# Amended Application

### APPLICATION FOR DIMENSIONAL VARIANCE

## CITY OF NEWPORT, RI

### ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW

Date: September 25, 2023

7BR

**Board Members:** 

7023 -OCT - OCG



The undersigned hereby petition the Zoning Board of Review for a Special Use Permit and Variance in the application of the provisions or regulations of the Zoning Ordinance affecting the following described premises in the manner and on the grounds hereinafter set forth.

#### **Location of Premises**

Street & No.: 287 Gibbs Avenue

Tax Assessor's Plat 23 Lot 047

#### **Petitioner Information**

Applicant:

Christopher DiNapoli

Address: c/o Tanner L. Jackson

Owner:

Christopher DiNapoli &

Address: c/o Tanner L. Jackson

Bethany DiNapoli

Lessee:

N/A

Address: N/A

### **Property Characteristics**

**Dimensions of Lot:** 230' x 140' x 148' x 205'

area: 42,986 sq. ft.

**Zoning District in which premises is located:** R-20

How long have you owned the above premises: May 23, 2003

Are there any buildings on the premises at present: Single family home

Total square footage of the footprint of existing buildings: 5,013 sq. ft. (11.7%)

Total square footage of the footprint of proposed buildings: 5,013 sq. ft. (21.8%)

**Present use of premises:** Single Family

Proposed use of premises: Single Family

Give extent of proposed alterations: Applicant proposes subdividing existing double-sized lot into two lots. Proposed subdivision will increase lot coverage on existing lot to 21.8% (15%) permitted). Existing crushed stone patio and outdoor oven to be 6.5' (15' and 10' required, respectively) from proposed southern lot line.

### **Zoning Characteristics Matrix**

	Existing	Required/Allowed	Proposed
Lot Size (sq. ft.)	42,986 sq. ft.	20,000	22,970
Lot Coverage (%)	11.7% (5,013 sq. ft.)	15% (6,448 sq. ft.)	21.8% (5,013 sq. ft.)
<b>Dwelling Units</b>	1	1	1
<b>Parking</b>	>2	2	>2
Front Setback	>30'	30'	No Change
Side Setbacks	>15'	15'	Southerly
			6.5'
Rear Setback	>20'	20'	No Change
Accessory Setbacks	AC Units	AC Units	AC Units
	>10'	10'	No Change
	Existing Garage	<b>Existing Garage</b>	<b>Existing Garage</b>
	<10'	10'	No Change
	Brick Oven	Brick Oven	Brick Oven
	>10'	10'	6.5'
Height	<30'	<30'	No Change

# What Special Conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land, structure or building involved and which are not applicable to other lands, structures or buildings in the same district?

The Subject Property is unique in building placement and topography. The lot is large, being double the minimum size required in the R-20 Zone, but the existing historical structure and accessory garage create a lot coverage that would exceed permitted maximum on a 20,000 sq. ft. lot. In addition, the lot's topography slopes down eastward, towards Gibbs Avenue, which prompts the existing patios to be below-grade, thus further exacerbating lot coverage. The existing lot is 42,986 sq. ft. – just large enough to subdivide for an additional buildable lot that requires no relief. However, the pre-existing structure was built without regard for modern zoning lot coverage requirements or their relation to lot size.

Furthermore, the existing structure's placement necessitates setback relief to the proposed lot lines because it is not possible to further reduce the proposed lot without creating a substandard lot.

### What provisions of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan are applicable to this project?

Housing - 1.2

Housing -1.3

Transportation & Circulation – T-5.1

### Provisions or regulations of Zoning Ordinance applicable:

Section 17.28.040(B) – Setback Requirements Section 17.100.080(B) – Accessory Setback Requirements Section 17.28.050 – Lot Coverage Requirements Section 17-108 – Variances

# Explain how a literal interpretation of the provisions of this zoning code deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other property owners in the same district under the provisions of this zoning code?

The pre-existing residential structure occupies a footprint that cannot be further altered or reduced. As a result, the structure slightly surpasses lot coverage maximums even on the proposed above-standard lot.

Strict enforcement would deprive the Applicant of the ability to subdivide the property and provide an additional buildable lot for the City while simultaneously maintaining for the Applicant an above-standard lot size. To literally apply the zoning code would permanently deprive the Applicant of the ability to subdivide property in a manner otherwise consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and intent of the R-20 Zone. The proposed subdivision and resulting lots will respect the zoning ordinance requirements in all areas, except for the historical home's lot coverage footprint and slight encroachment into the proposed southern setback, which, as mentioned, stem from the pre-existing structure's historical size.

# Explain why this is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure.

The proposed addition is conscientiously limited in an effort to seek the minimum variance necessary for the reasonable use of the residential property. Special conditions exist, namely the pre-existing structures and hilltop topography, that are particular to the Subject Property, and a literal interpretation of the provisions would deprive the owner of rights commonly enjoyed by other owners in the same district. The applicant requests the minimum variance necessary for the reasonable use of the property because there is no reasonable alternative for subdivision that reduces the necessary lot coverage relief. The Applicant proposes to create lots suitable for single-family residential housing that harmoniously comports with the zoning code and surrounding neighborhood. The proposed variance is reasonable because it will maintain housing for the Applicant while creating an additional lot, in line with Policy H-1.

This request will permit the owner/applicant to obtain additional and reasonable use of the residence, which will be in line with the historical nature of the home and neighborhood, and will **not** be injurious to neighbors. The existing lot size warrants subdivision to support a reasonable, modern residential use of the property, in line with zoning requirements and housing demands. The proposed subdivision is a reasonable proposal because it will create two single-family lots. The Applicant proposes thoughtful property boundaries to ensure that the proposed subdivision will both maintain privacy, ensure proper stormwater drainage, and enhance and contribute to the residence, without posing injury to the neighborhood as a whole. The proposed work will not

impair the zoning code or alter the general character of the surrounding neighborhood because the property will continue to be used for residential purposes. The Application is in accord with the public convenience and welfare and meets or exceeds all of the conditions required in Section 17.108.10.

### The Zoning Board's Role

Special use permits shall be granted only where the zoning board of review finds that the proposed use or the proposed extension or alteration of an existing use is in accord with the public convenience and welfare, after taking into account, where appropriate:

- 1. The nature of the proposed site, including its size and shape and the proposed size, shape and arrangement of the structure;
- 2. The resulting traffic patterns and adequacy of proposed off-street parking and loading;
- 3. The nature of the surrounding area and the extent to which the proposed use or feature will be in harmony with the surrounding area;
- 4. The proximity of dwellings, churches, schools, public buildings and other places of public gathering;
- 5. The fire hazard resulting from the nature of the proposed buildings and uses and the proximity of existing buildings and uses;
- 6. All standards contained in this zoning code;
- 7. The comprehensive plan for the city.

The burden of proof in a special-use permit application is on the applicant. This means that if the applicant fails to present adequate competent evidence to prove the applicable standard for issuing a special-use permit has been met, the board must deny the application.

In granting a variance, the zoning board of review shall require that evidence of the following standards be entered into the record of the proceedings:

- a. That the reasons set forth in the application justify the granting of the variance and that the variance, if granted, is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure;
- b. That the variance will not be injurious to the neighborhood or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare, and will not impair the intent or purpose of the zoning code or the comprehensive plan upon which this zoning code is based;
- c. That the hardship from which the applicant seeks relief is due to the unique characteristics of the subject land or structure and not due to the general characteristics of the surrounding area; and is not due to a physical or economic disability of the applicant; and
- d. That the hardship is not the result of any prior action of the applicant and does not result primarily from the desire of the applicant to realize greater financial gain.

e. That the hardship that will be suffered by the owner of the subject property if the dimensional variance is not granted shall amount to more than a mere inconvenience. The fact that a use may be more profitable or that a structure may be more valuable after the relief is granted shall not be grounds for relief;

By signing below, I hereby attest that the information provided is accurate and truthful. I also attest that I have read the section entitled "The Zoning Board's Role".

Applicant's Signature

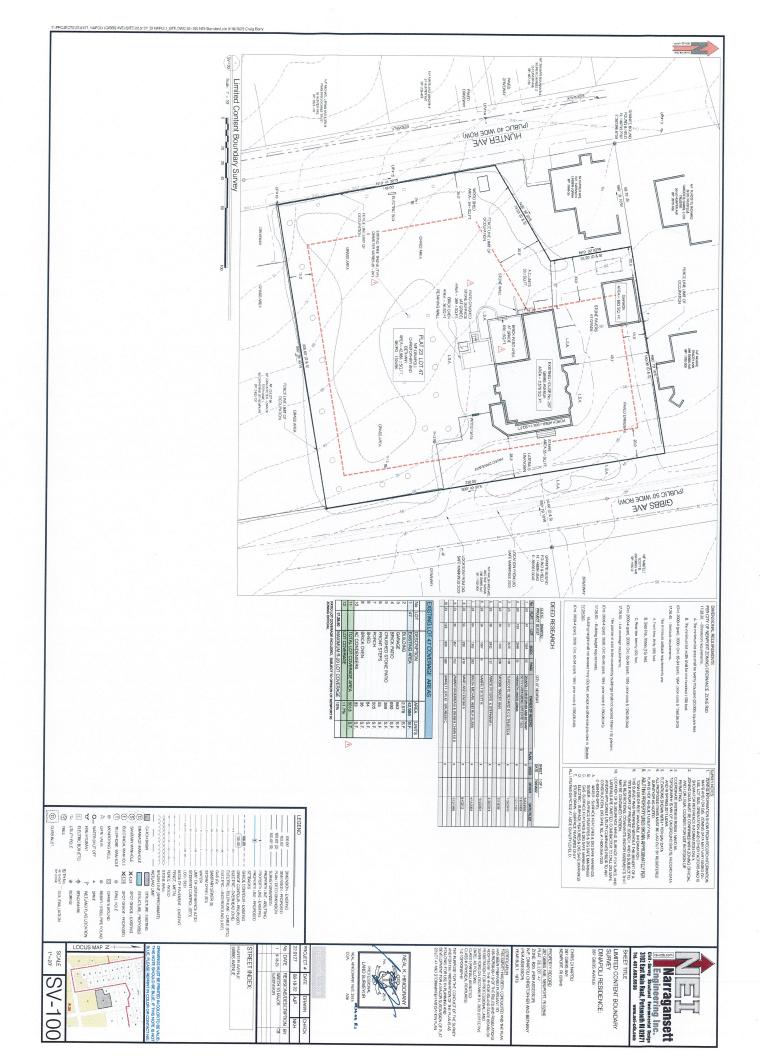
c/o Tanner L. Jackson 401-847-7500

Owner's Signature

c/o Tanner L. Jackson 401-847-7500

### **EXHIBIT A**

Site Plan – Existing Conditions



## **EXHIBIT B**

Site Plan – Proposed Subdivision

