

STAFF REPORT

Department of Metropolitan Development Division of Planning Current Planning Section

Case Number: 2023-UV1-023
Address: 7217 Woodland Drive (approximate address)
Location: Pike Township, Council District #1
Zoning: C-4
Petitioner: Enterprise Leasing Company of Indianapolis, LLC, by Joseph D. Calderon
Request: Variance of use of the Consolidated Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance to provide for the operation of a car and truck rental facility with associated outdoor storage (not permitted).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff **recommends denial** of the request for the variance of use to provide for the operation of a car and truck rental facility with associated outdoor storage. The proposed use is more intense than those contemplated in the Marion County Land Use Plan for Community Commercial or Regional Commercial typologies but is clearly reserved for either Heavy Commercial or Heavy Industrial districts.

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

The following issues were considered in formulating the recommendation:

LAND USE

EXISTING ZONING AND LAND USE

C-4	Metro	Community-Regional Commercial (vacant restaurant)
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SURROUNDING ZONING AND LAND USE

North	C-S	Child Daycare Center
South	C-4	Automobile Fueling Station
East	C-3 / I-2	Neighborhood commercial mix / light industrial
West	C-4	Restaurant / vacant lot

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	The Comprehensive Plan recommends Community Commercial development.
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- ◇ The 1.22-acre subject site consists of a single parcel developed approximately 1989 with a single commercial structure. The site has been used as a restaurant with an accessory drive-thru until recently vacated.

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VARIANCE OF USE

- ◇ The grant of the request would provide for the operation of an auto and truck rental facility with associated outdoor storage. Light vehicle (passenger vehicles) rental is permitted in the C-5, C-7, and CBD-2 districts while heavy vehicle (greater than 14,000 GVWR) rental is permitted by right in C-7, I-3, and I-4 districts. The proposed use includes outdoor storage of heavy trucks and has been determined to be of the most intense commercial/industrial uses and is therefore reserved to the most intense commercial/industrial districts. Such uses are not suitable for the regional commercial district.
- ◇ The purpose of the C-4 district is to provide for the development of major business groupings and regional-size shopping centers to serve a population ranging from a community or neighborhoods to a major segment of the total metropolitan area. These centers may feature a number of large traffic generators such as home improvement stores, department stores, and theatres. Even the smallest of such freestanding uses in this district, as well as commercial centers, require excellent access from major thoroughfares. While these centers are usually characterized by indoor operations, *certain permitted uses may have limited outdoor activities* [emphasis added], as specified.
- ◇ Guidance for the C-4 district is found in the Marion County Land Use Plan Pattern Book under the Regional Commercial typology. The Regional Commercial typology provides for general commercial and office uses that serve a significant portion of the county rather than just the surrounding neighborhoods. Uses are usually in large freestanding buildings or integrated centers. Typical examples include shopping malls, strip shopping centers, department stores, and home improvement centers.
- ◇ Guidance for the C-5 and C-7 districts can be found in the Marion County Land Use Plan Pattern Book under the Heavy Commercial typology. This typology provides for consumer-oriented general commercial and office uses that tend to exhibit characteristics that are not compatible with less intensive land uses. They are often *dominated by exterior operations, sales, and display of goods* [emphasis added]. Examples include vehicle sales and commercial lumber yards.
- ◇ Approval of the proposed use would be incongruent with the Comprehensive Plan.

VARIANCE OF USE FINDINGS OF FACT

1. THE GRANT WILL NOT BE INJURIOUS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, MORALS, AND GENERAL WELFARE OF THE COMMUNITY BECAUSE

the proposed use is less intense than many permitted uses and will not generate significant traffic.

- ◇ Staff has determined that the grant would be injurious to the general welfare of the community as this use has already been determined to be more intense than those permitted uses within the current zoning district. Traffic generation is not the sole determining factor for intensity of a use. Outdoor storage of vehicles is a related use which makes the proposal too intense for the C-4 district.

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2. THE USE AND VALUE OF THE AREA ADJACENT TO THE PROPERTY INCLUDED IN THE VARIANCE WILL NOT BE AFFECTED IN A SUBSTANTIALLY ADVERSE MANNER BECAUSE

the proposed use will serve other non-retail uses in Park 100, and will not impede access to any adjoining property.

- ◇ The use and value of the area adjacent to the property included in the variance would be adversely affected by the use as it is bordered to the north by a child day care facility. A child day care facility as a primary use, as seen in this scenario, is reserved to less intense commercial and industrial districts creating a conflict of adjacent uses.

3. THE NEED FOR THE VARIANCE ARISES FROM SOME CONDITION PECULIAR TO THE PROPERTY INVOLVED BECAUSE

the property has been developed and used for a particular use and it would be difficult to reuse the existing improvements for a permitted use. Furthermore, Park 100 has a wide variety of uses in the commercial and industrial realm.

- ◇ The property was developed and used as a restaurant for approximately 30 years. The existing zoning allows many uses for which this property could reasonably be adapted.

4. THE STRICT APPLICATION OF THE TERMS OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE CONSTITUTES AN UNUSUAL AND UNNECESSARY HARDSHIP IF APPLIED TO THE PROPERTY FOR WHICH THE VARIANCE IS SOUGHT BECAUSE

the ordinance allows for more intense motor vehicle related uses in C-4 than the proposed use as an auto/truck rental facility.

- ◇ The ordinance does not allow for more intense automotive uses in the C-4 district. Those vehicle uses with such intense outdoor storage are reserved for heavy commercial and heavy industrial districts.

5. THE GRANT DOES NOT INTERFERE SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BECAUSE

the proposed use will be comparable in intensity to many commercial uses contemplated in the community commercial classification.

- ◇ The Comprehensive Plan has reserved uses with such outdoor storage of heavy vehicles to the heavy commercial typology.

GENERAL INFORMATION

THOROUGHFARE PLAN

Woodland Drive is classified in the Official Thoroughfare Plan for Marion County, Indiana as a local street, with a 90-foot existing right-of-way and a 50-foot proposed right-of-way.

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SITE PLAN	File-dated October 9, 2023.
PLAN OF OPERATION	File-dated October 9, 2023.
FINDINGS OF FACT	File-dated October 9, 2023.

ZONING HISTORY – SITE

EXISTING VIOLATIONS: None

PREVIOUS CASES

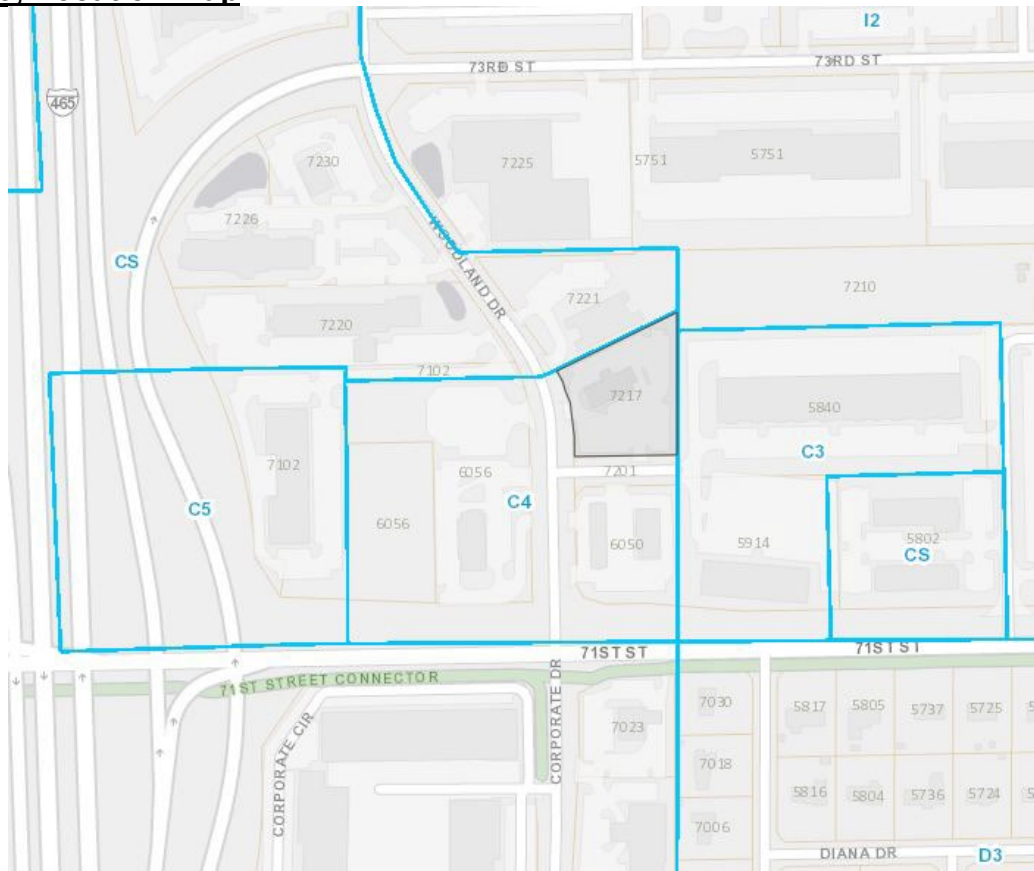
69-Z-317; West 71st (including subject site), Rezoning of 28.28 acres from the A-2 district to the C-4 district, **granted**.

ZONING HISTORY – VICINITY

2000-DV1-065; 6050 West 71st Street (south of site), Variance of Development Standards of the Commercial Zoning Ordinance to provide for the construction of a 4,220 square foot convenience store, with an interior access drive located within the required front yard of Woodland Drive (interior access drives not permitted with the required front yard), **granted**.

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2023-UV1-023; Location Map



2023-UV1-023; Aerial Map



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2023-UV1-023; Photographs



Photo of the Subject Property, view from north



Photo of the Subject Property, view from south

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2023-UV1-023; Photographs (Continued)



View of north neighbor site (child day care)



View south (Woodland Dr/71st St)

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2023-UV1-023; Photographs (Continued)



View west from site



Industrial site north of subject site