

# CITY OF SMYRNA

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### MEMORANDUM

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To: License and Variance Board

From: Rusty Martin, AICP, Community Development Director  
Caitlin Crowe, Planner I

Date: January 24, 2024

**RE: VARIANCE CASE V24-006**  
**3689 Ashwood Drive – Allow new construction on lot of record below minimum requirements**

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#### BACKGROUND

The applicant is requesting to build a new single-family home at 3689 Ashwood Drive on a substandard lot. Section 1208 requires a variance to build on a lot of record below minimum lot size requirements.

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#### ANALYSIS

The subject parcel is a 0.29-acre lot located on the north side of Ashwood Drive, near the intersection of Ashwood Drive and Ashwood Court (see Figure 1). The subject parcel and all adjacent parcels are zoned R-15 and are occupied by detached single-family homes. The subject parcel is part of the Hickory Hills subdivision, which was platted in 1956, prior to the current Smyrna Zoning Ordinance, which was implemented in 1976.

The subject property is 12,600 square feet, while the R-15 zoning district requires a minimum lot size of 15,000 square feet. Since the subject property is an existing lot of record, originally platted in 1956, the hardship is not self-created. If it were not for the nonconforming lot, no other variances would be required to build the new home.

The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing 1,082 square foot house to the foundation and build a new 2,718 square foot two-story single-family home which will consist of 4 bedrooms and 3 ½ bathrooms. The façade will be a mixture of board and baton and hardiplank. The majority of the home will be rebuilt on the existing foundation and will be accessed off the existing driveway and walkway. As mentioned, the existing one-story home is 1,082 square feet, well below the minimum house size of the R-15 zoning district at 2,000 square feet. With the new construction, the home will be brought into compliance with the R-15 zoning district floor area requirement.

The subject property is unique in that it has less square footage than what the R-15 zoning district requires. The hardship is not self created as the property is an existing lot of record. The variance requested is the minimum variance needed to build a new single-family home on the subject property. Community Development does not believe building a new single-family home

on the subject property in accordance with the R-15 zoning requirements will negatively impact the surrounding properties as there is an existing home on the subject property. At the time of this report, Community Development has not received any calls in opposition to the request.

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## STAFF COMMENTS

The applicant is requesting to deviate from the City's minimum lot area requirement established for the R-15 zoning district. According to Section 1403 of the Zoning Ordinance, variances must be reviewed under the following standards: (1) Whether there are unique and special or extraordinary circumstances applying to the property; (2) Whether any alleged hardship is self-created by any person having an interest in the property; (3) Whether strict application of the relevant provisions of the code would deprive the applicant of reasonable use of the property; and (4) Whether the variance proposed is the minimum variance needed. Community Development believes that the requested variance will not adversely affect surrounding properties. Therefore, staff recommends **approval** of the requested variance with the following condition:

1. Approval of the requested variance shall be conditioned upon the development of the property in substantial compliance with the site plan and elevations submitted with the variance application.

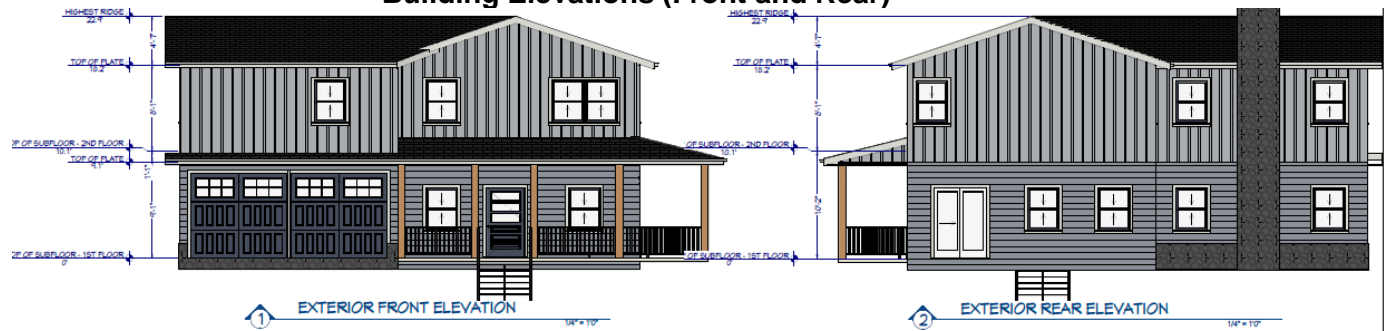
Figure – 1



## Figure – 2 Site Plan



**Figure – 3**  
**Building Elevations (Front and Rear)**





**Figure – 4**  
**Subject Property**



**Figure – 5**  
**Adjacent Property to the Southeast**





**Figure – 6**  
**Adjacent Property to the Northwest**



**Figure – 7**  
**Adjacent Property across Ashwood Drive**

