

Howard County Department Of Planning And Zoning

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

Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director

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October 13, 2011

Jack and Louise Kaulfuss 13715 Old Rover Road West Friendship, MD 21794 John and Martha Calabrese 3262 Old Fence Road Ellicott City, MD 21042

RE: WP-12-045/Rite Aid Corporation (SDP-09-044) Ext. of Time

Dear Property Owners:

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

As of the date of this letter, the Planning Director **approved** your request for waiver to Section 16.156(o)(1)(ii) requiring the application of building permits within one year of site development plan signature approval, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. An extension of time by which to apply for building permit on the subject site is approved for a **one-year period** from the previous due date of October 12, 2011. The new due date by which to make application for building permit for improvements as shown on SDP-09-044/Rite Aid Corporation, is on or before **October 12, 2012**.
- 2. Any further extensions beyond October 12, 2012, deadline will require submission of a new waiver petition request.

JUSTIFICATION FOR APPROVAL:

- 1. Extraordinary hardships or practical difficulties will result from strict compliance with the Regulations. The Rite Aid Corporation (developer) has negotiated with the property owners to develop the site with a 14,607 sq.ft. retail building with drive-thru pharmacy. A final plat has been recorded to consolidate parcels and a site development plan was subsequently processed, receiving signature approval on October 12, 2010. Due to financial constraints of the present economy, however, the developer is unable to initiate building construction and has found it necessary to request an extension of time by which to file for building permit(s). To void the site plan at this stage would create extraordinary hardship to the property owners and developer by requiring the resubmission of a new site development plan. This would result in practical difficulties between the owners and the developer in re-negotiating legal contracts, processing of developer's agreements and may result in extensive redesign of the site due to new regulations. A better solution would be to grant a one year extension from the date by which to apply for building permit(s) to initiate construction on the site.
- 2. The intent of the Regulations will be served to a greater extent by approving the requested waiver. The developer has processed a plat of consolidation, a previous waiver petition, MDE permits, filed access cross easement agreements and has received site development plan approval for construction of a retail building, parking lots, storm water management and on-site Forest Conservation easement. The developer has continuously moved forward with development plans for this project and is only requesting a temporary delay until the financial market improves to allow construction of a proposed Rite Aid Building.

3. Approval of this waiver request will not adversely affect the interests of the public nor nullify the intent of the Regulations. The developer is not seeking to circumvent or nullify the intent of the Regulations. The property will be developed in accordance with the approved site plan and all permits will be filed as applicable. Any further extension to the due date will require application of a new waiver petition.

Indicate this waiver petition file number, request, section of the regulations, action taken, date and conditions of approval on all related future plats, site development plans and and/or building permits. This requested waiver will remain valid for as long as development plans remain active. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Brenda Barth at (410) 313-2350 or email: <u>bbarth@howardcountymd.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Kent Sheubrooks, Chief

Division of Land Development

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cc: Research/DED/RES Rite Aid Corporation Bohler Engineering SDP-09-044