CITY COUNCIL – ZONING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT COUNCIL VARIANCE

APPLICATION: CV24-118

Location: 155 HUGHES ST. (43203), being 0.09± acres located on the

west side of Hughes Street, $50\pm$ feet south of Hawthorne

Avenue (010-052098; Near East Area Commission).

Existing Zoning: R-2F, Residential District.

Proposed Use: One two-unit dwelling and one single-unit dwelling on one lot. **Applicant(s):** Joel R. Simmons; c/o Tim Lai, Agent; 401 West Town Street;

Columbus, OH 43215.

Owner(s): TluxHo LLC; 755 Boone Street; Columbus, OH 43203.

Planner: Brandon Carpenter; 614-645-1574; bmcarpenter@columbus.gov

BACKGROUND:

 The requested Council variance will allow for one two-unit dwelling and one single-unit dwelling on the same lot. Variances to required parking, lot area, fronting, maximum and minimum side yards, and rear yard have also been included in this request.

- A Council variance is required because the R-2F, Residential District allows a maximum of two dwelling units on one lot.
- West of the site are single-unit dwellings in the R-2F, Residential District. North, south, and east of the site are undeveloped parcels all in the R-2F, Residential District.
- The site is within the planning area of the Near East Area Plan (2005), which does not have a specified land use recommendation for this location, but does contain building design recommendations for infill developments.
- The site is located within the boundaries of the Near East Area Commission, whose recommendation is for disapproval.
- Staff concurs with the applicant's analysis of the seven practical difficulties in achieving this proposed development.

CITY DEPARTMENTS' RECOMMENDATION: Approval

The Near East Area Plan recommends that new housing construction be compatible with nearby existing homes based on design guidelines which include, but are not limited to height, massing/scale, porches, setbacks, and lot coverage. Additionally, the request is compatible with the existing multi-family development to the west of the site. Staff are supportive of the proposed development as it is consistent with the Plan's design guidelines, and will not introduce a new or incompatible use to the area.



AND ZONING SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF 8 ALDING

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STATEMENT OF HARDSHIP

Columbus City Code Section 3307.10 - Variances by City Council.

City council may grant the following zoning variances:

- A. Permit a variation in the yard, height or parking requirements of any district only in conjunction with a change in zoning or a use variance and only where there are unusual and practical difficulties in the carrying out of the zoning district provisions due to an irregular shape of lot, topography, or other conditions, providing such variance will not seriously affect any adjoining property or the general welfare.
- **B.** Permit a use of the property not permitted by the zoning district established on the property if such use will not adversely affect the surrounding property or surrounding neighborhood and if council is satisfied that the granting of such variance will alleviate some hardship or difficulty which warrants a variance from the comprehensive plan.

Before authorizing any variance from the Zoning Code in a specific case, city council shall first determine that such variance will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to the adjacent property, unreasonably increase the congestion of public streets, increase the danger of fires, endanger the public safety, unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area, or in any other respect impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals or welfare of the inhabitants of the city.

In granting a variance pursuant to this section, council may impose such requirements and conditions regarding the location, character, duration, and other features of the variance proposal as council deems necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Zoning Code and to otherwise safeguard the public safety and welfare.

The following factors shall be used in determining whether the applicant has encountered practical difficulties in the use of the property. Respond to the following statements:

 Whether the property in question will yield a reasonable return or whether there can be any beneficial use of the property without a variance. ☐ Yes ☒ No
•
property it has a significant impact on the return
2. Whether the variance is substantial. Yes No
3. Whether the essential character of the neighborhood would be substantially altered or whether adjoining properties would suffer a substantial detriment as a result of the variance. Yes No

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4. Whether the variance would adversely affect the delivery of governmental services (e.g., water, sewer, refuse service) Yes Yes
5. Whether the property owner purchased the property with knowledge of the zoning restriction. Yes \(\sum \text{No} \)
6. Whether the property owner's predicament feasibly can be obviated through some method other than a variance.
☐ Yes No
7. Whether the spirit and intent behind the zoning requirement would be observed and substantial justice done by granting the variance. Yes \square No
List all sections of Code to be varied and explain your reasoning as to why this request should be granted. NOTE: It is the applicant's responsibility to identify all variances required for the project. If any necessary variances are not included, a new application (and applicable fees) will be required.
I have read the foregoing and believe my application for relief from the requirements of the Zoning Code contains the necessary hardship, will not adversely affect surrounding property owners, and will comply with the variance(s) requested as detailed below (use separate page if needed or desired):
See Attached Statement
Signature of Applicant Date

Statement of Hardship for 155 Hughes Street

The site is located on the west side of Hughes Street and ±35 feet south of Hawthorne Avenue. The vacant parcel is zoned R-2F, Residential which permits a two-family dwelling. The street and nearby area is predominantly characterized by 2.5-story two-family and single-family dwellings. The Applicant proposes to build a two-family dwelling fronting Hughes Street and a rear detached single-family dwelling. Each dwelling is a ±500 square foot, one-story unit.

The Applicant has a hardship and practical difficulty in compliance with the referenced code sections. This proposal addresses a pressing need for small-scale, affordable dwellings in a way that is not provided for under the current Zoning Code, which envisions large units with multiple stories and several bedrooms. While the number of proposed dwellings is greater than typical, their relatively small size makes the overall development comparable with what is permitted under the current code. In aggregate, this proposal is for a total of three bedrooms in $\pm 1,500$ square feet on the lot. This is consistent with the range of density present in the area. The requested variances are not substantial, represent conditions similar to those of existing construction in the area, will not adversely affect the surrounding property, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood, and will not affect the delivery of government services. The variances requested are for reasonable use of the property in a way that is not only consistent with the spirit of the current zoning requirements but also embodies the future goals of *Zone In Columbus* to support sustainable growth through additional housing opportunities.

The Applicant requests the following variances:

3332.037 R-2F residential district

(A) An R-2F residential district allows for the construction of 1) one single-family dwelling or 2) one, two-family dwelling, not both.

A use variance is requested to allow a single-family dwelling and a two-family dwelling on the same lot.

3312.49 Required Parking

Residential Uses with 1, 2, or 3 dwelling units require 2 parking spaces per unit minimum.

A parking variance is requested to allow 2 parking spaces in lieu of the 6 required.

3332.14 R-2F area district requirements

An R-2F area district only allows a one-story, two-family dwelling on a lot of no less than 3,600 square feet per dwelling unit.

A variance is requested to allow a one-story two-family dwelling and a one-story single-family dwelling on the existing 3,780 square foot lot of record.

(continued)

3332.19 Fronting

Each dwelling is required to front upon a public street. The property fronts on an alley without any frontage to a street.

A variance is requested to allow the two-family dwelling and the single-family dwelling to front on Hughes Street, which is an alley less than 35ft wide.

3332.25 Maximum side yards required

R-2F maximum side yard requires the side yard shall equal 20 percent of the width of the lot.

A variance is requested to reduce the sum of the required side yards from 10.53 feet to 6.65 feet to allow a parking pad.

3332.26 Minimum side yard permitted

(C) An R-2F area district permits a minimum side yard of no less than five feet

A variance is requested to reduce the northern side yard from 5 feet to 2.65 feet to allow a parking pad & the southern side yard to 4 feet to maximize space for existing trees on the north side.

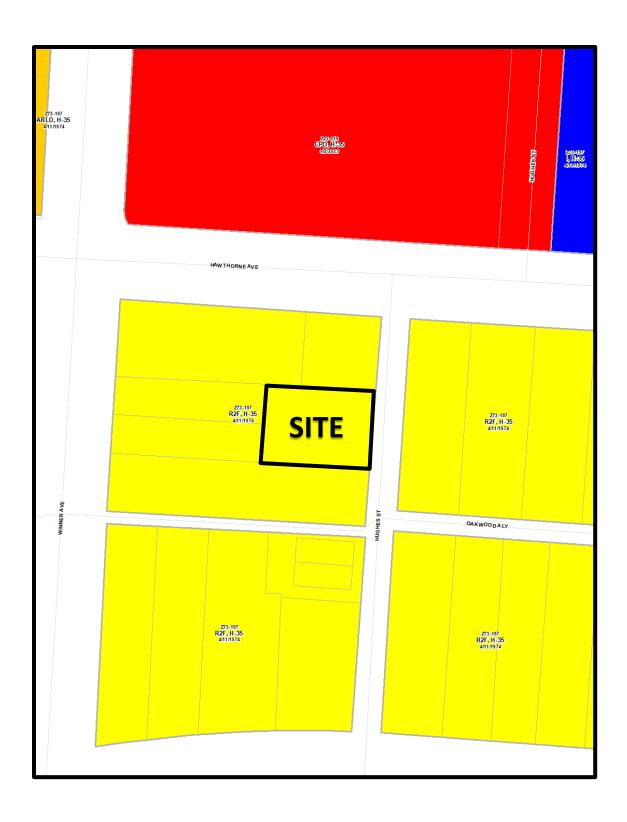
3332.27 Rear yard

Each dwelling must provide a rear yard of 25% of total lot area minimum. The two-family dwelling complies with a rear yard of 25%. The single-family dwelling does not have a rear yard.

A variance is requested to allow the single-family dwelling to be erected with a rear yard of 3.3% of the total lot area.

Tim Lai, Principal Tim Lai ArchitecT

November 24, 2024



CV24-118 155 Hughes St. Approximately 0.09 acres



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DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING AND ZONING SERVICES

Standardized Recommendation Form

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FOR USE BY: AREA COMMISSION / NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP (PLEASE PRINT)

Case Number	CV24-118		
Address	155 HUGHES STREET		
Group Name	NEAR EAST AREA COMMISSION		
Meeting Date	11/14/2024		
Specify Case Type	□ BZA Variance / Special Permit □ Council Variance □ Rezoning □ Graphics Variance / Plan / Special Permit		
Recommendation (Check only one)	Approval Disapproval		

LIST BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Concerns about emoryery access
specifically about rear ADU. To
If this were just two, this word nut
be an issue.

Vote

Signature of Authorized Representative

Recommending Group Title

Daytime Phone Number

Chair

403-2225

Please e-mail this form to the assigned planner within 48 hours of meeting day; OR MAIL to: Zoning, City of Columbus, Department of Building & Zoning Services, 111 N Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.



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PROJECT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT	APPLICATION #:

Parties having a 5% or more interest in the project that is the subject of this application.				
THIS PAGE MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY AND NOTARIZED. Do not indicate 'NONE' in the space provided.				
STATE OF OHIO COUNTY OF FRANKLIN Being first duly cautioned and sworn (NAME) of (COMPLETE ADDRESS) deposes and states that they are the APPLICANT, AGENT, OR DULY list of all persons, other partnerships, corporations or entities having application in the following format:				
For Example: Name	e of Business or individual			
Conta	act name and number			
	ness or individual's address; City, State, Zip Code			
Number of Columbus-based employees				
Joel R. Simmons 330~338-2900 755 Boone St Columbs ON 43703	2. 4.			
Check here if listing additional parties on a separate page. SIGNATURE OF AFFIANT				
Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 23 day of	of September, in the year 2024 Notary Seal Here			
SIGNATURE OF NOTARY PUBLIC This Project Disclosure Statement expires	My Commission Expires			

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