

#### METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER

April 24, 2025

| Case Number:              | 2025-CZN-809 / 2025-CVR-809   |  |  |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|
|                           |   |  |  |
| Property Address:         | 8800 East Raymond Street (Approximate Address)  |  |  |
| Location:                 | Warren Township, Council District #20   |  |  |
| Petitioner:               | Alexander Construction and Landscape, by David Retherford   |  |  |
| Current Zoning:           | C-5   |  |  |
|                           | Rezoning of 4.37 acres from the C-5 district to the I-2 district to provide for a commercial and building contractor's business.  |  |  |
| Request:                  | Variance of Development Standards of the Consolidated Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance to provide for outdoor storage and operations comprising of 225% of the total gross floor area of enclosed buildings (maximum 25% permitted), to provide for a gravel parking and storage area, (not permitted), with a 52-foot foot front transitional yard (minimum 100-foot front transitional yard required), with a 15-foot east side transitional yard (minimum 50-foot side transitional yard required), with a 10-foot north rear yard (minimum 30-foot rear yard required), without interior and exterior landscaping (minimum 9% of lot covered with landscaping required), to permit for outdoor loading and unloading of equipment and material 15 feet from a protected district (minimum 500 feet required), and to allow a six-foot tall aluminum fence with masonry columns in the front yard (maximum 3.5-foot tall fence permitted in the front yard). |  |  |
| Current Land Use:         | Undeveloped   |  |  |
| Staff<br>Recommendations: | Denial  |  |  |
| Staff Reviewer:           | Marleny Iraheta, Senior Planner   |  |  |
|                           |   |  |  |

# **PETITION HISTORY**

This petition was automatically continued from the February 27, 2025, hearing to the March 27, 2025, hearing at the request of a registered neighborhood organization.

This petition was continued for cause from the March 27, 2025, hearing to the April 10, 2025, hearing at the request of the petitioner.

After a hearing, but before a recommendation was made by the Hearing Examiner, this petition was continued for cause from the April 10, 2025, hearing to the April 24, 2025, hearing at the request of the petitioner. The petitioner submitted a revised site plan on April 15, 2025, which is below. The site plan, and discussions with the petitioner, have clarified the intent of the request and how the Ordinance would regulate the proposed use and development plan. First, the parking area is confined to only the area from Raymond Street to the proposed paved parking lot, with three regular spaces, and one handicap-



accessible space. Interior landscaping that covers 9% of the lot is required when 15 or more parking spaces are required; therefore, this variance may be withdrawn. Secondly, the site plan identifies two specific locations of outdoor equipment storage. The remainder of the unimproved portion of the lot would be for vehicle maneuvering and "minor storage area". Thirdly, the east side transitional yard would be 30 feet, and landscaped. Finally, the site plan identifies Phase one and Phase two of development of the site. Staff believes that while this greatly assists in clarifying the request and reduces the initial impacts that was originally proposed, the recommendation should remain as denial. The use could have potential negative impacts of this use upon the established neighborhood and the Comprehensive Plan.

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

### Staff recommends denial of the request.

If approved against staff's recommendation, approval shall be subject to the following commitments being reduced to writing on the Commission's Exhibit "B" forms at least three days prior to the MDC hearing:

1. A 59.5-foot half right-of-way shall be dedicated along the frontage of Raymond Street, as per the request of the Department of Public Works (DPW), Engineering Division. Additional easements shall not be granted to third parties within the area to be dedicated as public right-of-way prior to the acceptance of all grants of right-of-way by the DPW. The right-of-way shall be granted within 60 days of approval and prior to the issuance of an Improvement Location Permit (ILP).

# **PETITION OVERVIEW**

# LAND USE

The 4.37-acre subject site is an undeveloped commercially zoned parcel. It is bordered to the west by undeveloped land, zoned C-5, to the north by an industrial property, zoned I-2, to the east by a residential use, zoned D-A, and to the south across Raymond Street by single-family dwellings, zoned D-A.

# REZONE

The request would rezone the property from the C-5 district to the I-2 district to provide for a commercial and building contractor's business with potential other businesses permitted in the I-2 district.

The C-5 District is designed to provide areas for those retail sales and service functions whose operations are typically characterized by automobiles, outdoor display, or sales of merchandise; by major repair of motor vehicles; by outdoor commercial amusement and recreational activities; or by activities or operations conducted in buildings or structures not completely enclosed. The types of uses found in this district tend to be outdoor functions, brightly lit, noisy, etc. Therefore, to provide a location where such uses can operate in harmony with the vicinity, the C-5 district should be located on select heavy commercial thoroughfares and should avoid locating adjacent to protected districts.



The I-2 district is for those industries that present minimal risk and typically do not create objectionable characteristics (such as dirt, noise, glare, heat, odor, etc.) that extend beyond the lot lines. Outdoor operations and storage are completely screened if adjacent to protected districts and are limited throughout the district to a percentage of the total operation. Wherever possible, this district is located between a protected district and a heavier industrial area to serve as a buffer. For application to the older industrial districts within the central city, standards specifically accommodate the use of shallow industrial lots.

# VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The request includes multiple variances for development standards.

The request would provide for outdoor storage and operations comprising of 225% of the total gross floor area of enclosed buildings. Per Table 743-306-2, the C-5 district only permits outdoor storage of inoperable vehicles awaiting repair which is further limited to 25% of the total gross floor area of enclosed buildings. The proposal would far exceed the 25% limitation of the Ordinance to a point that can be seen as excessive.

The request would provide for a gravel parking and storage area, which is not permitted. According to the Ordinance, for all uses other than Agricultural, Animal Related, and Food Production uses located in the D-A zoning district, parking lots shall provide a durable and dust free surface through one of the following means:

- 1. The parking lot shall be paved with bricks or concrete; or
- 2. The parking lot shall be improved with a compacted aggregate base and surfaced with an asphaltic pavement; or
- 3. The parking lot shall be improved with a compacted aggregate base and surfaced with permeable pavers or permeable pavement approved by the city as appropriate for the type and intensity of the proposed use and for the climate of the city.
- 4. A gravel surface may be used for a period not exceeding one year after the commencement of the use for which the parking areas is provided, where ground or weather conditions are not immediately suitable for permanent surfacing required by the Zoning Ordinance.
- 5. For single-family detached dwellings, parking and drive surface may consist of a compacted aggregate base and gravel surface with a distinct edge boundary to retain the gravel.

The request would have deficient transitional yards and a deficient rear yard. As proposed there would be a 52-foot foot front transitional yard where a minimum 100-foot front transitional yard is required), a 15-foot east side transitional yard where a minimum 50-foot side transitional yard is required, and a 10-foot north rear yard where a minimum 30-foot rear yard is required for the I-2 district in the Metro Context Area per Table 744-201-6 of the Ordinance.

The request would not provide the minimum 9% of lot coverage with landscaping required for interior and exterior landscaping needed on site.



The request would reduce the minimum 500-foot separation requirement for storage being higher than the screening to permit for outdoor loading, unloading, and storage of equipment and material from a protected district in the Metro Context Area to 15 feet.

Lastly the request would allow a six-foot tall aluminum fence with masonry columns in the front yard where a maximum 3.5-foot-tall fence is permitted in the front yard.

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Section, has requested the dedication and conveyance of a 59.5-foot half right-of-way along Raymond Street. This dedication would also be consistent with the Marion County Thoroughfare Plan.

### STAFF ANALYSIS

The submitted Findings of Fact note that the strict application of the terms of the Zoning Ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the site because "the presence of the overhead power line easement impacts a significant portion of the site…". While it is true that a transmission easement crosses the site, the current C-5 district has significantly reduced transitional yard requirements with a variety of uses permitted by right that likely would not require variances.

The Findings of Fact note that "not requiring the paving of the fenced outdoor area shown on the site plan reasonably presents a risk of occasional dust, but the Petitioner has committed to either using a surface material that does not create dust (such as asphalt regrind) or to regularly treating of the areas being disturbed as reasonably necessary to control the dust." It is apparent that the business owner is aware of the issues with gravel parking areas and rather than meeting the standards to prevent dust and debris from getting into the air, they wish to save on the cost while putting the health and welfare of the community at risk.

The Findings of Fact note that the use or value of the area adjacent to the property will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner because "the huge parcel that abuts the entire North line of the site was recently rezoned I-2-S, but it was previously zoned C-5 and has been utilized as a high intensity auction for decades without creating any adverse impact". However, they failed to mention that the property to the north is recommended for heavy commercial development and is solely accessed on Brookville Road which is a heavily commercial and industrial primary arterial street.

The C-5 district permits the use of a commercial and building contractor but does not allow for the excessive outdoor storage that would be proposed with the request. Outdoor storage and operations is defined as an outdoor area used for long-term deposit (more than 24 hours) of any goods, material, merchandise, vehicles, junk as an accessory use to and associated with a primary use on the property.

The request for multiple variances to even allow the proposed development is proof that the site is not large enough for the I-2 district proposal.

It was determined that the proposal would be inappropriate at this location within proximity to singlefamily dwellings, school, and church. The Ordinance is in place to prevent these intense uses from



being located within proximity to protected districts and when located nearby the regulations ensure adequate buffering is provided. The variances requested in this proposal would undermine this standard of protection provided by the Ordinance.

Furthermore, the I-2 district would not align with the Comprehensive Plan recommendation of suburban neighborhood development which is predominantly made up of single-family housing but is interspersed with attached and multifamily housing where appropriate. This typology should be supported by a variety of neighborhood-serving businesses, institutions, and amenities which the proposed commercial business contractor would not be, nor would other uses permitted in the I-2 district.

For these reasons, staff is recommending denial of the requests.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

| Existing Zoning               | C-5                                      |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Existing Land Use             | Undeveloped                              |   |  |  |
| Comprehensive Plan            | Suburban Neighborhood                    |   |  |  |
| Surrounding Context           | Zoning Land Use                          |   |  |  |
| North:                        | 1-2                                      | Industrial  |  |  |
| South:                        | D-A                                      | Residential (Single-family dwellings)                             |  |  |
| East:                         | D-A                                      | Residential   |  |  |
| West:                         | C-5                                      | Undeveloped   |  |  |
| Thoroughfare Plan             |  |   |  |  |
| Raymond Street                | Primary Arterial Street                  | 119-foot proposed right-of-way and 50-foot existing right-of-way. |  |  |
| Context Area                  | Metro                                    |   |  |  |
| Floodway / Floodway<br>Fringe | No                                       |   |  |  |
| Overlay                       | No                                       |   |  |  |
| Wellfield Protection<br>Area  | No                                       |   |  |  |
| Site Plan                     | January 15, 2025; revised April 15, 2025 |   |  |  |
| Site Plan (Amended)           | N/A                                      |   |  |  |
| Elevations                    | N/A                                      |   |  |  |
| Elevations (Amended)          | N/A                                      |   |  |  |
| Landscape Plan                | N/A                                      |   |  |  |
| Findings of Fact              | January 10, 2025; revised April 10, 2025 |   |  |  |
| Findings of Fact<br>(Amended) | N/A                                      |   |  |  |
| C-S/D-P Statement             | N/A                                      |   |  |  |
|                               |  |   |  |  |



# **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANALYSIS**

## **Comprehensive Plan**

- Marion County Land Use Plan Pattern Book (2019)
- Indy Moves Transportation Integration Plan (2018)

#### Pattern Book / Land Use Plan

- The Comprehensive Plan recommends suburban neighborhood development.
- The Suburban Neighborhood typology is predominantly made up of single-family housing but is interspersed with attached and multifamily housing where appropriate. This typology should be supported by a variety of neighborhood-serving businesses, institutions, and amenities. Natural Corridors and natural features such as stream corridors, wetlands, and woodlands should be treated as focal points or organizing systems for development. Streets should be well-connected, and amenities should be treated as landmarks that enhance navigability of the development. This typology generally has a residential density of 1 to 5 dwelling units per acre, but a higher density is recommended if the development is within a quarter mile of a frequent transit line, greenway, or park.

### • Conditions for All Land Use Types

- All land use types except small-scale parks and community farms/gardens in this typology must have adequate municipal water and sanitary sewer.
- All development should include sidewalks along the street frontage.
- Hydrological patterns should be preserved wherever possible.
- Curvilinear streets should be used with discretion and should maintain the same general direction.
- In master-planned developments, block lengths of less than 500 feet, or pedestrian cutthroughs for longer blocks, are encouraged.
- Small-Scale Offices, Retailing, and Personal or Professional Services
  - If proposed within one-half mile along an adjoining street of an existing or approved residential development, then connecting, continuous pedestrian infrastructure between the proposed site and the residential development (sidewalk, greenway, or off-street path) should be in place or provided.
  - Should be located at the intersections of arterial streets, and should be no closer than one mile to another commercial node with one acre or more of commercial uses except as reuse of a historic building.
  - Should be limited to an aggregate of 3.5 acres per intersection, with no one corner having more than 1.5 acres.
  - Should be limited to areas and parcels with adequate space for required screening and buffering.
  - Automotive uses (such as gas stations and auto repair) and uses requiring a distance of separation of greater than 20 feet under the zoning ordinance (such as liquor stores, adult uses, and drive-through lanes) are excluded. Should not include outdoor display of merchandise.



• The proposed I-2 district and associated businesses would not align with the Comprehensive Plan recommendation.

### Red Line / Blue Line / Purple Line TOD Strategic Plan

• Not Applicable to the Site.

### Neighborhood / Area Specific Plan

• Not Applicable to the Site.

#### **Infill Housing Guidelines**

• Not Applicable to the Site.

#### **Indy Moves**

(Thoroughfare Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, Greenways Master Plan)

 The Indy Moves Transportation Integration Plan (2018), more specifically the IndyMoves PedalIndy 2018 plan proposes an on-street bike land along Raymond Street from Southeastern Avenue to Mitthoeffer Road.



### **ZONING HISTORY**

#### Zoning History – Site

**95-Z-199B; 8601 Brookville Road** (subject site), Rezoning 100.0 acres from C-5 and D-A to C-5 to provide for an automobile auction, **approved.** 

### **Zoning History – Vicinity**

**2022-ZON-019; 8405 and 8635 Brookville Road** (north of site), Rezoning of 108.53 acres from the C-4 and C-5 districts to the I-2 district, **approved.** 

**2000-ZON-818; 8856 East Raymond Street** (southeast of site), Rezoning of one acre from SU-1, to D-S, to provide for construction of one single-family dwelling, with a two car attached garage, **approved**.

**93-Z-12; 8401 East Raymond Street (**southwest of site), Rezoning of 46.0 acres, being in the PK-1 District, to the SU-2 classification to provide for construction of a middle school, **approved**.

**85-Z-64; 8989 East Raymond Street** (southeast of site), Rezoning of 6.59 acres, from C-3 and A-2 to SU-1, to provide for a religious use, **approved**.

**82-Z-82; 8502 East Raymond Street** (west of site), Rezoning of 22.42 acres, being in the A-2 District, to the SU-7 classification for a home and treatment center for adolescent alcoholics, **withdrawn**.

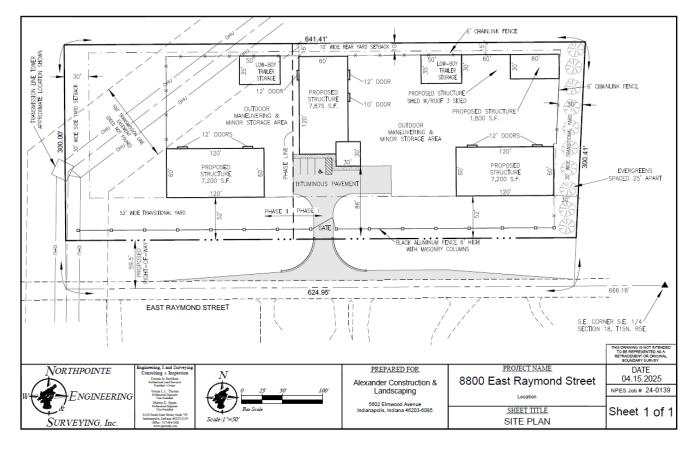
**63-Z-41;** (southeast of site) Rezoning from the A-2 district to the B-2 classification to allow for retail stores and offices to be constructed, **approved.** 



# **EXHIBITS**

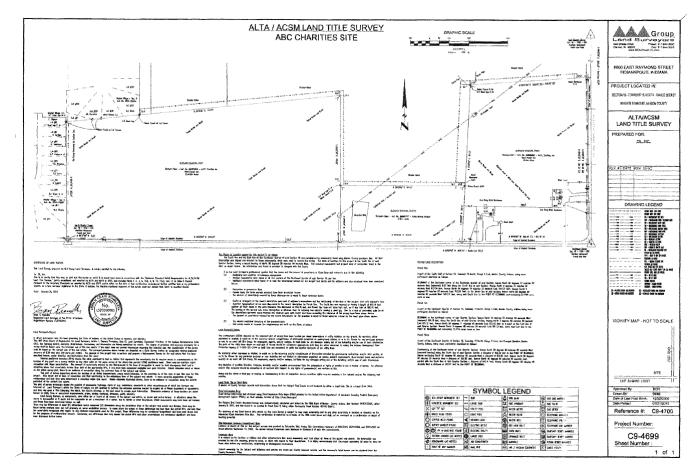




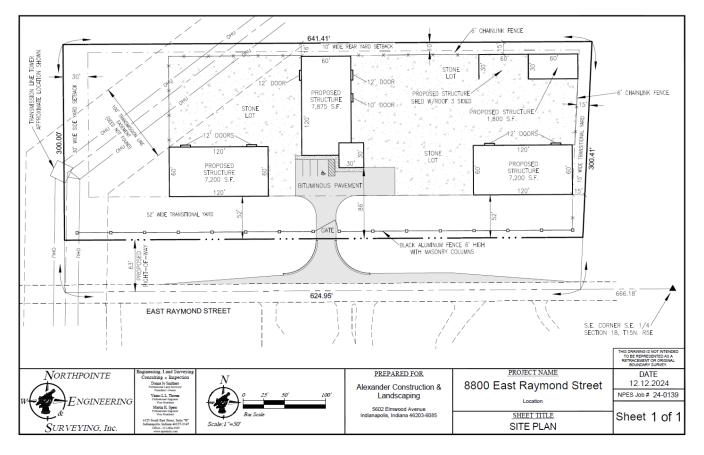


**Revised Site Plan** 









Original Site Plan



#### Petition Number METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER METROPOLITAN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, Division \_\_\_\_\_ OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA PETITION FOR VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FINDINGS OF FACT Table 743-306-2, Outdoor fenced vard ratio

1. <u>The grant will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community because:</u> The parking/storage of construction equipment and related vehicles within a fenced area which is significantly larger than what would otherwise be permitted given the size of the proposed enclosed buildings does not present a reasonable risk of such injury due to the small size of the site, the screening provided by the proposed building locations, and the high quality of the appearance and level of buffering proposed along the Raymond Street frontage.

2. The use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner because: The huge parcel that extends South abuts the entire North line of the site was recently rezoned I-2-S, but it was previously zoned C-5 and has been utilized as a high intensity auto auction for decades without creating any such adverse impact. To the East are two group homes on large heavily wooded D-A zoned parcels which were developed and are owned by the same property owner who is selling the subject property, and they do not object to the proposed variances being granted. To the West is remaining property zoned C-5, and it is also separated from the subject property by the overhead power line easement with a tower and lines. To the South across Raymond Street are single family homes, which are sufficiently protected by the combination of the relative low intensity of the proposed "contractor" uses, and the Petitioner's commitments, especially as compared to what would have been permitted by the existing C-5 zoning on this site.

3. <u>The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property because</u>: The presence of the overhead power line easement impacts a significant portion of the site; and since buildings cannot be built within that area the restrictions imposed by the utility company owning those rights impacts the ability of the petitioner to add accessible buildings to store equipment indoors to better comply with the storage yard ratio. In addition, the types of equipment used by the Petitioner, and the low trailers used to haul it, need sufficient room to maneuver on the site to access the buildings and turn around, so a huge percentage of the fenced area included in the calculation of the ratio is actually just maneuvering area and occasional loading and unloading area.

#### DECISION

IT IS THEREFORE the decision of this body that this VARIANCE petition is APPROVED.



#### Petition Number \_\_\_\_\_ METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER METROPOLITAN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, Division \_\_\_\_\_ OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA PETITION FOR VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FINDINGS OF FACT Table 743-306-2, Outdoor fenced yard ratio

1. <u>The grant will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the</u> <u>community because:</u> The parking/storage of construction equipment and related vehicles within a fenced area which is significantly larger than what would otherwise be permitted given the size of the proposed enclosed buildings does not present a reasonable risk of such injury due to the small size of the site, the screening provided by the proposed building locations, and the high quality of the appearance and level of buffering proposed along the Raymond Street frontage.

2. The use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner because: The huge parcel that extends South abuts the entire North line of the site was recently rezoned I-2-S, but it was previously zoned C-5 and has been utilized as a high intensity auto auction for decades without creating any such adverse impact. To the East are two group homes on large heavily wooded D-A zoned parcels which were developed and are owned by the same property owner who is selling the subject property, and they do not object to the proposed variances being granted. To the West is remaining property zoned C-5, and it is also separated from the subject property by the overhead power line easement with a tower and lines. To the South across Raymond Street are single family homes, which are sufficiently protected by the combination of the relative low intensity of the proposed "contractor" uses, and the Petitioner's commitments, especially as compared to what would have been permitted by the existing C-5 zoning on this site.

3. <u>The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property because</u>: The presence of the overhead power line easement impacts a significant portion of the site; and since buildings cannot be built within that area the restrictions imposed by the utility company owning those rights impacts the ability of the petitioner to add accessible buildings to store equipment indoors to better comply with the storage yard ratio. In addition, the types of equipment used by the Petitioner, and the low trailers used to haul it, need sufficient room to maneuver on the site to access the buildings and turn around, so a huge percentage of the fenced area included in the calculation of the ratio is actually just maneuvering area and occasional loading and unloading area.

#### DECISION

IT IS THEREFORE the decision of this body that this VARIANCE petition is APPROVED.



#### Petition Number METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER METROPOLITAN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, Division \_\_\_\_\_ OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA PETITION FOR VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FINDINGS OF FACT Unpaved Surface of Fenced Outdoor Area

1. <u>The grant will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community because:</u> Not requiring the paving of the fenced outdoor area shown on the Site plan reasonably presents a risk of occasional dust, but the Petitioner has committed to either using a surface material that does not create dust (such as asphalt regrind) or to regularly treating of the areas being disturbed as reasonably necessary to control the dust.

2. The use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner because: The huge parcel that abuts the entire North line of the site was recently rezoned I-2-S, but it was previously zoned C-5 and has been utilized as a high intensity auto auction for decades without creating any such adverse impact. To the East are two group homes on large heavily wooded D-A zoned parcels which were developed and are owned by the same property owner who is selling the subject property, and they do not object to the proposed variances being granted. To the West is remaining property which is heavily wooded, but is zoned C-5, and this property is separated from the subject property by the pre-existing 100' wide overhead power line easement and the tower with lines. To the South across Raymond Street are single family homes on large lots, but the Petitioner's commitments when combined with the low intensity manner in which the site will actually be used will not likely create such substantial adverse impact, especially when compared to what could have been developed on this site per the pre-existing C-5 zoning.

3. <u>The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property because</u>: The types of equipment used by the Petitioner, and the low trailers used to haul it, would almost certainly damage the surface of the outdoor storage area unless it is covered with a loose material that allows the necessary sharp turns needed to access the buildings or turn around on the site.

#### DECISION

IT IS THEREFORE the decision of this body that this VARIANCE petition is APPROVED.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 202 \_5\_\_

Findings Development Alexander surface of yard 1-10-2025



Petition Number METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER METROPOLITAN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, Division OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA PETITION FOR VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FINDINGS OF FACT

744-06 (C) and (D) & 744-08 (C) - landscaping to the north, east and west

1. <u>The grant will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community because:</u> Approving less landscaping than required by the ordinance in the North, west and east yards presents no reasonable risk of such injury as the existing uses to the north are already more intense, the existing trees and screening are being preserved along the east line, the property to west is heavily wooded and the 100' wide power line easement running along the west not only creates separation but would prevent the planting of any trees, and extra screening, landscaping and fencing is proposed along the visible portion of the site, which is along Raymond Street.

2. The use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner because: The huge parcel that extends South abuts the entire North line of the site was recently rezoned I-2-S, but it was previously zoned C-5 and has been utilized as a high intensity auto auction for decades without creating any such adverse impact. To the East are two group homes on large heavily wooded D-A zoned parcels which were developed and are owned by the same property owner who is selling the subject property, and they do not object to the proposed variances being granted. To the West is remaining property zoned C-5, and it is also separated from the subject property by the overhead power line easement. To the South across Raymond Street are single family homes, but the landscaping, decorative fencing and mounding proposed along the South line will exceed the requirements of the ordinance, and as a result the impact on those properties will likely end up being less than what would have been permitted by the existing C-5 zoning on this site.

3. <u>The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property because</u>: The presence of the overhead power line easement impacts a significant portion of the site. Not only does it restrict the developable area significantly, the restrictions on trees and landscaping imposed by the utility company owning the rights to the easement would legally prevent the Petitioner from complying with most of the landscape ordinance within the west portion of the site. The properties to the east and west are owned by the same property owner, and they support the grant.

#### DECISION

IT IS THEREFORE the decision of this body that this VARIANCE petition is APPROVED.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 202 5\_

Findings landscaping in transitional yards Alexander 1-10-2025



#### Petition Number METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER METROPOLITAN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, Division \_\_\_\_\_ OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA PETITION FOR VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FINDINGS OF FACT 744-201-6 – reduced setbacks and transitional yards

1. <u>The grant will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community because:</u> Approving narrower setbacks and yards along the North, east and South lines presents no reasonable risk of such injury as the existing uses to the north are already more intense, the existing trees and screening are being preserved along the east line, and the Petitioner has committed to install decorative fencing, mounding and landscaping in the south transitional yard which exceeds the requirements in the ordinance.

2. The use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in a substantially adverse manner because: The huge parcel that extends South abuts the entire North line of the site was recently rezoned I-2-S, but it was previously zoned C-5 and has been utilized as a high intensity auto auction for decades. To the East are two group homes on large heavily wooded D-A zoned parcels which were developed and are owned by the same property owner who is selling the subject property, and they support the proposed variances being granted. To the West is remaining property zoned C-5, and the setback and transitional yard significantly exceeds the requirements per the ordinance due to the impact of the overhead power line and easement. To the South across Raymond Street are single family homes, but the landscaping, decorative fencing and mounding proposed along the South line will exceed the requirements of the ordinance, and as a result the impact on those properties will likely end up being less than what would have been permitted by the existing C-5 zoning on this site.

3. <u>The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property because</u>: The presence of the overhead power line easement impacts a significant portion of the site. In addition, the entire site is not very deep, which makes designing a contractor's facility with sufficient room for buildings and maneuvering areas difficult without reducing the north and south setbacks/transitional yards as proposed.

#### DECISION

IT IS THEREFORE the decision of this body that this VARIANCE petition is APPROVED.

 Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_
 202 5\_\_\_\_\_\_

Findings - reduced setbacks and transitional yards Alexander 1-10-2025



#### Petition Number \_\_\_\_\_ METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HEARING EXAMINER METROPOLITAN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS, Division \_\_\_\_\_ OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA PETITION FOR VARIANCE OF DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FINDINGS OF FACT

Table 743-306-2 - outdoor loading and unloading, and minimal outdoor parking/storage, within 500 feet of Protected District

1. <u>The grant will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community because:</u> As restricted by the Petitioner's Commitments, the grant presents no reasonable rick of such injury, especially in comparison to what would be permitted by the pre-existing C-5 zoning on the subject property.

2. The use or value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance will not be affected in <u>a substantially adverse manner because</u>: The parcels to the North and West are not affected, as the only Protected Districts are to the East and South. However, the fact that the prior uses of the auto auction to the north is relevant to determining that this area is not as likely to sensitive to a reduction in the 500 foot rule as proposed here. To the East are two group homes on large heavily wooded D-A zoned parcels which were developed and are owned by the same property owner who is selling the subject property, and they support the proposed variance being granted. To the South across Raymond Street are single family homes on large lots, but the Petitioner's detailed and protective commitments when combined with the low intensity manner in which the site will actually be used will not likely create such substantial adverse impact, especially when compared to what could have been developed on this site per the pre-existing C-5 zoning of this site.

3. <u>The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property because</u>: The site simply could not be used for any industrial use involving outdoor activities without such a variance, and the pre-existing C-5 zoning on this site, the C-5 zoning on the property to the West, and the recent rezoning of the property to the north from C-5 to I-2-S have an unique impact on the subject site. The proposal to reduce these specific difficulties via the specific limited and restricted proposal set forth by the Petitioner is a reasonable solution.</u>

#### DECISION

IT IS THEREFORE the decision of this body that this VARIANCE petition is APPROVED.

| Adopted this | day of | 202 5 |   |
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Findings Development Alexander surface of yard 1-10-2025





Eastern property boundary of the subject site where the pole sign is located.



Photo of the subject site street frontage.





Photo of the subject site street frontage.



Photo of the western property boundary of the subject site with the transmission line easement.





Photo of the subject site's street frontage on the left along Raymond Street looking east.



Undeveloped land west of the subject site.





Photo of the single-family dwellings south of the subject site.



Photo of the single-family dwellings south of the subject site.





Photo of the property east of the subject site.