



**METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
HEARING EXAMINER**

May 14, 2026

**Case Number:** 2026-ZON-007  
**Address:** 2107 Columbia Avenue (Approximate Addresses)  
**Location:** Center Township, Council District #13  
**Petitioner:** City of Indianapolis, Department of Metropolitan Development, by Antonio Monserrat  
**Request:** Rezoning of 0.119-acre from the I-3 district to the D-8 district to provide for residential development.  
**Staff Recommendations:** Approval  
**Current Land Use:** Undeveloped  
**Staff Reviewer:** Robert Uhlenhake, Senior Planner

**PETITION HISTORY**

This petition was previously continued from the March 12, 2026, hearing, to the April 9, 2026, hearing, and from the April 9, 2026, hearing, to the May 14, 2026, hearing, to meet the legal notice requirements.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends **approval** of the request.

**PETITION OVERVIEW**

**LAND USE**

The 0.119-acre subject site is an undeveloped parcel located in the Martindale-Brightwood Neighborhood. The site is surrounded by single-family dwellings to the south and east, zoned I-3, an undeveloped lot to the north, zoned D-8, and multifamily dwellings to the west, zoned C-S.

**REZONING**

The request would rezone the property to the D-8 district to allow for residential uses that are not permitted in the existing I-3 district.

The I-3 district is an intermediate district for industries that present moderate risks to the general public. Wherever practical, this district should be away from protected districts and buffered by intervening lighter industrial districts. Where this district abuts Protected Districts, setbacks are large, and enclosure of activities and storage is required.



The D-8 district is intended for a variety of housing formats, with a mix of small-scale multi-unit building types. This district can be used as a part of new mixed- use areas, or for infill situations in established urban areas, including medium- and high-density residential recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan, and the Traditional Neighborhood, City Neighborhood, and Village or Urban Mixed-Use Typologies of the Land Use Pattern Book.

**STAFF ANALYSIS**

The request would rezone the property to the D-8 district to allow for residential uses.

Staff is supportive of the rezoning because it would allow for residential development that is compatible with the surrounding area and would align with the Traditional Neighborhood recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Existing Zoning</b>	I-3	
<b>Existing Land Use</b>	Undeveloped	
<b>Comprehensive Plan</b>	Traditional Neighborhood	
<b>Overlay</b>	N/A	
<b>Surrounding Context</b>	<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Surrounding Context</b>
	North: D-3	Undeveloped
	South: D-3	Single-family dwellings
	East: I-3	Single-family dwelling
	West: C-S	Multi-family dwellings
<b>Thoroughfare Plan</b>		
Columbia Avenue	Local Street	48-foot existing right-of-way and 60-foot proposed right-of-way.
<b>Context Area</b>	Compact	
<b>Floodway / Floodway Fringe</b>	N/A	
<b>Wellfield Protection Area</b>	N/A	
<b>Site Plan</b>	N/A	
<b>Elevations</b>	N/A	
<b>Landscape Plan</b>	N/A	
<b>Commitments</b>	N/A	
<b>Findings of Fact</b>	N/A	
<b>C-S / D-P Statement</b>	N/A	

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANALYSIS**

**Comprehensive Plan**

- Marion County Land Use Plan Pattern Book (2019)
- Infill Housing Guidelines (2021)

## Pattern Book / Land Use Plan

- Comprehensive Plan recommends Traditional Neighborhood development of the site.
- The Traditional Neighborhood typology includes a full spectrum of housing types, ranging from single family homes to large-scale multifamily housing. The development pattern of this typology should be compact and well-connected, with access to individual parcels by an alley when practical. Building form should promote the social connectivity of the neighborhood, with clearly defined public, semi-public, and private spaces. Infill development should continue the existing visual pattern, rhythm, or orientation of surrounding buildings when possible. A wide range of neighborhood-serving businesses, institutions, and amenities should be present. Ideally, most daily needs are within walking distance. This typology usually has a residential density of 5 to 15 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.

The Pattern Book serves as a policy guide as development occurs. Below are the relevant policies related to this request:

### *Conditions for All Land Use Types – Traditional Neighborhood Typology*

- 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.

### *Conditions for All Housing*

- A mix of housing types is encouraged.
- Should be within a one-mile distance (using streets, sidewalks, and/or off-street paths) of a school, playground, library, public greenway, or similar publicly accessible recreational or cultural amenity that is available at no cost to the user.
- Primary structures should be no more than one and a half times the height of other adjacent primary structures.
- Should be oriented towards the street with a pedestrian connection from the front door(s) to the sidewalk. Driveways/parking areas do not qualify as a pedestrian connection.

### *Detached Housing (defined as single-family dwellings)*

- The house should extend beyond the front of the garage. Garages should be loaded from an alley or side street when possible and should be detached if located on the side of the house.
- Secondary units are encouraged.
- Lots should be no larger than one and a half times the adjacent lots.

*Attached Housing (defined as duplexes, triplexes, quads, townhouses, row houses, stacked flats, and other, similar legally complete dwellings joined by common walls and typically with each unit on its own lot or part of a condominium.)*

- Duplexes should be located on corner lots, with entrances located on different sides of the lot.
- It is preferred that townhomes should be organized around intersections of neighborhood collector streets, greenways, parks or public squares, or neighborhood-serving retail.
- If the above conditions are not met, individual buildings of attached housing (not part of a complex) may be interspersed with single-family homes but should not make up more than 25% of the primary residential structures on a block.

#### 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

The Infill Housing Guidelines (2021) should be considered when developing the site.

- **BUILDING ELEVATIONS AND ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS**
  - **1. Utilize Foundation Styles and Heights that are Consistent with Nearby Houses:** The height of the foundation affects where doors, porches, and windows are located. Unless there are special circumstances that require additional height, such as the location is in or near a floodplain, the foundation height for new construction should be consistent with nearby buildings.
  - **2. Be Consistent with Surrounding Entry Locations:** Main entries should be visible from the street. Entries should not be hidden, obscured, or missing from the main street elevation (front). The entry should reflect a similar characteristic to those that surround it, such as formal or casual, recessed, or flush, narrow, or wide.
  - **3. Where Appropriate, Include Porches or Stoops:** Use context to determine if front porches are consistent elements in the neighborhood. If so, add porches or stoops to new construction.
  - **4. Coordinate the Location and Door Style of Balconies with the Surrounding Neighborhood:** Balconies are common architectural elements in some neighborhoods, but uncommon in others. Balconies along the street should be used when appropriate. When a balcony is used, consider the appropriate door access for the type of balcony. For example, Juliet balconies, which are intended to bring the outside in, make the most sense when French doors are used.

- **5. Consider Nearby Roof Styles:** The basic outline of a new building should reflect building outlines typical of the area. Roof selection and overall height contribute to the building outline. Select roof shapes that are frequently used in the neighborhood.
- **6. Fenestration Should Relate to the Surrounding Context:** Windows and doors should be arranged on buildings so as not to conflict with the basic fenestration patterns in the neighborhood. The proportion of glass (windows) to solid materials (wood, bricks, and other materials) which is found within the surrounding context should be reflected in new construction. Every elevation (sides and rear) should have windows on each story to help break up the monotony of the façade.
- **7. Materials Used Should Reflect the Context of the Neighborhood:** Introducing new materials that are not used in the existing context should be done in a way where those materials are not the dominant material and make up less than 30% of the overall façade design.
- **8. Consider Unique Neighborhood Features:** In addition to the architectural features mentioned above, consider other common features like chimneys, dormers, gables, and overhanging eaves that shape the character of a neighborhood. When possible, include these features into new construction.

#### Indy Moves

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

Not Applicable to the Site.

#### ZONING HISTORY

**2025-CZN-858 / 2025-CVR-858: 2111 Columbia Avenue** (north of site), Rezoning of 0.13-acre from the I-3 district to the D-8 district to provide for a four-unit small apartment, **approved**.  
Variance of Development Standards of the Consolidated Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance to provide for front-loaded garages (not permitted) with a 25-foot front setback, **granted**.

**2021-ZON-058 / 2021-VAR-008; 2127 Columbia Avenue** (north of site), Rezoning of 0.13 acre from the I-3 district to the D-8 district, to provide for a single-family dwelling with a detached garage, **approved**.

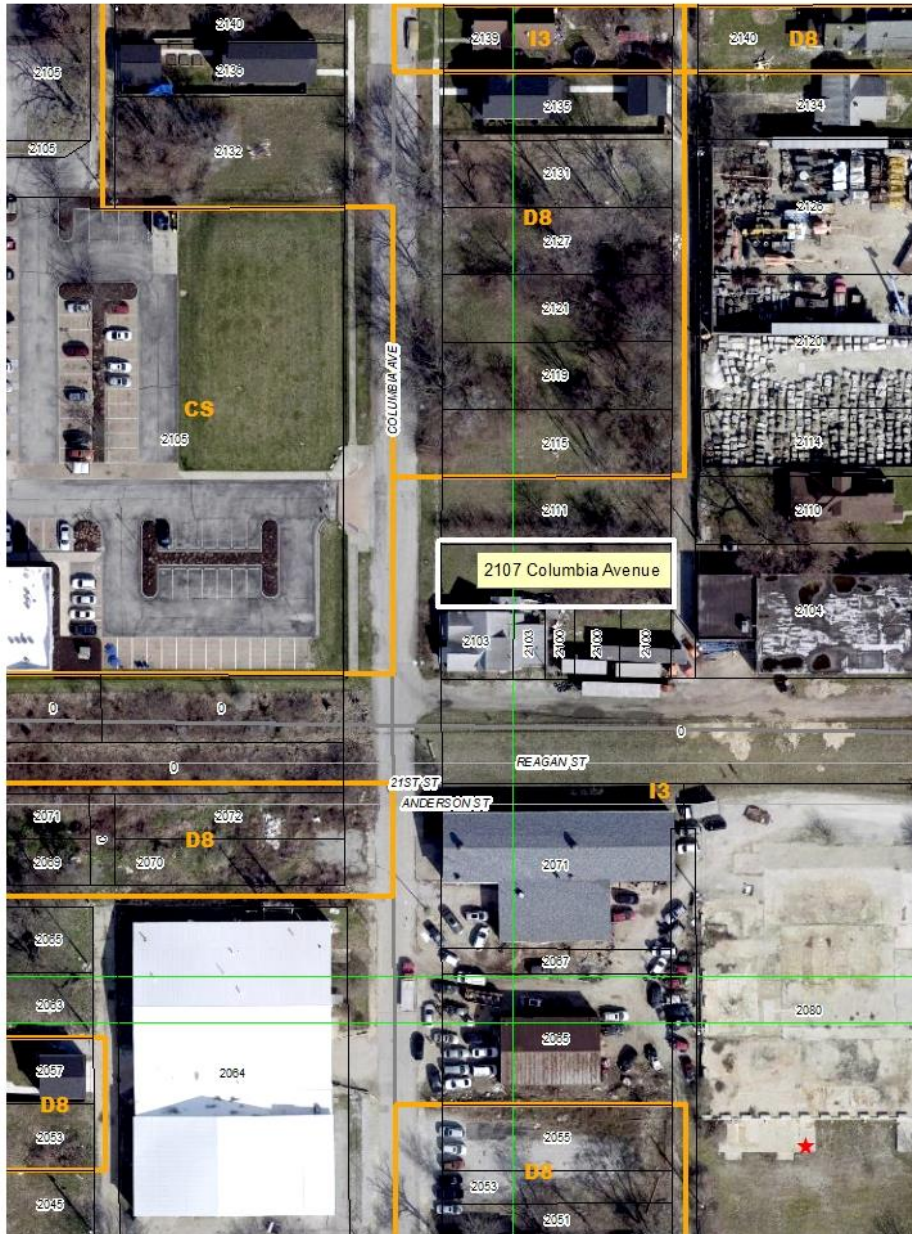
**2018-ZON-049; 2111, 2121, 2131, 2132, 2136, 2140, and 2144 Columbia Avenue** (north of site), Rezoning of 1.188 acres from the I-3 district to the D-8 classification, **approved**.

**2007-ZON-866 / 2007-VAR-866; 1145 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and 2108 Columbia Avenue** (west of site), Rezoning of 6.2 acres, from the I-3-U District, to the C-S classification to provide for two development areas: Parcel "A" permits: mixed-use or stand-alone buildings including dwelling units, offices, C-3 uses, I-1, I-2 and specified I-3 uses and schools and Parcel "B" permits: C-3C uses and two-family and multifamily residential uses and a variance of development standards of the Commercial Zoning Ordinance for reduced setbacks and a building taller than permitted, **approved and granted**.

**RU**

**EXHIBITS**

**LOCATION MAP**



PHOTOS



Photo of undeveloped subject site, looking east from Columbia Avenue.