Los Alamos County<br>Community Development Department

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT STAFF REPORT

Public Hearing Date: September 11, 2019<br>Subject: Case No. WVR-2019-0083<br>Owners/Applicants: Jim Hall, Owners/Steve Shaw, Applicant<br>Case Manager: Anita Barela, Associate Planner

## Case No. WVR-2019-0083: 2.5-foot side yard Waiver of Lot 212C and Lot 212B of a required 7.5-foot setback on each side.

The petitioner is requesting a 2.5 -foot side yard setback waiver from the required 7.5 -foot side yard between lots 212C and 212B on property located at 4134 Alabama Avenue. The subject property is zoned R-3-L-NC (Multiple family residential low density, North Community district). The subject property previously contained a 4-unit condominium. This structure was destroyed during the Cerro Grande fire in May 2000.

## Board Action Options

## Motion Option 1:

I move to approve Case No. WVR-2019-0083 a request for a 2.5-foot Side yard Waiver on Lot 212C and Lot 212B of a required 7.5 -foot setback on each side to meet the minimum side yard setback of 15 -feet total between dwellings on adjoining lots, for the reasons stated in the staff report and per testimony at the public hearing.

## Motion Option 2:

I move to deny Case No. WVR-2019-0083, a request for 2.5-foot Side yard Waivers on Lot 212C and Lot 212B of a required 7.5 -foot setback on each side to meet the minimum side yard setback of 15 -feet total between dwellings on adjoining lots, due the proposal failing to meet the review criteria contained in §16-157 of the Los Alamos County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16 - Development Code, for the following reasons:

1. ...

## Summary

This Waiver application is related to the proposed redevelopment of an empty lot at 4134 Alabama Avenue. Jim Hall intends to divide the $.49 \pm$ acre lot, Tract U, into four lots, Lot 212A, Lot 212B, Lot 212C, and Lot 212D, which will be developed into two duplexes on four fee simple lots.

The Waiver application was submitted at the same time as the Subdivision application. The Waiver was supported by the Interdepartmental Review Committee (IDRC) and there were no additional IDRC comments on conditions for the Waiver. The Waiver application is separate from the Subdivision application because there is no provision in the code for a subdivision and waiver to be heard by the Planning \& Zoning Commission at the same time.

The proposed subdivided lots meet all Code development standards for the R-3-L-NC district except for the 2 inner side yards of the 2 duplexes. Per $\S 16-537(\mathrm{~d})(4)$ requires a minimum side yard setback of zero (0) feet on the attached side, and a minimum of 7.5 -feet on the detached side, or a minimum of 15-feet between dwellings on adjoining lots. The applicant is requesting a waiver of two 2.5 -feet on the detached side between two duplexes. The duplex condominium located on the adjacent parcel to the east is setback approximately 5.5-feet from the property line. The layout of the structure proposed to be constructed on Lot A in order to meet the 15foot setback requirement will be built 10-feet from the property line to meet 15 -foot setback requirement. Final setbacks will be addressed at the time of Building Permit review.

## Waiver Review Criteria

Sec. 16-157: During the course of review of any waiver request, the board of adjustment shall base its decision on all the following criteria. The board of adjustment shall approve, approve with conditions and limitations, or deny the request depending on the extent to which the request meets or fails to meet these criteria:
(a) Granting of the waiver will not cause an intrusion into any utility or other easement unless approved by the owner of the easement, and

Applicant Response: There is no intrusion. All utilities on site are proposed. See utility plan sheet C-301.
Staff Response: All easements are shown on the Plat and have been reviewed by Engineering, Utilities and Planning.
(b) The waiver request is caused by a practical difficulty or hardship inherent in the lot or lot improvements and the difficulty or hardship has not been self-imposed, and

Applicant Response: The sigh is restrictive in size. To meet the required setbacks waiver to the clearance between the units is being proposed. See site survey.

Staff Response: The duplex condominium located on the adjacent parcel to the east is setback approximately 5.5 -feet from the property line. The layout of the structure proposed to be constructed on Lot A in order to meet the 15 -foot setback requirement will be built 10 -feet from the property line to meet 15 -foot setback requirement. These conditions are not self-imposed, rather are due to the adjacent property owner encroaching into the required side yard by 2.5 -feet.

## (c) Granting of the waiver will not create a health or safety hazard or violate building code requirements, and

Applicant Response: There are no health or safety issues.
Staff Response: No health or safety hazards would be created by grant of this Waiver, nor would any aspects of the Building Code be violated. Further review of these elements will occur at the time of Site Plan application for development on the smaller lot.
(d) Granting of the waiver will not create any significant negative physical impacts on property within 100 yards of the subject property such as reduced sight lines, loss of privacy, decreased security, increased noise, objectionable odors, intrusion of artificial light, the casting of unwanted shadows, or similar negative impacts.

Applicant Response: There are no negative impacts.
Staff Response: No negative impacts on neighboring properties are anticipated as a result of granting this Waiver.

## Findings of Fact

1. Notice of this public hearing, setting forth the nature of the request, the specific parcel of property affected, and the date, time and place of the public hearing, was announced and published in The Los Alamos Daily Post on Thursday, August 22, 2019, and property owners of real property located within 100 yards of the subject property were notified of this public hearing, all in accordance with the requirements of §16-192 of the Los Alamos Development Code.
2. The request is for approval of a Waiver, which is permitted by Section $16-122(\mathrm{~g})$ of the Los Alamos County Development Code, a 2.5 -foot side yard Waiver on Lot 212 C and Lot 212 B of a required 7.5 -foot setback on each side to meet the minimum side yard setback of 15 -feet total between dwellings on adjoining lots.
3. The subdivision proposed is permitted within the R-3-L-NC zoning district, subject to review and approval by the Planning \& Zoning Commission and County Council.
4. Single family attached dwelling units are a permitted land use described within the R-3-L-NC zoning district, contained in Article XIII, Section 16-537 of the Los Alamos County Development Code.
5. The subject property is currently vacant.
6. The subject property is addressed as 4134 Alabama Avenue. New addresses will be assigned by the County Surveyor prior to recordation of the plat.
7. Upon review by the IDRC, the petition was unanimously recommended for approval.

## Exhibits

Exhibit $1 \quad$ Vicinity Map of the subject property
Exhibit $2 \quad$ Map and List of property owners of record within 100 yards of subject property
Exhibit 3 Waiver Application
Exhibit 4 Proposed Plat


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\text { PARCEL } 1 \text { inch = } 200 \text { feet }
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VICINITY MAP | SUB-2019-0008
Mapping information is for reference only. Users are solely responsible to confirm data accuracy.
Los Alamos County assumes no liability for errors associated with the data.

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4134 ALABAMA AVE

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Community Development

## WAIVER APPLICATION

## Los Alamos County Community Development Department

 1000 Central Ave，Suite 150，Los Alamos NM 87544（505）662－8120
Note：The Board of Adjustment considers Applications for Waivers at a public hearing．Waiver means an adjustment of dimensional requirements，parking regulations，or design standards contained in the Land Development Code．Waivers shall not apply to regulations controlling density or land use．


Revised：12／30／15

WAIVER REVIEW CRITERIA:
The Los Alamos County Code of Ordinances, Chapter 16, Development Code, Sec. 16-157 establishes four (4) criteria upon which the Board of Adjustment shall base its decision to approve, approve with conditions and limitations, or deny the waiver request. The Board's decision shall depend upon the extent to which the request meets or fails to meet these criteria. Please review each of the criteria listed and provide short comments on how your application meets the criteria in the space provided. (Attach additional sheets if needed.)
(a) Granting of the waiver will not cause an intrusion into any utility or other easement unless approved by the owner of the easement; and
THERE IS NO INTRUSION, ALL UTILITIES ON SITE ARE PROPOSED, CF UTILITY PLAN SHRRTC-301
(b) The waiver request is caused by a practical difficulty or hardship inherent in the lot or lot improvements and the difficulty or hardship has not been self-imposed; and
THE SIGHT LC RESTRICTIVE IN SIZE, TO MEET
THE REQUIRED SETBACKS A $x+A V E R$ TO THE CLEARANCE BRTXHEEN THE UNITS IS BEING PROPOSED. CELL SITE SURVEY
(c) Granting of the waiver will not create a health or safety hazard or violate building code requirements; and

(d) Granting of the waiver will not create any significant negative physical impacts on property within 100 yards of the subject property such as reduced sight lines, loss of privacy, decreased security, increased noise, objectionable odors, intrusion of artificial light, the casting of unwanted shadows, or similar negative impacts.
THERE ARE. NO NEGATIVE iMPACTS.

## SUBMITTALS:

Provide all information necessary for a complete review of the Waiver request. Check each of the boxes to indicate which information you have provided, and, if possible, also provide one complete copy of all materials on disk:

Proof of property ownership.
A scalable drawing including all information pertinent to the waiver request:
Existing and proposed lot coverage.
Show and label the footprint of all existing buildings and structures on the site.
Show, dimension and label all existing and proposed easements.
Show, dimension and label all existing and proposed setbacks.
Show, dimension and label building/structure elevations.
Other. Describe:


