VARIANCE OR APPEAL APPLICATION



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL Planning Department

405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. phone (919) 969-5066 fax (919) 969-2014 www.townofchapelhill.org

Parcel Ide	ntifier Number ((PIN): 9788-41-9609			Date:	November 8, 2018						
Section A:	Section A: Project Information											
Project Na	me:	111 Purefoy Road Site Plan App	olication - P	urefoy Road Apartments								
Property A	ddress:	111 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill,	NC	Zi	p Code: 2	27514						
Existing Zo	ning District:	Residential - 4 (R-4) and Masor	n Farm/Whi	tehead Circle Neighborho	od Conserv	ation District						
Project De	scription:	Purefoy Road Apartments										
,	oor ip tion											
Section B:	Applicant, Ow	ner, and/or Contract Purchas	ser Inform	ation								
Appli	cant Informati	ion (to whom correspondence	will be m	ailed):								
Name:		:/o LeAnn Nease Brown, his attor		•								
Address:	Brown & Bund	ch, PLLC, 101 N. Columbia Street										
City:	Chapel Hill		State:	NC	Zip Code:	27514						
Phone:	(919) 968-111	1	Email:	Inease@brownandbund	ownandbunch.com							
		plicant hereby certifies that, t pplication is true and accurate		of their knowledge and	l belief, all	information						
	4.											
Signature:	hen	Lo, atterny	- Ken	grule	_ Date: _	November 8, 2018						
Owne	r/Contract Pu	rchaser Information:	•									
Δ.		-	_	V 300								
⊠ 0	wner	L	Contra	ct Purchaser								
Name:	Ken Gorfkle											
Address:	1436 Poinsett	Drive										
City:	Chapel Hill		State:	NC	Zip Code:	27717						
Phone:	(919) 942-146	7	Email:	kgorfkle@bellsouth.net								
71		le de la constant de										
		plicant hereby certifies that, to oplication is true and accurate		of their knowledge and	belief, all	information						
7 4	\) . ^	1 10.0 1 40 0	_	\ .								
Signature:	- Hen U	Jorkle by Li	L 1 6	lus	_ Date: _1	November 8, 2018						
		~ v '		D/MAN								



VARIANCE OR APPEAL APPLICATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL Planning Department

Variances and Appeals may be granted by the Board of Adjustment for dimensional regulations, water and sewer regulations, steep slope regulations, house size limitations, Resource Conservation District regulations, Jordan Buffer regulations, and Watershed Protection District regulations. The following must accompany your application. Failure to do so will result in your application being considered incomplete.

X	Application fee (refer to fee schedule)	Amount Paid \$	600.00
X	Digital Files – provide digital files of all plans and documents	,	
X	Mailing list of owners of property within 1,000 foot perimeter of subject property (see G	IS notification too	<u>ol</u>)
X	Mailing fee for above mailing list	Amount Paid \$	52.80
V	Written Narrative describing the proposal		
X S	Statement of Justification – see below for additional information		
X	Recorded Plat or Deed of Property		
S	Stream Determination – necessary for all submittals		
J.	lurisdictional Wetland Determination – if applicable		
X	Reduced Site Plan Set (reduced to 8.5" x 11")		
Parties and			
Type of Va	ariance or Appeal (Choose one of the following):		
D	Dimensional Variance	.e	
Stater	ment of Justification: Respond to parts 1-7 of Subsection 4.12.2(a) of the Land Use Manag	ement Ordinance	
□н	louse Size Variance		
Stater	ment of Justification: Respond to parts 1-7 of Subsection 4.12.2(b) of the Land Use Manag	ement Ordinance	
R	esource Conservation District Variance		
Stater	ment of Justification: Respond to parts A-I of Subsection 3.6.3(j)(4) of the Land Use Manag	ement Ordinance	
☐ Jo	ordan Watershed Riparian Buffer Variance		
Stater	ment of Justification: Respond to parts A-C of Subsection 5.18.8(d)(1) of the Land Use Man	agement Ordinar	nce.
□ w	Vatershed Protection District Variance		
Stater	ment of Justification: Respond to parts 1-4 of Subsection 3.6.4(h)(2) of the Land Use Mana	gement Ordinanc	e.
⊠ A _l	ppeal		
	ling: Explain to the Board how the applicant is an aggrieved party (NC General Statute Sec. ment of Justification: Provide justification for decision that is being appealed.	160A-388(b1)(1)	



VARIANCE OR APPEAL APPLICATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL **Planning Department**

Plan Sets (2 copies to be submitted no larger than 24" x 36")

Plans should be legible and clearly drawn. All plan set sheets should include the following: **Project Name** Legend

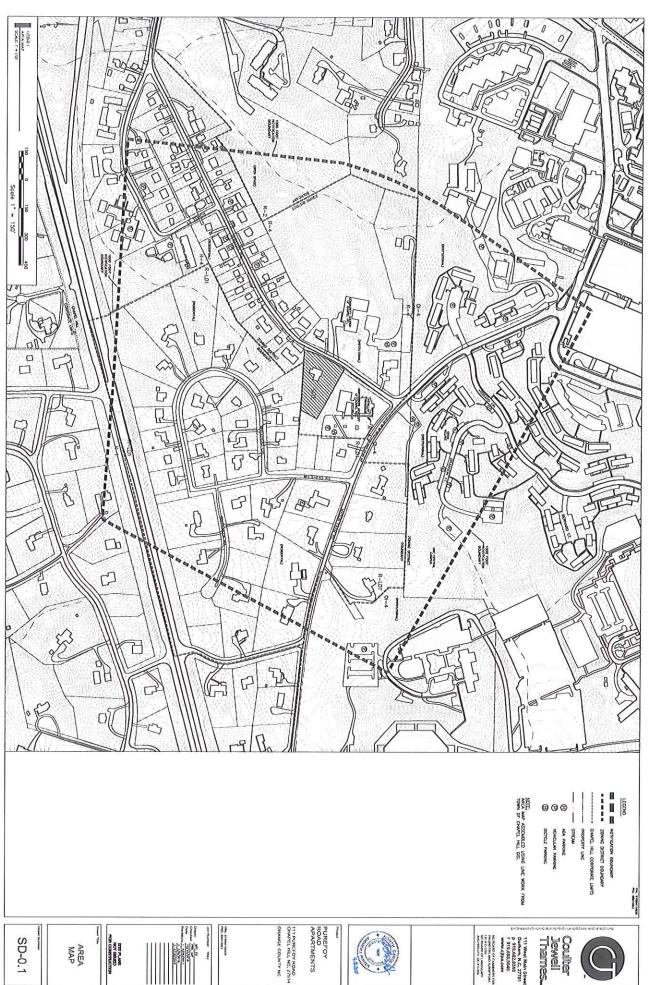
- Labels

- North Arrow (North oriented toward top of page)
- Property Boundaries with bearing and distances
- Scale (Engineering), denoted graphically and numerically
- Setbacks
- Streams, RCD Boundary, Jordan Riparian Buffer Boundary, Floodplain, and Wetlands Boundary, where applicable

Area Map a) Overlay Districts b) 1,000 foot notification boundary **Detailed Site Plan**

9788501812 CERWIN ROBERT A JR 9788502825 CANADY JOSEPH R		9788419561 MOODY RICHARD J	9788418347 BARTRAM JAMES KNIVETON	9788417593 NEAR CAMPUS HOUSING INC	9788417416 STANCILL ROBERT	9788416603 TEFFERA GIZAW	9788416430 SCHOPLER FAMILY LLC	9788416252 MACIEJEWSKI MATTHEW L	9788416018 VAN DONGEN ANTONIUS M	9788415547 INGOMAR PROPERTIES LLC	9788415333 MINCEY GREGORY	9788414237 CLARK ROBERT B TRUSTEE	9788413881 COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHAPEL HILL	9788413487 MILLS STEPHEN D	9788413434 GIBSON LORENE M HRS	9788413252 KILLEEN INVESTMENTS LLC	9788412461 VAN WERT SALLY L	9788411397 MCLAMB IAN J	9788411324 MILLS NATHANIAL	9788411111 SPALTENSTEIN ANDREW	9788410350 WHITTIER MARY E	9788410004 MILLS NATHANIEL L	9788409880 HARRIS MASON	9788408810 NORTHEN JOHN A	9788406982 ROSS JASON L	9788402618 CIG CHAPEL HILL LLC	9788400970 MAMO JOSEPH E III	9788400828 RUMFELT JAMES M	9788327054 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	9788319276 NANCE RENTALS LLC	9788319042 BAUCOM CAROLYN	9788318281 PARK NANCY
321 BURLAGE CIR 424 WHITEHEAD CIR	111 PROVIDENCE RD	406 WHITEHEAD CIR	410 WHITEHEAD CIR	5429 THAYER DR	4208 CITY OF OAKS WYND	4310 PEACHWAY DR	8220 MORROW HILL RD	412 WHITEHEAD CIR	319 PROVIDENCE RD	303 LINDSAY ST	50 CHERRY HILL DR	537 MARINE AVE	106 PUREFOY RD	PO BOX 520	P O BOX 170437	PO BOX 159	124 PUREFOY RD	126 PUREFOY RD	PO BOX 676	4105 BREWSTER DR	PO BOX 3362	602 DAVIE RD	420 WHITEHEAD CR	PO BOX 2208	416 WHITEHEAD CIR	150 BOUSH ST #505	1617 MARSH HARBOR LN	P O BOX 520	103 AIRPORT DR STE 128	PO BOX 2836	P O BOX 2836	500 YORKTOWN DRIVE
CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	RALEIGH	RALEIGH	DURHAM	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CARRBORO	PINEHURST	MANHATTAN BEACH	CHAPEL HILL	SNOW CAMP	ATLANTA	Carrboro	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CARRBORO	RALEIGH	CHAPEL HILL	CARRBORO	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	NORFOLK	MOUNT PLEASANT	SNOW CAMP	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL
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9788543697 UNIVERSITY OF N C 9788610320 WHITE MICHAEL E 9788611541 FELDMAN MARYANN P	9788518350 FARMER THOMAS W JR 9788524027 STEELE DIANA W	9788518063 NACH JAMES P	9788517302 KIRKPATRICK JAMES	9788516682 WEATHINGTON JOHN C	9788516043 MADDOX PAUL S	9788515638 PAYNE BRIAN K	9788515423 BAREFOOT BARTLEY L	9788515246 MCILWAIN DAVID LEE	9788513971 JOFFE ZALMAN	9788513860 VARANASI RAVIKANT V	9788513751 BLANCHARD LUCIUS TRUSTEE	9788513521 BURRIS MICHELE K	9788513340 ALEXANDER HERBERT MARION	9788513193 BABCOX ELIZABETH SCOTT	9788512229 SZOSTAK PROPERTIES LLC	9788512161 CONGER RICHARD B	9788511592 BRYANT JEFF D	9788511218 HARRAWOOD BRIAN P	9788511102 FAMA ROBERT D	9788511048 KANG ALFRED A	9788510886 CHAPEL HILL KEHILLAH	9788510592 GAYEK PETER W	9788510233 MILEWSKI BROTHERS LLC	9788510224 MCKENNA KATIE E	9788505912 PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF N C INC	9788504940 WEINERT MYCHAL	9788503827 ALLEN JOHN RICHARD
PROPERTY OFFICE UNC 413 GOOSENECK RD 1306 MASON FARM RD	1223 LANE DRIVE 1207 MASON FARM RD	7404 VENICE STREET	6 GOOSENECK RD	1302 MASON FARM RD	2 GOOSENECK RD	1300 MASON FARM RD	503 WHITEHEAD RD	8 GOOSENECK RD	1007 JOHN JONES RD	350 WHITEHEAD RD	2023 SHADOWBROOK WAY	400 WHITEHEAD CIR	401 WHITEHEAD CR	2686 WICKLOW RD	1013 TUSCANY DR	421 WHITEHEAD CIR	402 WHITEHEAD CIR	405 WHITEHEAD CIR	21 ABERNATHY DR	419 WHITEHEAD CIR	1200 MASON FARM RD	404 WHITEHEAD CR	126 JAMES CREEK RD	407 WHITEHEAD CIR	PO BOX 1398	428 WHITEHEAD CIR	426 WHITEHEAD CIR
CHAPEL HILL CHAPEL HILL	CARY CHAPEL HILL	FALLS CHURCH	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	Chapel Hill	CHAPEL HILL	BAHAMA	CHAPEL HILL	HENDERSON	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	SHAKER HEIGHTS	HILLSBOROUGH	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	Chapel Hill	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL	SOUTHERN PINES	CHAPEL HILL	GASTONIA	CHAPEL HILL	CHAPEL HILL
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SD-0.1

AREA MAP



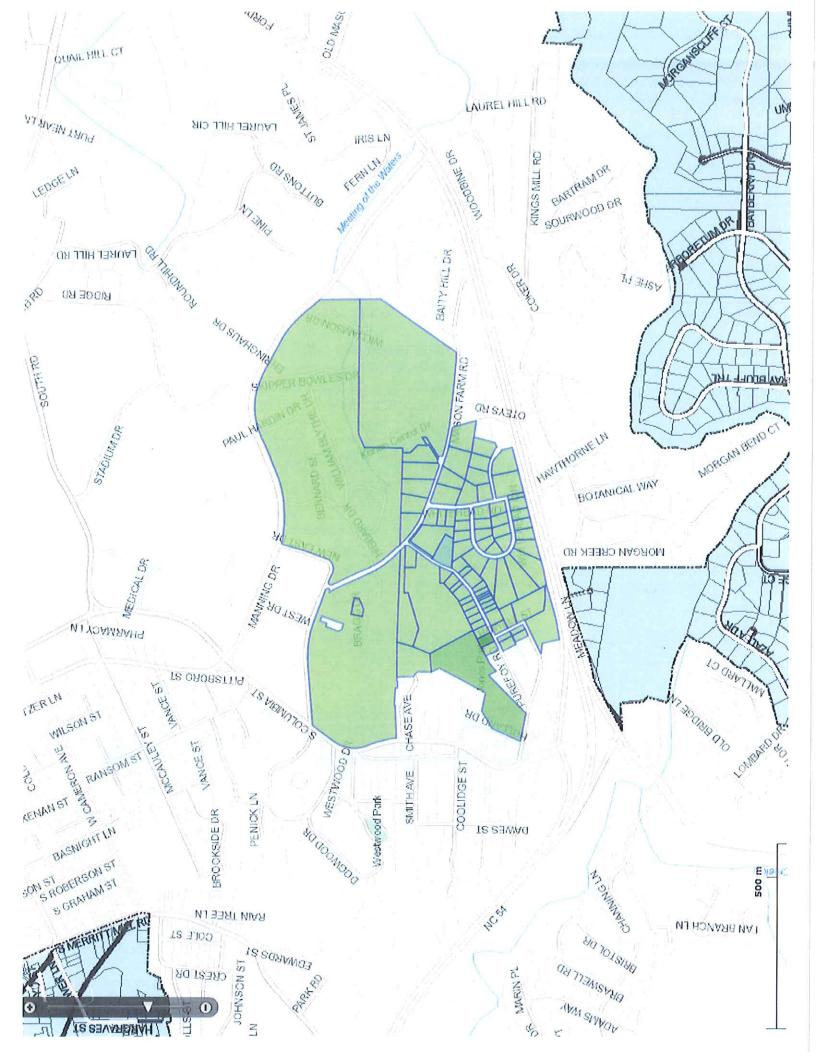












STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION

Under N.C.G.S. §160A-388, §160A-393 and Land Use Management Ordinance of the Town of Chapel Hill ("LUMO"), generally, and §§4.7, 4.10 and 4.12, property owner, Ken Gorfkle ("Appellant"), appeals the Town of Chapel Hill Planning Commission's ("Commission") October 16, 2018 denial of an Application for Site Plan Review for 111 Purefoy Road to the Board of Adjustment of the Town of Chapel Hill. The written notice of the decision was provided by letter dated October 24, 2018 to Andrew Porter of Coulter, Jewell, Thames, P.A. A copy of the letter and the Commission's written decision is attached as Exhibit A. This appeal is made within the latter of 30 days of filing the decision being appealed or the delivery of the required written notice of the decision to the property owner.

The Appellant is represented in this appeal by LeAnn Nease Brown, Brown & Bunch, PLLC, 101 N. Columbia Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, Telephone: (919) 968-1111, Email: lnease@brownandbunch.com.

Decision Being Appealed.

The decision being appealed is the October 16, 2018 denial by the Commission of Appellant and Andrew Porter of Coulter, Jewell, Thames, P.A.'s Application for Site Plan Review for the Purefoy Road Apartments.

Standing.

Appellant is the owner of the property at 111 Purefoy Road. <u>See</u>, Deed recorded at Book 6152, Page 52, Orange County Registry attached as Exhibit B. As owner of the property, Appellant has standing to appeal the decision of the Commission to the Board of Adjustment. <u>See</u>, N.C.G.S. \$160A-388(b1(1) and \$393(d)(1)a and LUMO Section 4.10.1.

Background.

111 Purefoy Road is an approximately 1.3 acre site zoned R-4, medium density residential. The property is located in the Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle Neighborhood Conservation District (CD-5). property is currently improved with a one-story, 2,470 square foot structure. Applicant filed a Site Plan Review Application for the Purefoy Road Apartment Project on February 9, 2018. The Application proposed constructing two multi-family structures on the property; Building 1 to the south proposed as three dwelling units, totaling 4,512 gross square feet and including 12 bedrooms and Building 2 to the north proposed to be four dwelling units, totaling 6,016 gross square feet and including 16 bedrooms. The overall proposed building area is 10,528 gross square feet consisting of seven dwelling units, containing 28 total bedrooms.

Town Staff received the Application, reviewed it and recommended the Commission adopt Resolution A approving the Site Plan Review

Application with noted stipulations. Town Staff noted that the proposed Application, with the proposed conditions met all regulations and standards in LUMO and in the Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle Neighborhood Conservation District ("NCD"). Evaluation of compliance with the NCD is based on compliance with the procedural and dimensional requirements of LUMO and the standards in the NCD. Staff provided to the Commission a project summary which contained a checklist of the regulations and standards which the Application must comply and noted compliance with each.

On September 26, 2018, the Commission discussed the Site Plan Review Application and sought additional information regarding the interaction between the NCD and underlying zoning district. Continued review was referred to its October 16, 2018 meeting.

On October 12, 2018, Town Attorney, Ralph D. Karpinos, provided a memorandum to Michael Sudol, Planner II, Planning and Development Services, responding to questions raised by the Commission. A copy is attached as Exhibit C. The letter addressed the Commission's question as to whether the NCD was intended to prevent the type of development proposed. The Commission also asked whether the Site Plan Review could be denied based on the "intent" of the NCD even if the Application met the letter of the Ordinance. The Town Attorney provided a detailed analysis of the standards and noted, "Thus, the clear intent of the ordinance is to set out the special standards for the NCD and, as set out in those special standards, to state that, otherwise, the underlying zoning standards (in this case the underlying density standards of R-4 zoning) apply." Exhibit C, p. 5. The Town Attorney further opined, "Accordingly, it is my opinion that the question posed is based on a premise (that the application violates the intent of the NCD Ordinance) that is not supported by a review of the ordinance itself." Exhibit C, p. 6.

Despite Town Staff's analysis of the Application's compliance with LUMO and despite the Town Attorney's analysis regarding the NCD, the Commission denied the Application for Site Plan Review at its October 16, 2018 meeting. Its denial was based on three findings: that the definition of "dwelling units" in LUMO is "ambiguous," that the Commission has authority to exercise discretion to interpret the intent of the NCD, and that the Town erred in removing a bedroom to common area ratio provision from the NCD due "to a misinterpretation of Senate Bill 25."

Appellant timely appealed to the Board of Adjustment.

The Commission is established in Section 8.2 of LUMO and is empowered to "review site plans with land development regulations in accordance with Section 4.7," LUMO Section 8.2.4(n). Section 4.7.2(b)(2) of LUMO requires the Commission's decisions on site plan application approval "be based solely on findings as to compliance" with LUMO.

Errors.

- The Commission erred by basing its decision on errors of law, including its flawed interpretation of LUMO.
- 2. The Commission erred by acting outside the scope of the powers granted to it by LUMO.
- 3. The Commission erred in attempting to usurp the legislative powers of the Chapel Hill Town Council to adopt LUMO provisions.
- 4. The decision of the Commission was arbitrary and capricious.
- 5. The Commission denied Appellant due process of law by making a discretionary decision in an administrative, non-quasi-judicial process.

Reservation of Rights to Raise Additional Issues.

Under N.C.G.S. §160A-388(b)(8), Appellant is not limited at the hearing of this appeal to matters stated in this notice. Appellant reserves all rights to raise additional issues at the hearing.

Prayer for Relief.

Appellant respectfully requests the Board of Adjustment review the decision of the Commission, reverse and vacate the decision, and remand this matter to the Commission with instructions it grant Appellant's Application for Site Plan Review Approval.

13583\01\m\003Statement of Justification



TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL Planning & Development Services 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Chapel Hill, NC 27514-5705

> phone (919) 969-5066 www.townofchapelhill.org

October 24, 2018

Andrew Porter, Coulter Jewell Thames, PA 111 West Main Street Durham, NC 27701

Subject:

111 Purefoy Road (Purefoy Road Apartments) - Denial of Site Plan Review Application

(Orange County PIN: 9788-41-9609; Reference #16-106)

Dear Mr. Porter:

On October 16, 2018, the Chapel Hill Planning Commission denied the application for a Site Plan Review to create a multi-family development at 111 Purefoy Road that you filed on behalf of Ken Gorfkle. The vote for denial was 7-2; Resolution B denying the Site Plan review application and a copy of the Commission's action in this matter are both attached.

You have the right to appeal this decision. Pursuant to Section 4.6.4.2(e) of the Town's Land Use Management Ordinance ("LUMO"), the decision may be appealed to the Board of Adjustment in accordance with the provisions of Section 4.10 of the LUMO. Section 4.10.1(b) of the LUMO states that an application for appeal shall be filed with the Town Clerk, within thirty (30) days of the filing of the decision being appealed or the delivery of any required written notice of the decision, whichever is later.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 919-969-5068 or via email msudol@townofchapelhill.org.

Sincerely,

Michael Sudol Planner II

Enclosure

Planning Commission Action

10/16/18



PLANNING COMMISSION

The charge of the Planning Commission is to assist the Council in achieving the Town's Comprehensive Plan for orderly growth and development by analyzing, evaluating, and recommending responsible town policies, ordinances, and planning standards that manage land use and involving the community in long-range planning.

ACTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

October 16, 2018

Action: The Planning Commission <u>denied</u> a Site Plan Review application to allow the construction of a multi-family development at 111 Purefoy Road.

Motion: Commissioner Bench moved and Commissioner Roberts seconded to approve Resolution B, denying the Site Plan Review application.

Vote:

7-2

Ayes:

Neal Bench, Michael Everhart, Melissa McCullough, Kathy

Roberts, Amy Ryan, Buffie Webber, and Stephen Whitlow

Nays:

Chair John Rees, Whit Rummel

Prepared by:

Michael Sudol, Planning and Development Services Staff

(Denying Application)

A RESOLUTION DENYING AN APPLICATION FOR A SITE PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION FOR 111 PUREFOY ROAD (File No. 16-106)

BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission of the Town of Chapel Hill that it finds that the 111 Purefoy Road Site Plan Application, proposed by Andrew Porter of Coulter Jewell Thames, PA on the property identified as Orange County Property Identification Number 9788-41-9609, if developed according to the plans dated October 10, 2016 and last revised April 18, 2018, and the conditions listed, would not comply with the provisions of the Land Use Management Ordinance:

These findings are based on the following:

- The definition of "dwelling units" in the Town of Chapel Hill's Land Use Management Ordinance is ambiguous, and can be interpreted to include a combination of dwelling units on a single lot as it pertains to multi-family residential. The Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle Neighborhood Conservation District increases the setbacks for dwelling units that exceed 6,500 square feet to 50 feet at the interior lot line and 100 feet at the street, which this application would not meet using the aforementioned interpretation of the ordinance.
- Since ambiguity exists in the legality of the application, the Planning Commission must exercise discretion to interpret the intent of the Neighborhood Conservation District. The Planning Commission finds that the intent of the ordinance is to prevent multi-family dwelling units and large development projects, so as to protect the character of the neighborhood.
- The Planning Commission also finds that the Bedroom-to-Common Area Ratio provision of the Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle Neighborhood Conservation District was removed in error by the Town, due to a misinterpretation of Senate Bill 25. Application of this provision would limit the scale of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Planning Commission hereby denies the application for the 111 Purefoy Road Site Plan.

This the 16th day of October, 2018.

13 M

29160707600145220 173

BML

20160707000140220 DEED Bk:RB6152 Pg:52 07/07/2016 03:36:32 PM 1/3

FILED Mark Chilton Register of Deeds, Orange Co,NC Recording Fee: \$26.00 NC Real Estate IX: \$860.00

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL WARRANTY DEED

Excise Tax: \$860.00

Parcel Identifier: 9788419609

Mail/Box to: Grantee at address below

This instrument was prepared by: Richard Bircher, Attorney at Law, 200 N. Greensboro St., Ste D-2, Carrboro, NC 27510

Brief description for the Index: 111 Purefoy Road

THIS DEED made July 5, 2016

GRANTOR

GRANTEE

UNC PROPERTIES 7, L.L.C., a North Carolina Limited Liability Company

KENNETH M. GORFKLE

1611 Ferncliff Road Charlotte, NC 28211 1436 Poinsett Dr. Chapel Hill, NC 27517

The designation Grantor and Grantee as used herein shall include said parties, their heirs, successors and assigns, and shall include singular, plural, masculine, feminine or neuter as required by context.

WITNESSETH, that the Grantor, for a valuable consideration paid to them by the Grantee, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the Grantee in fee simple, all of that certain lot or parcel of land situated in Orange County, North Carolina and more particularly described as follows:

AS DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A, ATTACHED HERETO AND INCORPORATED HEREIN.

Property address is 111 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Said property does _____ does not __x__ include the primary residence of at least one of Grantors.

The property hereinabove described was acquired by Grantor by instruments recorded in Book 5988, Page 168.

A map showing the above described property is recorded in Plat Book 3 Page 40



TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid lot or parcel of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the Grantee in fee simple; And the Grantor covenants that the Grantor is seized of the premises in fee simple, has the right to convey the same in fee simple, that title is marketable and free and clear of all encumbrances, and that Grantor will warrant and defend the title against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever, other than the following exceptions: Real Property Taxes for 2016 and subsequent years, and all easements, rights-of-way and restrictive covenants of record.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has duly executed the foregoing as of the day and year first above written. UNC PROPERTIES 7, L.L.C., A NC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (SEAL) BY: Greg White, Member/Manager USE BLACK INK ONLY (SEAL) Х (SEAL) (SEAL) STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, COUNTY OF USE BLACK INK ONLY I, the undersigned Notary Public, hereby certify the appeared before be on this date and acknowledged the execution of the force only instrument for the purpose stated therein and in the capacity indicated. a day of x This x Notary Public Cow HR LX My Commission Expires: x State of North Carolina, County of I, the undersigned Notary Public of the County and State aforesaid, certify that the following person(s) personally appeared before me on this date and acknowledged that he/she executed the foregoing instrument for the purpose stated therein and in the capacity indicated; GREG WHITE (SEAL) Notary Public My Commission Expires:



EXHIBIT A

Beginning at an iron found in the eastern right of way line of Purefoy Road, said iron being located South 32 degrees 44'37" West 342.87 feet from the intersection of the centerlines of Purefoy Road and Mason Farm Road, said beginning point being at the northwest corner of the property herein conveyed and the southwest corner of the "Church Lot" as shown on Plat Book 47, Page 46. Orange County Registry, to which plat reference is hereby made for said Beginning Point; and running thence along and with the southern line of the aforesaid "Church Lot" South 59 degrees 57'00" East 318.33 feet to an iron found; thence South 29 degrees 41'27" West 100.98 feet to an iron found; thence North 85 degrees 42'43" West 324.14 feet to an iron found; thence North 00 decrees 33'45" East 63.53 feet to a calculated corner on the eastern right of way line of Purefoy Road; thence along the arc of a clockwise circle with a radius of 753.00 feet a distance of 133.74 feet to a calculated corner; thence North 34 degrees 59'10" East 53.20 feet to an iron found at the point and place of beginning, all as shown on survey entitled "Property of James R. Cherney," by Freehold Land Surveys, dated March 26, 1997, to which survey reference is hereby made, and being all of Lot 11, Mason Farm Road Development as shown on Plat Book 3, Page 40, and as conveyed in Deed Book 133, Page 203, Orange County Registry, SAVE AND EXCEPT that land conveyed in Deed Book 209, Page 727, Orange County Registry and that land shown as Lot B on Plat Book 47, Page 46, Orange County Registry and containing 1.30 acres, more or less; subject to the following exceptions:

(1) Restrictive and Protective Covenants of record.

(2) Right-of-Way in favor of the NC Department of Transportation, if any.

(3) Any easements which may now exist in favor of any Public Utility Company.

(4) City and County zoning ordinances.

(5)Ad valorem taxes for the year 2007 not yet due and payable.

(6) Any other matters as shown on said plats.

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Michael Sudol, Planning and Development Services

FROM:

Raiph D. Karpinos, Town Attorney

SUBJECT:

Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle Neighborhood Conservation District

DATE:

October 12, 2018

As a follow-up to the meeting of the Planning Commission on September 26, 2018, and, based on the Commission's discussion of a Site Plan Application for 111 Purefoy Road, you forwarded to me the following question:

The NCD appears to be intended to prevent this type of development, and the parcel in question was intentionally included within the NCD. As such, can the application be denied based on the fact that it violates the "intent" of the NCD, even if it meets the letter of the ordinance? (The "intent" of the NCD is to prevent multi-family development.)

Background

State Law

North Carolina General Statute Section 160A-382(a) authorizes the Town to establish zoning districts to

regulate and restrict the erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair or use of buildings, structures, or land. Such districts may include, but shall not be limited to, general use districts, in which a variety of uses are permissible in accordance with general standards; overlay districts, in which additional requirements are imposed on certain properties within one or more underlying general or special use districts;

(Emphasis added.)

Land owned by the State is not subject to any overlay zoning district (other than a historic district) without the consent of the State. (N.C.G.S. 160A-392; 160A-400.9)

Town Overlay District

The Town of Chapel Hill has five types of overlay zoning districts set out in Section 3.6 of the Town's Land Use Management Ordinance, including 3.6.5 Neighborhood Conservation District. Under 3.6.5, separate ordinances are required to designate each neighborhood conservation district (NCD).

Under LUMO Sec. 3.6.5 (b)(1):

Neighborhood conservation districts are designed as overlays to the regular zoning districts. Property designated within these districts must also be designated as being within one (1) of the general use districts. Authorized uses must be permitted in both the general use district and the overlay district. Property designated as a

neighborhood conservation district may have additional designations. Such property shall comply with all applicable use restrictions.

Under LUMO Sec. 3.6.5(b)(2)(c):

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of a specific neighborhood conservation district ordinance and the general use district regulations, the provisions of the neighborhood conservation district ordinance shall control.

Section 3.6.5 (e) sets out types of standards which may be included as part of a NCD plan.

- (e) Zoning standard.
 - (1) The conservation plan approved as part of the zoning ordinance creating a neighborhood conservation district may include zoning standards for new construction or placement of any building, structure, foundation, sign, public art or outdoor apparatus or equipment (including visible utility boxes or mechanical equipment; trucks; lawn or landscaping equipment, but not including lawnmowers or hand tools; playground equipment; or sports equipment), and any additions, alterations, relocation of existing buildings, structures, foundations, sign, public art, or outdoor apparatus or equipment.
 - (2) The conservation plan, and requisite design standards shall not apply to those activities which constitute ordinary repair and maintenance, i.e., using the same material and design.
 - (3) In addition, the zoning standards may include the following elements governing the features of all property (public or private) within the proposed district:
 - A. Building orientation;
 - B. General site planning (primary, ancillary structures);
 - C. Density;
 - D. Floor area ratio;
 - E. Signage;
 - F. Buffering and screening;
 - G. Entrance lighting;
 - H. Driveways and sidewalks;
 - I. Satellite dishes, utility boxes;
 - J. Street furniture;
 - K. Public art;
 - L. Demolition (see subsection (f).

The Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle NCD

The adopted NCD plan for the Mason Farm Whitehead Circle Neighborhood Conservation District is included in the LUMO as Division 5 of Appendix B and includes a map of the properties included within the overlay district.

Most of the district carries an underlying zoning of R-LD1, a zoning district for low density residential development.

Two parcels are zoned R-4, which permits higher density residential development. One of these is presently used as a place of worship. The second parcel is the subject of the current application before the Planning Commission and has a single family residence and accessory apartment.

Special Design Standards for Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle NCD

Section 5.3 of Division 5 establishes the special design standards for all development within the Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle NCD. These standards

replace/supersede general provisions in the land use management ordinance where such standards differ. For standards that are not specifically identified in this plan, provisions of the underlying zoning district for a particular parcel shall apply." *Id.*

The special design standards are included in a box insert in Sec. 5.3 as follows:

Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle Neighborhood Conservation District Plan

Regulation	Standard for Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle*
Minimum lot size	1 acre
Minimum street setback	50 feet
Minimum interior setbacks	25 feet
Minimum setbacks for dwelling units 6,500 square feet or larger	Street and interior setbacks are doubled: Street Setback: 100 feet Interior Setback: 50 feet
Maximum floor area ratio for single-family dwelling (or single-family dwelling with accessory apartment)	.15
Maximum secondary building height	30 feet
Maximum percent of front yard used for parking	25%

Regulation	Standard for Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle*
Single-family zoning compliance permit notification	Property owners within 100 feet must be notified through the town if an increase in floor area is proposed or if garages are proposed.
Application of overlay district	The provisions of this Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle neighborhood conservation district are to apply to the residential use of property and accordingly shall not apply to property whose principle use is a place of worship, a child day care facility, an elementary or secondary school, or a public cultural facility.

The asterisk in the first line of the table refers to a footnote which reads as follows:

*For the Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle neighborhood conservation district, these standards replace/supersede general, otherwise applicable provisions in the land use management ordinance where such standards applicable to the property differ. For standards that are not specifically identified in this plan, provisions of the underlying zoning district for a particular parcel shall apply.

(Emphasis added)

Proposed Development

The application proposes demolition of an existing single family residence with an accessory apartment and construction of two multi-family buildings, for a total of 7 dwelling units. One of the buildings is proposed to hold 3 dwelling units and total 4,512 square feet. The other building is proposed to hold 4 dwelling units and a total of 6,016 square feet.

Analysis

Proposal Complies with the Standards of the Ordinance

In this case, the design standards adopted for the Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle NCD set out regulations which establish the design standards which would otherwise apply to the property within the NCD with respect to:

Minimum Lot Size

Minimum Street Setback

Minimum Interior Setback

Minimum Setbacks for dwelling units 6,500 feet or larger

Maximum floor area for single family dwellings

Maximum Secondary Building Height

Maximum Percent of Front yard used for parking

There are no special design standards set out in this NCD which prohibit the use of this R-4 property within the district for multi-family dwelling purposes. Thus, the proposed use of the property as included within the current application meets the letter of the ordinance.

Proposal complies with the Intent of the Ordinance

In determining the intent and meaning of any ordinance or regulation, the first task is to consider the plain language contained therein.

In Lanvale Properties, LLC v. County of Cabarrus, 366 N.C. 142, 731 S.E.2d 800 (2012), the North Carolina Supreme Court held:

... 'Statutory interpretation properly begins with an examination of the plain words of the statute.' ... 'If the language of the statute is clear and is not ambiguous, we must conclude that the legislature intended the statute to be implemented according to the plain meaning of its terms.' ... Thus, "'[w]hen the language of a statute is clear and unambiguous, there is no room for judicial construction, and the courts must give it its plain and definite meaning.' "Therefore, "a statute clear on its face must be enforced as written.

Lanvale (Internal citations omitted)

Only where is there is some ambiguity do our Courts advise that one can look behind the words of the statute to determine legislative intent. "The primary rule of statutory construction is that the intent of the legislature controls the interpretation of a statute. In seeking to discover this intent, the court should consider the language of the statute, the spirit of the act, and what the act seeks to accomplish." Stevenson v. City of Durham, 281 N.C. 300, 188 S.E.2d 281 (1972) (citations omitted). "The best indicia of that intent are the language of the statute or ordinance, the spirit of the act and what the act seeks to accomplish." Coastal Ready-Mix Concrete Co., Inc. v. Board of Com'rs of Town of Nags Head, 299 N.C. 620, 265 S.E.2d 379 (1980) (citations omitted). However, as the Court held in Lanvale, "'[w]hen the language of a statute is clear and unambiguous, there is no room for judicial construction, and the courts must give it its plain and definite meaning.'" Id.

As noted above, the ordinance itself, after listing the special design standards applicable within the Mason Farm/Whitehead Circle NCD, specifically says:

For standards that are not specifically identified in this plan, provisions of the underlying zoning district for a particular parcel shall apply.

Thus, the clear intent of the ordinance is to set out the special standards for the NCD and, as set out in those special standards, to state that, otherwise, the underlying zoning standards (in this case the underlying density standards of R-4 zoning) apply. This view is further supported by a review of other Neighborhood Conservation Districts in the LUMO. In other NCDs, specific design standards are set out restricting duplexes. See the Northside NCD, the Pine Knolls NCD, the Glen Lennox 8A NCD and the Glen Lennox 8B NCD.

Accordingly, it is my opinion that the question posed is based on a premise (that the application violates the intent of the NCD ordinance) that is not supported by a review of the ordinance itself. I believe the intent of the ordinance is to set out some specific special standards and to affirm that the underlying zoning standards continue to apply. This includes, in this case, an underlying zoning standard allowing multi-family dwellings on this R-4 lot.

I do not find any language in the ordinance indicating an intent to prevent multi-family development.