


TJA

FROM	NAME & TITLE	THOMAS J. STOSUR, DIRECTOR	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 TH FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	BMZA / 6812-6862 (6836) Reisterstown Road		

TO Mr. David Tanner, Executive Director
Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
417 East Fayette Street, 14th Floor

DATE: April 16, 2015

REQUEST

The Department of Planning has received Joe Galindo's Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals (BMZA) application, on behalf of Verizon Wireless, to install one antenna and related equipment on the rooftop of an existing building, with a "stealth" wall at the front of the roof. The Zoning Administrator has determined that this is a conditional use in a B-2 Community Business District. We understand that this appeal is scheduled for hearing on April 21, 2015.

SITE

6812-6862 (6836) Reisterstown Road is located on the northwest corner of the intersection with Labyrinth Road. This property measures approximately 535' by 402'1" and contains approximately 6.627 acres, and is currently improved with a detached one-story commercial building constructed as a multiple-bay shopping center. This site is zoned B-2-1 and is located within the Reisterstown Plaza Transit Station Urban Renewal Plan area and the Northwest Community Planning Forum Strategic Neighborhood Action Plan area.

ANALYSIS

Conditional Use: In this zoning district, antenna towers, microwave relay towers, and similar installations for communications transmission or receiving, are a conditional use, requiring approval by the Board (§6-308). In this case, the property was last authorized for use as a group of permitted uses in this B-2 Community Business District.

Urban Renewal Plan: This property is located in the Reisterstown Plaza Transit Station Urban Renewal Area, where the Urban Renewal Plan does not prohibit or further restrict the proposed use in this district. The Plan does require "... any mechanical equipment placed outside of a building, including on the roof, shall be effectively screened" and the proposed installation would comply with this requirement.

Neighborhood Impact: There should be minimal impact, if any, on the surrounding area or community, due to the height of the existing building on the subject property and its distance from residential premises, the size of the antennas, and the height at which they will be placed.

Co-location: In order to minimize the number of antenna towers and monopoles constructed throughout the City of Baltimore, the Department of Planning has adopted a policy of co-location. When our Department receives applications for antenna towers or monopoles, staff encourages the applicant to design a structure that can accommodate several other wireless technology providers. This co-location of antennas minimizes the number of antenna towers or monopoles needed throughout Baltimore City.

Historical and Architectural Preservation: The Historical and Architectural Preservation Division of the Department of Planning has reviewed the application and determined that the proposed location is not:

- On a Baltimore City Landmark property list or within a Baltimore City Historical and Architectural Preservation District
- A property, or within a district, listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
- A property, or within a district, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

TransForm Baltimore: This property would become part of a C-4 District (Proposed Zoning Map Area 1-A) in which wireless telecommunications antennas that comply with stealth design standards would be permitted uses; if not so complying, they would be conditional uses (Table 10-301).

RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Planning recommends approval of this appeal, subject to these conditions in addition to any conditions which the Board may establish:

- The antenna and related equipment must be entirely hidden by the “stealth” wall or be painted to match the building, to ensure they are visually unobtrusive; and
- The antenna and related equipment will remain mounted as illustrated in the plans and elevations submitted to Planning; and
- The applicant will adequately mitigate any adverse effect as specified in the report of the Historical and Architectural Preservation Division of the Department of Planning in accordance with that report’s recommendations.

TJS/wya/mf

cc: Joe Galindo, Appellant