

APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCE REQUESTS

After your appeal is filed, Zoning staff will visit the site to take photographs for the Board members so that they will have a better idea of the nature of your request. Zoning staff will notify the district councilmember of the hearing. You will be responsible for preparing the envelopes and notices for mailing to the owners of property within 600 feet of the property at issue in this case. The envelopes must include the return address for the BZA and the case number. Fold and insert the notices into envelopes, seal the envelopes, and apply first class postage. These neighbor notices must be delivered to Zoning staff at least twenty-three (23) days before the public hearing. Additionally, you will be responsible for purchasing, posting, and removing the red Zoning Appeal signs for the subject property. (See attached Metro Code of Laws requirements regarding sign placement.)

The day of the public hearing, it will be your responsibility to convey to the Board the nature of the hardship in your request that makes it difficult/impossible for you to comply with the Zoning Code. **It would be to your benefit to let your neighbors know about your request prior to all notices being sent to them from our office.**

Any party can appeal the Board's decision to Chancery or Circuit Court within sixty (60) days from the date the order in the case is entered. **Should your request be granted, we would remind you that it is your responsibility to obtain the permit for which you have applied.** You should also be aware that you have two (2) years to obtain the permit or you would have to re-file your request with the Board.

Once your request is filed, the staff will review your request to verify that the submittal is complete. Incomplete submittals will not be scheduled for a hearing until complete.

Any correspondence to the Board must be submitted to our office by noon, the Monday prior to the public hearing to be included in the record. You must provide eight (8) copies of your information to staff.

We hope that this information will be of help to you in understanding the variance procedure and if our office can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (615) 862-6530

I am aware that I am responsible for posting and also removing the sign(s) after the public hearing.

APPELLANT

DATE

STANDARDS FOR A VARIANCE

The Metropolitan Board of Zoning Appeals may grant variances from the strict application of the provisions of this Zoning Code based upon findings of fact related to the standards in Section 17.40.370. This Section is included as follows:

Physical characteristics of the property - The exceptional narrowness, shallowness or shape of a specific piece of property, exceptional topographic condition, or other extraordinary and exceptional condition of such property would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties to, or exceptional or undue hardship upon the owner of such property.

Unique characteristics - The specific conditions cited are unique to the subject property and generally not prevalent to other properties in the general area.

Hardship not self-imposed - The alleged difficulty or hardship has not been created by the previous actions of any person having an interest in the property after the effective date of this Zoning Code.

Financial gain not only basis - Financial gain is not the sole basis for granting the variance.

No injury to neighboring property - The granting of the variance will not be injurious to other property or improvements in the area, impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property, or substantially diminish or impair property values within the area.

No harm to public welfare - The granting of the variance will not be detrimental to the public welfare and will not substantially impair the intent and purpose of this Zoning Code.

Integrity of Master Development Plan - The granting of the variance will not compromise the design integrity or functional operation of activities or facilities within an approved Planned Unit Development.

The Board shall not grant variances to the land use provisions of Section 2.3, the density of Floor Area Ratio (FAR) standards of Tables 3-B and 3-C, nor the required size of residential lots approved by the Planning Commission under the authority of Section 3.7 (Lot Averaging), Section 3.8 (Cluster Lot Option) or Section 9.E.3 (PUD). Further the Board shall not act on a variance application within a Planned Unit Development (PUD), Urban Design Overlay or Institutional Overlay district without first considering a recommendation from the Planning Commission.

In simple terms, for the Board to grant you a variance in the zoning ordinance, you must convey to the Board what your hardship is. Hardships are narrowness, shallowness, irregular shape, and topography of property. The Board can also consider other practical difficulties such as mature trees, easements, and location of disposal systems which can affect your plan. Consideration can be given to the characteristics of the neighborhood and the way it is developed. One or more of these conditions MUST affect your inability to build or occupy the property to prove your case.

At the public hearing, please be prepared to tell the Board what your hardship is, why you can not build in accordance with zoning without requesting a variance and why you feel you have a legitimate hardship.

The Board can not grant a variance based solely on an inconvenience to the applicant nor solely on a financial consideration. It is incumbent on you as the appellant to complete this form by conveying a HARDSHIP as outlined. At the meeting it is important that you explain this hardship as effectively as possible.

WHAT SPECIFIC AND UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES (HARDSHIP) EXIST THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE CONSIDERATION OF THE BOARD UNDER THE REVIEW STANDARDS AS OUTLINED?
