



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Date: April 7, 2025. This case was continued from March 10, 2025.

In Control: Board of Adjustment Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Development Services Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Michael Shannon

CASE NUMBER: BOA-25-10300017

APPLICANT: Jamala Okoh

OWNER: Jamala Jo & Joseph Emuejevoke Okoh

COUNCIL DISTRICT IMPACTED: District 1

LOCATION: 118 Callaghan Avenue Unit A & B

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot 13, Block 1, NCB 719

ZONING: "RM-4 H AHOD" Residential Mixed Lavaca Historic Airport Hazard Overlay District

CASE MANAGER: Joseph Leos, Senior Planner

A request for

A request for 1) a parking adjustment to waive the two (2) required off-street parking spaces for two (2) Short-Term Rentals (Section 35-526) and, 2) a Special Exception to allow one (1) additional Type 2 Short Term Rental permit on the block face (Section 35-374.01(c)).

Executive Summary

The applicant is seeking a parking adjustment to waive the two (2) required off-street parking spaces for two (2) Short-Term Rentals and 2) a Special Exception to allow one (1) additional Type 2 Short Term Rental permit on the block face. Currently, there are no active Short Term Rental Type 2 permits on the block face.

The Type 2 STR permit for Unit B is allowed by right, as each block face is allowed at least one (1) Type 2 STR permit. However, Unit B does require a waiver of the off-street parking space before that permit can be issued.

Unit A requires both a parking waiver and a special exception to exceed the block face density.

A unit is defined as having its own distinct sleeping area, kitchen, and bathroom. Type 2 indicates that the owner/operator of the property does not occupy the site as their permanent legal residence.

The short term rental ordinance requires an off-street parking space to qualify for a permit. Code Sec. 16-1108(b) states that short term rental parking shall comply with City Code Chapter 35, Unified Development Code with respect to required parking (see section 35-526). In addition, and per Section 35-374.01(c)), Type 2 Short Term Rentals shall be limited to no more than one-eighth (12.5 percent) of the total number of single-family, duplex, triplex, or quadplex units on the block face. At least one (1) Type 2 Short Term Rental shall be permitted per block face, regardless of the total number of units on the block face.

In this case, the block face is defined as the south side of Callaghan Avenue between 114 Callaghan Avenue and the west side of Canal Street. There are eight (8) units along this block face, resulting in one (1) Type 2 Short Term Rental unit permitted by right. Any other Type 2 Short Term Rentals on this block face must seek a Special Exception from the Board of Adjustment. If this special exception and parking adjustment is approved, there will be a total of two (2) Type 2 Short Term Rentals on this block face, totaling 25% of the current units.

Any relief granted by the board for the parking adjustments are limited to the use of the property as a short-term rental and remains in effect in perpetuity.

This property is located within the Lavaca Historic District. Any future exterior modifications or new construction will require written approval from the Office of Historic Preservation. Approval of a variance does not supersede any requirements for design review outlined in Article VI of the Unified Development Code.

Code Enforcement History

No Code Enforcement history found.

Permit History

Short Term Rental Application Number: STR-25-13400013 & STR-25-13400014

Permit Request Type: Type 2

Application Submission Date: 01/07/2025

Zoning History

The subject property is legally zoned for a Short-Term Rental. Per the ordinance Shorter Term Rentals are prohibited only on properties zoned "C-3" General Commercial District, as well as all Industrial Districts.

Subject Property Zoning/Land Use

Existing Zoning

“RM-4 H AHOD” Residential Mixed Lavaca Historic Airport Hazard Overlay District

Existing Use

Duplex

Surrounding Property Zoning/ Land Use**North****Existing Zoning**

“RM-4 H AHOD” Residential Mixed Lavaca Historic Airport Hazard Overlay District

Existing Use

Residential Single-Family

South**Existing Zoning**

“RM-4 H AHOD” Residential Mixed Lavaca Historic Airport Hazard Overlay District

Existing Use

Residential Single-Family

East**Existing Zoning**

“RM-4 H AHOD” Residential Mixed Lavaca Historic Airport Hazard Overlay District

Existing Use

Vacant Lot

West**Existing Zoning**

“RM-4 H AHOD” Residential Mixed Lavaca Historic Airport Hazard Overlay District

Existing Use

Residential Single-Family

Comprehensive Plan Consistency/Neighborhood Association

The subject property is in the Downtown Area Regional Center Plan and is designated as “Medium Density Residential” in the future land use component of the plan. The subject property is located within the notification area of the Lavaca Neighborhood Association, and they have been notified of the request. The subject property is located within the notification areas of the NES Foundation, San Antonio Texas District One Resident Association, and Women in Film & Television San Antonio Community Organizations and have been notified of the request.

Street Classification

Callaghan Avenue is classified as a Local Road.

Criteria for Review –Special Exception

According to Section 35-374.01(c) of the UDC, in order for a special exception to be granted, the applicant must demonstrate all of the following:

A. The special exception will not materially endanger the public health or safety

Staff finds that the request to operate an additional short term rental beyond the 12.5% density cap is likely to materially endanger the public health and/or safety as the density caps were established to ensure that neighborhoods remain, primarily, residential.

B. The special exception does not create a public nuisance.

The density caps were established to prevent public nuisances. Allowing Type 2 STRs to exceed those caps will likely lead to increased cases of public nuisance.

C. The neighboring property will not be substantially injured by such proposed use.

The density caps were established to ensure that neighbors are not inundated by the presence of Type 2 STRs. Allowing additional STRs on this blockface may substantially injure neighboring properties.

D. Adequate utilities, access roads, storm drainage, recreation, open space, and other necessary faculties have been or are being provided.

The subject property appears to have adequate utilities, access, and open space, but does not provide off-street parking. The applicant is seeking a parking adjustment to waive the two (2) required off street parking spaces for two (2) Short Term Rentals as part of their request to the Board today.

E. The applicant or owner for the special exception does not have any previously revoked short term rental licenses, confirmed citations, or adjudicated offenses convictions for violations of Chapter 16, Article XXII of the City Code within one year prior to the date of the application.

The applicant or owner does not have previously revoked licenses, confirmed citations, or adjudicated offenses or convictions.

F. The special exception will not alter the essential character of the district and location in which the property for which the special exception is sought.

The density limits established by City Council exist to ensure that neighborhood remain, primarily, residential. Staff finds that exceeding the 12.5% blockface density is likely to alter the essential character of the district.

The board may also consider if any of the following apply, in accordance with UDC Section 35-399.03(h):

- (1) Distressed Structure. The applicant must demonstrate, and the board of adjustment must find:
 - (a) The restoration of a historic landmark or structure is a valuable addition to the quality and the character of the city; or
 - (b) There is proof that a short term rental (type 2) is the only economically feasible way to finance the preservation of the structure; and
 - (c) The granting of a board of adjustment approval will not adversely impact the residential quality of the neighborhood in which the structure is located.
- (2) Non-Distressed Structure. The applicant must demonstrate, and the board of adjustment must find the public welfare and convenience will be served, as demonstrated by subsections (a) (b) and (c) below.
 - (a) That nearby streets will not be substantially impacted by the proposed short term rental (type 2). To make this determination, the board of adjustment shall consider input from the city traffic engineer.
 - (b) The residential character of the neighborhood will not be disrupted in a manner to prevent the adjacent owners from the quiet enjoyment of their property.
 - (c) The neighboring property will not be substantially injured by such proposed use.

Alternative to Applicant's Request

The Board of Adjustment may approve or deny the applicant's request.

Staff Recommendation – Parking Adjustment

Staff recommends Denial in BOA-25-10300017 based on the following findings of fact:

1. Per Section 16-1100 of the City Code, staff finds that the approval of an increase in the Type 2 Short Term Rental permit density would be detrimental to “the health and safety of [the] occupant(s) of [the] short term rental property” and to the “integrity of the neighborhood(s) in which [the] short term rental property operates”.

Staff Recommendation – Special Exception

Staff recommends Denial in BOA-25-10300017 based on the following findings of fact:

1. Per Section 16-1100 of the City Code, staff finds that the approval of an increase in the Type 2 Short Term Rental permit density would be detrimental to “the health and safety of [the] occupant(s) of [the] short term rental property” and to the “integrity of the neighborhood(s) in which [the] short term rental property operates”; and
2. Staff is unable to identify any unique circumstance which warrants nearly doubling the density limitation for Type 2 STRs on this block face.