

# HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-2350

Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director

www.howardcountymd.gov FAX 410-313-3467 TDD 410-313-2323

April 30, 2010

Donald & Sally O'Keefe 6950 Haviland Mill Road Clarksville, MD 21029

RE: WP-10-102, O'Keefe Property

T-Mobile Telecommunication Facility

Dear Mr. & Mrs. O'Keefe:

The Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning considered your request for a waiver from the Howard County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations.

As of the date of this letter, the Planning Director **approved** your request to waive Section 16.155(a)(1)(i) of the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, which states that a site development plan is required for new nonresidential development for a new telecommunications monopole facility, and Section 16.1201(n) of the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations, which states that the Net Tract Area (NTA)should be used in calculating any reforestation or afforestation obligations that may be created by the proposed development. The applicant is requesting that the forest conservation calculations be based on the Limit of Disturbance (LOD) instead of the NTA.

## Approval is subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Compliance with the Board of Appeals case, BA-09-024C, and Decision and Order approved on October 12, 2009 by the Howard County Board of Appeals Hearing Examiner.
- 2. As a condition to use the Limit of Disturbance, instead of the Net Tract Area, for the forest conservation calculation, the Department of Planning and Zoning requires that a fee-in-lieu in the amount of \$653.40 be paid to the Department of Planning and Zoning before construction is initiated on-site. Please see the attached forest conservation worksheet for the total obligation. Please be advised this fee is only applicable for this project. If the applicant decides to further develop they will be required to comply with the forest conservation requirements for the entire site.
- No disturbance shall be permitted beyond the disturbance as shown on the waiver exhibit. No clearing, grading or construction is permitted within any forested area on-site. If applicable, place protection fencing around the forested area before construction is initiated.
- 4. The required landscaping must be in accordance with BA-09-024C and the Howard County Landscape Manual. As part of the grading permit application, you will be required to post \$840.00 surety to ensure the completion of your landscaping obligation for this project. This Department will perform an inspection to verify installation of the required plan materials. The inspection fee required for this project is \$100.00 and must be paid to the Department of Planning and Zoning before construction is initiated on-site. If a grading permit application is not required the \$840.00 surety will not be bonded, but the \$100.00 inspection fee must still be paid to the Department of Planning and Zoning with the submission of applicable grading and or building permits.
- The petitioner shall comply with all applicable County and State regulations and obtain all necessary permits from the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits prior to initiating construction onsite.

#### Our decision was made based on the following:

### Extraordinary Hardship or Practical Difficulty

An extraordinary hardship would arise if the applicant had to submit a site development plan for standard review and base the forest conservation calculation on the site's NTA instead of the LOD. Both options would be costly and time consuming, especially for the amount of work proposed.

#### Alternative Proposal

The alternate proposal to the waiver petition for Section 16.155(a)(1) would be to submit a new site development plan under standard review. The detailed plan exhibit submitted with this waiver petition is a suitable substitute for the SDP requirement showing information necessary to evaluate this request for compliance with the Regulations.

The alternate proposal to the waiver petition for Section 16.1202(n) would be to include the NTA (126.17 acres) in the calculations for the total forest conservation obligation. This would require the applicant to either pay a fee-in-lieu or submit a plat of easement to establish the forest conservation easement area(s) and enter into a forest conservation maintenance agreement.

#### Not Detrimental to the Public Interest

Approval of this waiver petition will not be detrimental to the public welfare. DPZ has reviewed the waiver exhibit in accordance with the current requirements outlined in the Howard County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations. Also, the project has undergone the Board of Appeals process for a Conditional Use and received approval from the Howard County Hearing Examiner to construct the communication facility on-site. The proposed telecommunications facility is located well within the interior of the existing farm site and approximately 675 feet from the public road.

### Will not Nullify the Intent or Purpose of the Regulations

The waiver petition proposal is an acceptable alternative to submitting a site development plan for standard review because the waiver petition exhibit complies with the Decision and Order issued by the Howard County Hearing Examiner and complies with the current Regulations. The site does not initiate the need for stormwater management since it is less than 5, 000 square feet, access to the proposed site is existing, and landscaping requirements are being addressed through this waiver petition.

It was recommended by the DPZ that the applicant apply for a waiver to use the LOD rather than the NTA for the forest conservation obligation since the primary use of the parcel is agricultural and the total area of disturbance for the proposed commercial use is only 3,120 square feet. As a condition, the DPZ has required that a fee-in-lieu for forest conservation be paid based on the forest conservation calculations. Also, DPZ will require that any development, other than what is shown in this waiver exhibit, must conform to the full Forest Conservation Regulations at that time.

The Department of Planning and Zoning has granted previous waivers for similar projects in the County.

Indicate this waiver petition file number, request, section of the regulations, action, conditions of approval, and date on all related plats, and site development plans, and building permits. This requested waiver will remain valid for one year from the date of this letter (on or before April 30, 2011) or as long as the grading permit remains in active processing.

If you have any questions, please contact Julia Boone at (410) 313-2350 or email at jboone@howardcountymd.gov.

Sincerely, 1. Kristo - Mash

Kent Sheubrooks, Acting Chief

Division of Land Development

KS/TKM/jb\/

Research, DED, Hillorie Morrison, DMW, Inc.

