

BEFORE THE BOARD OF APPEALS FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
Sitting as the Board of Zoning Appeals

Petitioner: Santos Machado

Appeal No.: V-81-18

Subject Property: Lot 24 Block B, South-Lawn Subdivision, being 704 Shelby Drive, Oxon Hill,
Prince George's County, Maryland

Spanish Language Interpreter Service: Leslie Bilchick

Heard and Decided: November 28, 2018

Board Members Present and Voting: Bobbie S. Mack, Chairperson
Albert C. Scott, Vice Chairman
Anastasia T. Johnson, Member

RESOLUTION

This appeal is brought before the Board of Appeals, sitting as the Board of Zoning Appeals for the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Prince George's County, Maryland (the "Board"), requesting variances from the strict application of the provisions of Subtitle 27 of the Prince George's County Code (the "Zoning Ordinance").

In this appeal, a proceeding pursuant to Section 27-229 of the Zoning Ordinance, Petitioner requests that the Board approve variances from Section 27-442(e)(Table IV) of the Zoning Ordinance, which prescribes that each lot shall have a front yard at least 25 feet in depth and Section 27-120.01(c), which prescribes that no parking space, parking area, or parking structure other than a driveway no wider than its associated garage, carport, or other parking structure may be built in the front yard of a dwelling in the area between the front street line and the sides of the dwelling. Petitioner proposes to validate an existing condition (dwelling) and construct a driveway in the front yard. A variance of 4 feet front yard depth and a waiver of the parking area location requirement are requested.

Evidence Presented

1. The property was subdivided in 1953, contains 11,387 square feet, is zoned R-55 (One-Family Detached Residential) and is improved with a single-family dwelling, detached screen porch and two sheds. Exhibits (Exhs.) 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 (A) thru (D).

2. Petitioner would like to construct an 18' x 29'/13' x 30' driveway, part of which would be located in front of the dwelling. As Section 27-120.01(c) states that construction of driveways not leading to a carport or garage is not permitted in the area of the front yard between the front street line and the sides of the dwelling, a waiver of the parking area location requirement was requested. Exhs. 2, 4 (A) thru (D).

3. The existing covered front stoop is located 21 feet from the front street line. A variance of 4 feet front yard depth was requested for this existing condition. Exhs. 2, 4 (A) thru (D).

4. Petitioner Santos Machado explained his property is located on a street with a sharp curve. He testified that it is very dangerous condition as drivers traveling around the curve cannot see oncoming traffic, which has resulted in numerous accidents occurring in front of his house. He reflected that having to load and unload his young children from a vehicle at that curve has been extremely dangerous. In addition, the property being located on a curve, limits the on-street parking spaces. Exhs. 2, 4 (A) thru (D).

5. He submitted photographs of other driveways on properties in the immediate area. Exhs. 5 (A) thru (C).

Applicable Code Section and Authority

Section 27-230 of the Zoning Ordinance authorizes the Board to grant variances when, by reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness, shape, topography, or other extraordinary situation or condition of specific parcels of property, the strict application of the Zoning Ordinance would result in peculiar and unusual practical difficulties or an exceptional or undue hardship upon the owner of the property, provided such relief can be granted without substantial impairment of the intent, purpose and integrity of the General Plan or Master Plan.

Findings of the Board

After hearing all the testimony and reviewing the evidence of record, the Board finds that the requested variance complies with the applicable standards set forth in Section 27-230, more specifically:

Due to the location of the subject property being on a sharp curve in the road, the dangerous conditions of loading and unloading young children to and from a vehicle and the character of the neighborhood, granting the relief requested would not substantially impair the intent, purpose and integrity of the General Plan or Master Plan, and denying the request would result in a peculiar and unusual practical difficulty upon the owner of the property.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, unanimously, that a variance of 4 feet front yard depth and a waiver of the parking area location requirement in order to validate an existing condition (dwelling) and construct an 18' x 29'/13' x 30' driveway in the front yard on the property located at Lot 24 Block B, South-Lawn Subdivision, being 704 Shelby Drive, Oxon Hill, Prince George's County, Maryland, be and are hereby APPROVED. Approval of the variance is contingent upon development in compliance with the approved site plan, Exhibit 2.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

By: (ORIGINAL SIGNED)

Bobbie S. Mack, ChairpersonNOTICE

Within thirty (30) days from the date of this decision, any person, firm, corporation, or governmental agency who was a party to the Board's proceedings and is aggrieved by its decision may file an appeal to the Circuit Court of Prince George's County.

Further, Section 27-233(a) of the Prince George's County Code states:

A decision of the Board, permitting the erection of a building or structure, shall not be valid for more than two (2) years, unless a building permit for the erection is obtained within this period and the construction is started and proceeds to completion in accordance with the terms of the decision and the permit.