

IN RE: PETITION FOR ADMIN. VARIANCE	*	BEFORE THE
9 th Election District		
5 th Councilmanic District	*	OFFICE OF
(6514 Maplewood Road)		
Harold W. Diehl, Jr. & Barbara W. Diehl	*	ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
Petitioners		
	*	FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY
	*	Case No. 2013-0186-A

* * * * *

OPINION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) for Baltimore County as a Petition for Administrative Variance filed by the legal owners of the subject property, Harold W. Diehl, Jr. and Barbara W. Diehl, for property located at 6514 Maplewood Road. The variance request is from Section 400.3 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (“B.C.Z.R.”), to permit a proposed accessory structure (detached garage) in the rear yard with a height of 17.6' in lieu of the permitted 15'. The subject property and requested relief are more particularly described on Petitioners’ Exhibit 1.

The Zoning Advisory Committee (ZAC) comments were received and are made part of the record of this case. There were no adverse ZAC comments received from any of the County reviewing agencies. However, it is to be noted that the Petitioners offered three (3) letters of support from their adjacent neighbors, Terrence & Mary C. McGee (6516 Maplewood Road), Barry D. and Karyn B. Marsh (6512 Maplewood Road), and Charles B. and Sandra M. Thillman (6517 Maplewood Road), stating that they had no objections.

The Petitioners having filed a Petition for Administrative Variance and the subject property having been posted on February 17, 2013, 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 garage 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 11th day of March, 2013 that a Variance from Section 400.3 of the Baltimore County Zoning Regulations (“B.C.Z.R.”), to permit a proposed accessory structure (detached garage) in the rear yard with a height of 17.6' in lieu of the permitted 15', be and is hereby GRANTED, subject to the following:

1. The Petitioners may apply for their appropriate permits 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.

Signed
LAWRENCE M. STAHL
Managing Administrative Law Judge
for Baltimore County

LMS:dlw