

<b>IN RE: PETITION FOR ADMIN. VARIANCE</b>	*	BEFORE THE
SW side of Catherine Avenue; 71 feet		
SE of the c/l of Celeste Avenue	*	OFFICE OF
15 <sup>th</sup> Election District		
7 <sup>th</sup> Councilmanic District	*	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
<b>(907 Catherine Avenue)</b>	*	FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
Donald J. and Tina L. Bauer		
<i>Petitioners</i>	*	<b>Case No. 2012-0063-A</b>

\* \* \* \* \*

**OPINION AND ORDER**

This matter comes before this Office of Administrative Hearings for Baltimore County as a Petition for Administrative Variance filed by the legal owners of the subject property, Donald J. and Tina L. Bauer for property located at 907 Catherine Avenue. The variance request is from Section 400.3 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (“B.C.Z.R.”) to permit a garage in the rear yard with a height of 19 feet in lieu of the required 15 feet. The subject property and requested relief are more particularly described on Petitioners’ Exhibit No. 1. Petitioners desire to construct a two car garage measuring 19 feet high x 30 feet long x 24 feet wide. The additional garage height is necessary to accommodate storage of the growing family’s belongings.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received and are made part of the record of this case. The comments indicate no opposition or other recommendations concerning the requested relief.

The Petitioners having filed a Petition for Administrative Variance and the subject property having been posted on September 10, 2011, and there being no request for a public hearing, a decision shall be rendered based upon the documentation presented.

The Petitioners have filed the supporting affidavits as required by Section 32-3-303 of the Baltimore County Code. Based upon the information available, there is no evidence in the file to

indicate that the requested variance would adversely affect the health, safety or general welfare of the public and should therefore be granted. In the opinion of the Administrative Law Judge, the information, photographs, and affidavits submitted provide sufficient facts that comply with the requirements of Section 307.1 of the B.C.Z.R. Furthermore, strict compliance with the B.C.Z.R. would result in practical difficulty and/or unreasonable hardship upon the Petitioners.

Although the Office of Planning did not make any recommendations related to the shed height and usage, I will impose conditions that the accessory structure not be converted into a dwelling unit or apartment, not contain any sleeping quarters, living area, kitchen or bathroom facilities, and not be used for commercial purposes.

Pursuant to the posting of the property and the provisions of both the Baltimore County Code and the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations, and for the reasons given above, the requested variance should be granted.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, by the Administrative Law Judge for Baltimore County, this 4th day of October, 2011 that a variance from Section 400.3 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (“B.C.Z.R.”) to permit a garage in the rear yard with a height of 19 feet in lieu of the required 15 feet, be and is hereby GRANTED, subject to the following:

1. The Petitioners may apply for their building permit and be granted same upon receipt of this Order; however, Petitioners are hereby made aware that proceeding at this time is at their own risk until such time as the 30 day appellate process from this Order has expired. If, for whatever reason, this Order is reversed, the Petitioners would be required to return, and be responsible for returning, said property to its original condition.
2. The Petitioners or subsequent owners shall not convert the subject accessory structure into a dwelling unit or apartment. The structure shall not contain any sleeping quarters, living area, kitchen or bathroom facilities.
3. The accessory structure shall not be used for commercial purposes.

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

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Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
TIMOTHY M. KOTROCO  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Baltimore County

TMK:pz