



City of Hyattsville

Zoning Variance Policy Statement and Variance Process

The Mayor and Council adopted the following City of Hyattsville Policy and Process for Zoning Variance Requests: City of Hyattsville Zoning Variance Policy Statement:

The City of Hyattsville affirms the role of the Prince George's County Planning Board zoning authority and "the purposes, intent, standards and design criteria set forth in the Zoning Ordinance and appropriate County policies."

The City of Hyattsville affirms the current zoning policy within the City limits and as a matter of policy does not support zoning variances as a normal business practice.

The City's support of a zoning variance ordinarily be granted only after the Mayor and City Council acknowledge that the granting of a variance:

1. remedies a unique situation that zoning did not anticipate;
2. remedies that which creates a significant hardship on the property-owner that can be documented and clearly demonstrated;
3. will result in benefits to the residents and improve the quality of the environment of the City.

Citizens requesting such support shall submit:

1. current plat of site with all existing conditions;
2. photos of all existing site conditions;
3. scale plans and elevations of existing conditions and proposed changes;
4. narrative description of the proposed changes, specifics of the zoning variance requirements and an explanation of how the zoning variance request responds to:
 - a. a unique situation that zoning did not anticipate;
 - b. a significant hardship on the property owner;
 - c. benefits to the residents and improve the environment of the City

The City shall as a matter of policy provide letters of support for residents to document a "non-conforming lot" as part of the normal permitting process for projects complying with all other aspects of zoning regulations, unless the matter at hand is the certification of a non-conforming use on a non-conforming lot. The standard for the support of the certification of a non-conforming use on a non-conforming lot would revert to the instant aforementioned requirements for City support of a zoning variance.

The City will not support variance requests for additional lot coverage when the intention of the request is to add off-street parking on the lot, except in extraordinary circumstances.

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Requests for zoning variances shall be processed by the Office of Code Enforcement and reviewed by the staff for technical issues. The Office of Code Enforcement shall determine if the request complies with all of the requirements of City of Hyattsville Zoning Variance Policy or to document a "non-conforming lot". The Supervisor shall then issue a report for the City Administrator citing one of the following "Actions":

- A. The request for the City's support of the zoning variance does not comply with City's policy, Do Not Recommend Approval
- B. The request for the City's support of the zoning variance does comply with City's policy, Recommend Approval - Zoning Variance
- C. The request for the City's support of the zoning variance does comply with City's policy for "non-conforming lots", Recommend Approval - Non Conforming Lot

The City Administrator shall review the Office of Code Enforcement Supervisor's Report and determine which of the following actions is applicable and execute accordingly:

- A. Do Not Recommend Approval - The City Administrator shall draft a letter detailing the City's opposition for the proposed request for a zoning variance for the Mayor's consideration and signature. The City letter opposing the proposed request for a zoning variance shall be placed on the Consent Items Agenda for approval by the City Council.
- B. Recommend Approval - Zoning Variance - The City Administrator shall forward the Office of Code Enforcement Supervisor's Report for the proposed request for a zoning variance to the (Planning Committee for review and comment along with any other City staff comments) the Mayor and City Council for action.
- C. Recommend Approval - Non Conforming Lot - The City Administrator shall draft a letter detailing the City's support for the proposed request for a zoning variance for a "non-conforming lot" to the Mayor for his review and signature. The City letter supporting the proposed request for a zoning variance shall be placed on the Consent Items Agenda for approval by the City Council.

Adopted by the Mayor and Council on February 13, 2006
Amended by the Mayor and Council on October 3, 2011