

#### **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS DIVISION II**

**September 10, 2024** 

| Case Number:              | 2024-DV2-032   |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Property Address:         | 9240 North Meridian Street (approximate address)   |  |
| Location:                 | Washington Township, Council District #2   |  |
| Petitioner:               | IN-9240 MERIDIAN LLC, by Joseph D. Calderon  |  |
| Current Zoning:           | C-1  |  |
| Request:                  | Variance of Development Standards of the Consolidated Zoning and<br>Subdivision Ordinance to provide for installation of three skyline signs<br>on the elevation facing Meridian Street (one skyline sign per elevation<br>permitted). |  |
| Current Land Use:         | Commercial   |  |
| Staff<br>Recommendations: | Staff recommends denial of this petition   |  |
| Staff Reviewer:           | Noah Stern, Senior Planner   |  |

### **PETITION HISTORY**

• This is the first public hearing for this petition.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

• Staff **recommends denial** of this petition

### **PETITION OVERVIEW**

- This petition would provide for installation of three skyline signs on the elevation facing Meridian Street (one skyline sign per elevation permitted).
- The proposal calls for replacing one of the three existing skyline signs that face North Meridian Street at this property with a new skyline sign for a future business. The provision limiting the number of skyline signs on a building elevation to one was a recent change to the Ordinance, making the three existing skyline signs on the same elevation as legally non-conforming. Any future changes to these signs would need to conform with the modern Sign Regulations. Therefore, with the petitioner proposing to remove one of the three signs, the proposal for the new signage would be required to conform with the present-day standards.
- The standard in question was put in place to maintain aesthetics and characteristics of the façade, and to promote orderly development and visual quality. Staff believes that the elevation in question would allow for alternate signage options that are below the 26-foot mark that classifies a wall sign



as a skyline sign. The building elevation contains useable space below the 26-foot mark that, if utilized instead of the proposed location, would not require the requested variance. Staff, therefore, does not find there to be practical difficulty for not being able to meet the standard. Finally, Staff believes that future signage should adhere to the current Sign Regulations set forth by the Ordinance. For these reasons, Staff does recommend denial of the request.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

| Existing Zoning               | C-1               |   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Existing Land Use             | Commercial        |   |
| Comprehensive Plan            | Village Mixed-Use |   |
| Surrounding Context           | Zoning            | Surrounding Context                                     |
| North:                        | C-1               | North: Commercial                                       |
| South:                        | C-1               | South: Commercial                                       |
| East:                         | C-1               | East: Commercial  |
| West:                         | D-2               | West: Single-family residential                         |
| Thoroughfare Plan             |                   |   |
| North Meridian Street         | Primary Arterial  | 154 feet of right-of-way existing and 124 feet proposed |
| Context Area                  | Metro             |   |
| Floodway / Floodway<br>Fringe | No                |   |
| Overlay                       | No                |   |
| Wellfield Protection<br>Area  | No                |   |
| Site Plan                     | 8/15/24           |   |
| Site Plan (Amended)           | N/A               |   |
| Elevations                    | 8/15/24           |   |
| Elevations (Amended)          | N/A               |   |
| Landscape Plan                | N/A               |   |
| Findings of Fact              | 8/15/24           |   |
| Findings of Fact<br>(Amended) | N/A               |   |

# **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ANALYSIS**

#### Comprehensive Plan

• Marion County Land Use Plan Pattern Book

### Pattern Book / Land Use Plan

• The Marion County Land Use Plan pattern Book recommends the Village Mixed-Use typology for this site.



# 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)

• Not Applicable to the Site.



### **ZONING HISTORY**

### **ZONING HISTORY – SITE**

**84-UV1-8**, variance of use of the Commercial Zoning Ordinance to provide for the continued operation of a copy and duplication service in an existing office building, **granted**, **subject to conditions**.

### **ZONING HISTORY – VICINITY**

**2015DV3050; 9202 N Meridian Street (south of site),** Variance of development standards of the Commercial Zoning Ordinance to provide for the construction of a medical office building, under one of the following four options: a) a two-story, 49,204-square foot medical office building, with 168 parking spaces and deficient interior landscaping (246 parking spaces, with interior landscaping required), b) a three-story, 72,370-square foot medical office building, with 168 parking spaces and deficient interior landscaping (362 parking spaces, with interior landscaping required), c) a two-story, 49,204-square foot medical office building, with 208 parking spaces and deficient interior landscaping (246 parking spaces, with interior landscaping (362 parking spaces, with interior landscaping required), **approved.** 

**83-UV1-84; 9292 N Meridian Street (south of site),** variance of use to establish a retail printing shop in an office building complex, **withdrawn.** 

**83-V1-65**; **9292** N Meridian Street (north of site), variance of the height restriction to allow for the construction of a 100-foot pole to aid in the transmission of signals to Boone County, **approved.** 

**95-V3-9, 9245 N Meridian Street (east of site),** variance of development standards of the Sign Regulations to provide for the placement of three business signs located on the North, South, and West facades on an existing building (the Ordinance for 72-Z-177 included a statement that permitted wall signs on the front or west, building façade only), **granted.** 

**98-UV2-98; 9245 N Meridian Street (east of site),** variance of use of development standards of the Wireless Communications Zoning Ordinance to allow for a 30-foot height extension (not permitted) of a legally establish monopole antenna, **denied.** 

**2005DV1018; 9201 and 9245 N Meridian Street (east of site),** variance of development standards of the Commercial Zoning Ordinance to provide for a 39.5-square foot wall sign on the south façade of an existing office building (petition 72-Z-177 included a statement that permitted wall signs on the front or west, building façade only), granted, subject to conditions.

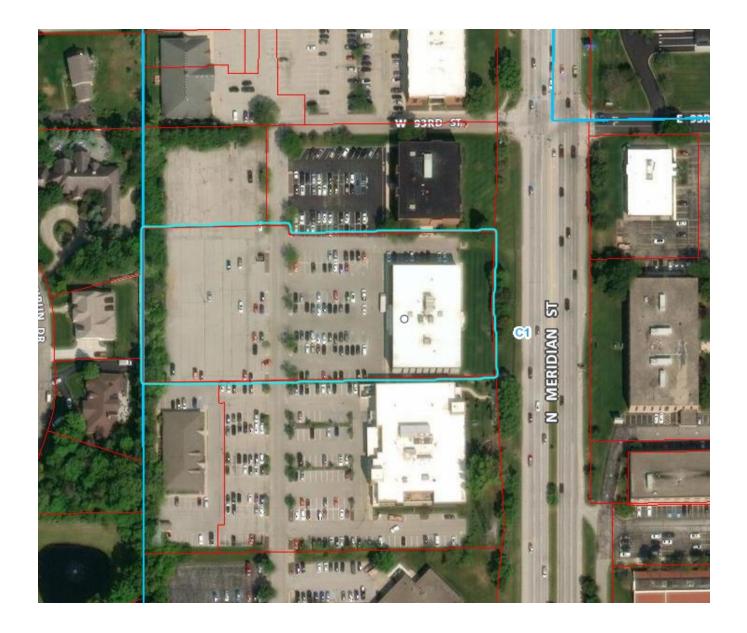
**2005UV1002; 9135 N Meridian Street (southeast of site),** variance of use of the Commercial Zoning Ordinance to provide for a personal physical training center in a 4012 square foot tenant space of an existing office building (not permitted), **approved.** 



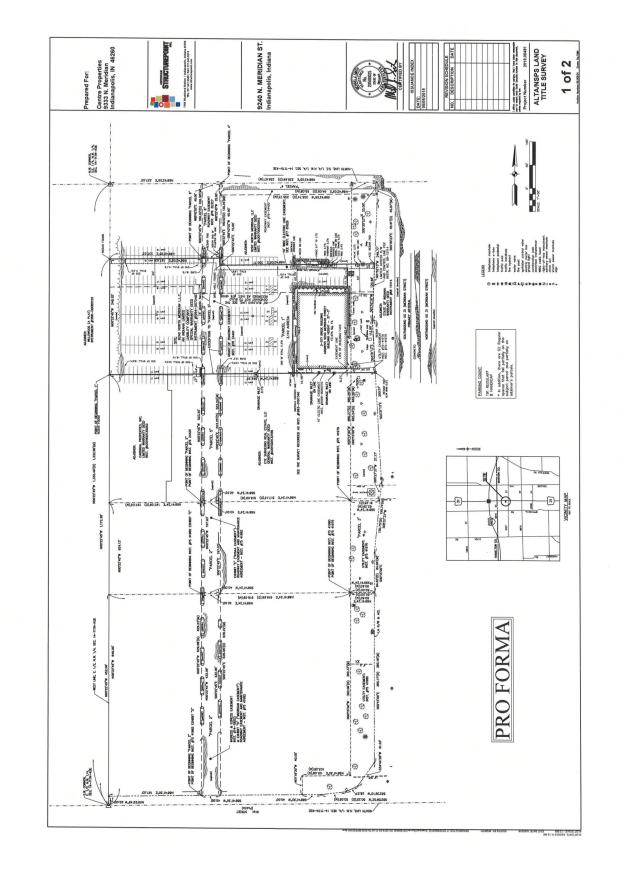
**2010DV2034; 9102 N Meridian Street (south of site),** variance of development standards of the Sign Regulations to provide for a 16-foot tall, 163 square foot illuminated pylon sign within 550 feet of a protected district (illuminated pylon signs not permitted within 600 feet of a protected district), granted.



# **EXHIBITS**













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**

1. The grant will not be injurious to the public health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the community because:

the signs will not interfere with any traffic on Meridian Street, and the variance merely allows three (3) signs on an elevation that faces the main traveled way, which has been the case for many years.

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 proposed signs face Meridian Street, away from residential to the west, and will not interfere with the ability of any other adjoiner building to display signs.

3. The strict application of the terms of the zoning ordinance will result in practical difficulties in the use of the property because:

the "skyline" provision may work in the urban core where pedestrian/vehicular traffic patters are different, but to limit signs above 26 feet to one per elevation at the Subject Property renders the concept of such signs almost meaningless, since no other elevation faces a main traveled way.

#### DECISION

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

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ , 20 \_\_\_\_







