: Permit Processing - Mini

04-Nov-2024 9:29:51A \$1,000.00 | Method: EMV VISA CREDIT XXXXXXXXXXX8825 DINO LA FIANDRA Reference ID: 430900572213 Auth ID: 08549G MID: ********2995 AID: A0000000031010 AthNtwkNm: VISA SIGNATURE

Clover ID: 2T2R022RYDPDE Payment 81QGM6GFHTT1W

Clover Privacy Policy https://clover.com/privacy

DEPARTMENT OF PERMITS, APPROVALS AND INSPECTIONS ZONING REVIEW OFFICE

ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ZONING HEARINGS

The <u>Baltimore County Zoning Regulations</u> (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:	OLS-4-SPHA
Property Address: 2301 York	Road
Property Description: 6.17 acr	res ES York Road, 710 feet N Roundridge Road
Legal Owners (Petitioners): Y	ork Road 2301, Inc.
Contract Purchaser/Lessee: O	hana Growth Partners, LLC
PLEASE FORWARD ADVERT	TISING BILL TO:
Name:	Dino C. La Fiandra, Esquire
	The Law Office of Dino C. La Fiandra, LLC
	100 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 305
	Towson, Maryland 21204
Telephone Number:	443-204-3473

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

	2024-0254-SPHA
	RE: Case No.:
	Petitioner/Developer:
	Petitioner/Developer: York Road 2301, Inc.
	Ohana Growth Partners, LLC
	March 5, 2025 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: Jeff Perlow:	
Ladies and Gentlemen:	
This letter is to certify under the penalties of perjury posted conspicuously on the property located at:	
2301 York Road SIGN 1A	& 1B
February Posted on	uary 11, 2025
The sign(s) were posted on(Mont	h, Day, Year)



Sincerely,

February 11, 2025

(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 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: December 3, 2024

SUBJECT: DEPS Comment for Zoning Item # 2024-0254-SPHA

Address: 2301 YORK ROAD Legal Owner: York Road 2301, Inc.

Zoning Advisory Committee Meeting of December 3, 2024.

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

Additional Comments:

Reviewer: Earl D. Wrenn

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: C. Pete Gutwald **DATE:** 12/4/2024

Director, Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections

FROM: Steve Lafferty

Director, Department of Planning

SUBJECT: ZONING ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Case Number: 2024-0254-SPHA

INFORMATION:

Property Address: 2301 York Road **Petitioner:** York Road 2301, Inc

Zoning: MR/DR 2

Requested Action: Special Hearing and Variance

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

Special Hearing -

- i. To approve a modified parking plan pursuant to BCZR §409.12. B to permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required, as shown on the Plan to Accompany Petition for Zoning Hearing.
- ii. To approve an amendment to the approved site plans in Zoning Case 2012-178-SPHA as shown on the Plan to Accompany Petition for Zoning Hearing.
- iii. For such further and other relief as this case may require.

Variance -

i. From BCZR, §409 to permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required.

The subject property is a 6.17 acres land located along Maryland Route 45 (York Road) in the Timonium area of Baltimore County. The property which was previously used for retail is proposed for gym purposes and located in the MR/DR 2 zone and surrounded by commercial development, office buildings and forest conservation to the rear.

In a prior Case 12-0128 the petitioners sought and received parking relief for 188 parking spaces. With the addition of a proposed gym, the number of spaces required once again needs relief hence the Special Hearing and Variance requests to approve a modified parking plan pursuant to BCZR §409.12. B to permit 186 parking spaces in lieu of 342 parking spaces required.

According to the applicant's representative, the site includes a total of 186 on-site parking spaces, with an additional 40 off-site spaces available to support the development. To justify the Petition for Parking Variance / Modified Parking Plan, the applicant has obtained a parking study conducted by a reputable traffic consultant with extensive experience in Baltimore County. The study concludes that the existing parking facilities are more than sufficient to meet the anticipated future parking demand when the current

furniture store is replaced by the proposed fitness center/gym. The applicant intends to present this parking study as evidence during the hearing to support their zoning petition.

The Department of Planning does not oppose the proposed request. The requested relief is consistent with previously approved parking variance request (2012-0178-SPHA) for this location.

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

Prepared by:

Krystle Patchak

Division Chief:

enifer G. Nugen

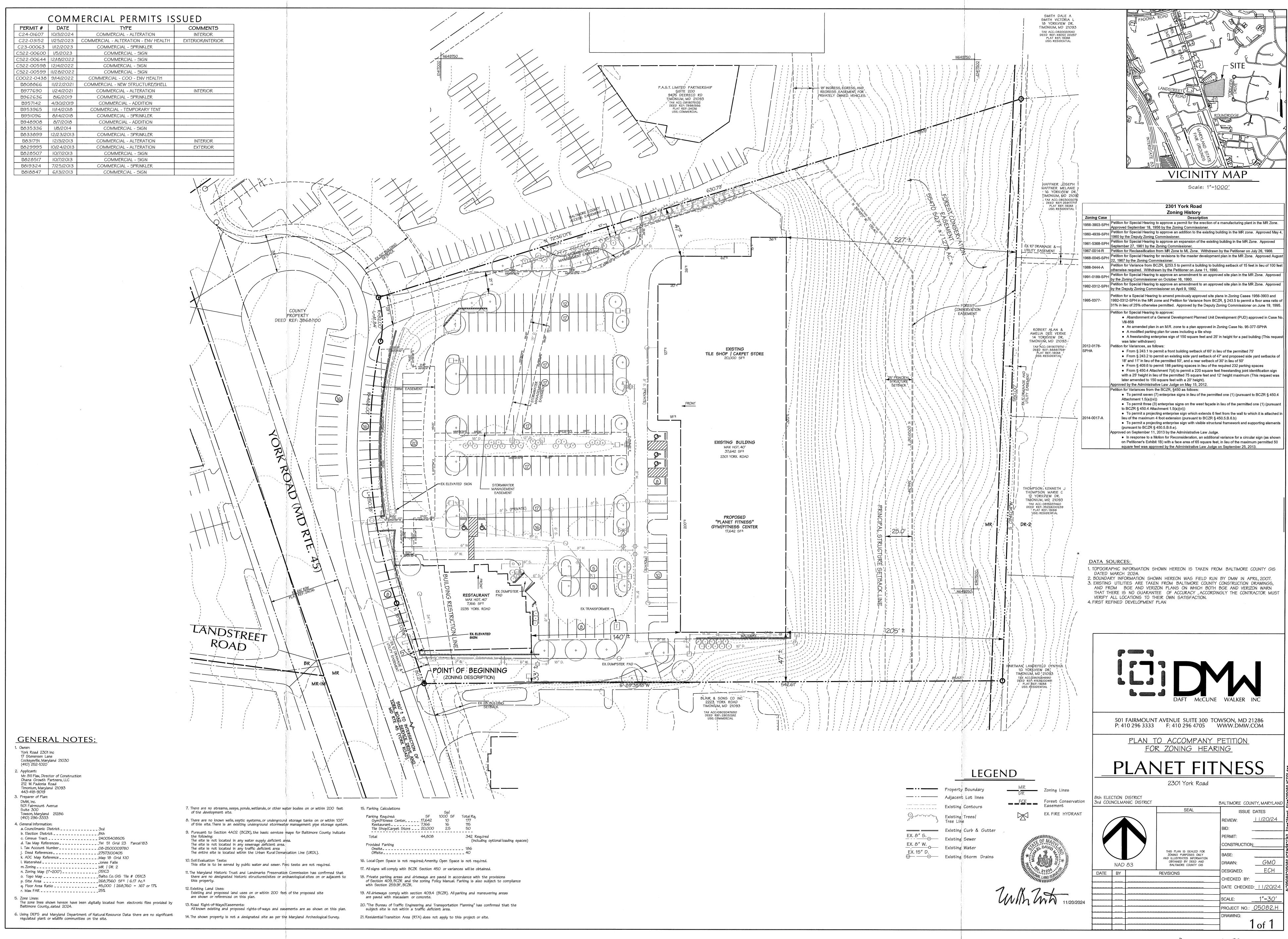
SL/JGN/KP

c: Dino C. La Fiandra, Esquire
 Joseph Wiley, Community Planner
 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

View Map	View GroundRent Redemption		View GroundRent Registration			
Special Tax Recapture						
Account Identifier:	District - 08 A	ccount Number	- 2500009780			
	Ow	ner Informat	ion			
Owner Name:	YORK ROAD	YORK ROAD 2301 INC		INDUSTRIAL ce: NO		
Mailing Address:		17 STENERSEN LANE COCKEYSVILLE MD 21030-		Deed Reference:		
	Location &	Location & Structure Information				
Premises Address:		2301 YORK RD LUTHERVILLE MD 21093-2215		: 6.170 AC 2301 YORK RD E GLOBAL VIEW		
DELOCATION OF THE PROPERTY OF	hborhood: Subdivision 00.04 9314	on: Section: Blo	ck: Lot: Assessment 4A 2023	Year: Plat No: Plat Ref: 79/3		
Town: None						
Primary Structure Buil 2013	tAbove Grade Living A 43,542 SF	AreaFinished Ba	sement AreaProperty	The second second		
StoriesBasementType	ExteriorQua	lityFull/Half Bath	Garage Last Notice	of Major Improvemen		
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	Val	ue Informati	on			
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		As of	As of	As of		
l and.	4 007 500	01/01/2023	07/01/2024	07/01/2025		
Land: Improvements	4,627,500	4,627,500				
Total:	4,287,000	3,872,500	2 500 000	0.500.000		
Preferential Land:	8,914,500 0	8,500,000 0	8,500,000	8,500,000		
	Tran	sfer Informa	tion			
Seller:						
Type:	Da De		Price:			
Seller:		Deed1:		Deed2:		
Type:		ed1:	Price: Deed2:			
Seller:	Da	Date:		Price:		
Type:	ACCOUNT.	ed1:	Deed2:			
	Exem	ption Inform				
Partial Exempt Assess		F-11011 1111011111	07/01/2024	07/01/2025		
County:	000		0.00	07/01/2025		
State:	000		0.00			
Municipal:	000		0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00		
Special Tax Recapture			-144	0.0010.00		
		Annlication	Information			
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	omeowners' Tax	10.10		on		
Homeowners' Tax Cre	dit Application Status:	No Application	Date:			

2024-0254-SPHA



2024-0254-8944

