



St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Neighborhood Bill of Rights Program

NEIGHBORHOOD BILL OF RIGHTS NOTIFICATION

January 21, 2010 – You have received this NOTICE because you are the designated representative for a registered Association under the Neighborhood Bill of Rights Ordinance (No. 2007-01). Please be advised, umbrella associations are provided notice as a courtesy and do not share the same rights afforded to Neighborhood Associations as defined by the Neighborhood Bill of Rights Ordinance.

APPLICATION FILED BY: Brad Negaard
6054-8 Arlington Expressway
Jacksonville, FL 32211

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 67 San Juan Drive

REQUESTED CHANGE: Requesting a variance for relief of the front setback from 50' to 40' off the front property line. Current structure has 40' front setback and applicant plans to remove the current structure and build a new residence with the granted 10 foot front Building Restriction Line variance, application number PVZVAR 2010-01 Hawkins Residence.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Notice is hereby given that this application has been filed with the Planning and Zoning Division of St. Johns County. At this time, the application **has not** been scheduled for a public hearing. When the application is scheduled for a public hearing, additional notification will be provided. You may review the material in the Planning and Zoning Division, located in the Permit Center, 4040 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, Florida.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURES: During the public hearing, all public comment is welcome, but please be aware that zoning decisions may not be merely based upon citizen "wishes" that are unsubstantiated by any competent facts, i.e. – the "clamor of the crowd" is not a sufficient reason upon which to base a decision, *Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County v. Snyder*, 627 So.2d 469 (Fla. 1993). However, the Florida courts have clearly held that "fact-based" lay testimony is admissible and may be relied upon as follows: "citizen testimony in a zoning matter is perfectly permissible and constitutes substantial competent evidence, so long as it is fact-based. Mere generalized statements of opposition are to be disregarded, but fact-based testimony is not." *Metropolitan Dade County v. Blumenthal*, 675 So.2d 598 (Fla. 3d DCA 1995).

Maps, diagrams, reports, and other official records are competent substantial evidence in themselves sufficient to form a basis for zoning action. In a zoning matter, it is appropriate to consider whether the proposed zoning is consistent with the properties adjacent to [the to-be-rezoned] property and is consistent with the actual development of the area. Some examples of competent substantial evidence:

- Character of the neighborhood (quiet or noisy, residential or commercial, etc.)
- Lot sizes, width, typical for area (large lots, small lots, etc.)
- Density of development (low density - spacious or high density - crowded, etc.)
- Building heights existing in area (maximum, average)

NOTICE OF PROJECT MEETING: The Neighborhood Bill of Rights Ordinance affords registered Neighborhood Associations the right to request a meeting, for the purpose of discussion and/or negotiation, with applicants requesting changes in land use or County staff on upcoming projects. Upon request from the applicant or an association representative, the County must schedule a meeting with representatives of the applicant and/or County staff, at a reasonable time and location determined by the County to allow members of one or more associations to ask questions or to voice concerns and make suggestions. County staff is required to document all commitments or agreements made during such meetings. Meetings may be held at County offices and conference rooms during regular business hours or other locations and times as deemed appropriate by County staff.