



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING

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

Voice/Relay

Amy Gowan, Director

FAX 410-313-3467

November 15, 2021

Benchmark Engineering
8450 Baltimore National Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Sent via email to bei@bei-civilengineering.com

RE: WP-22-046, Dorsey Business Center, Parcel A
Virtual Meeting Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is to inform you that your request for alternative compliance to the Howard County Subdivision and Land Development Regulations for the subject property was reviewed.

As of the date of this letter, and pursuant to Section 16.104, the Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning considered and **approved** your request for alternative compliance with respect to **Section 16.128(c)(1)** of the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations to allow the petitioner to host a virtual presubmission community meeting during the COVID-19 Howard County State of Emergency.

The Department of Planning and Zoning hereby determines that you have demonstrated to its satisfaction that strict enforcement of Section 16.128(c)(1) would result in unwarranted hardship. This determination is made with consideration of your alternative compliance application and the four (4) items you were required to address, pursuant to Section 16.104(a)(1):

1. Strict conformance with the requirements will deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by others in similar areas.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines recommends limiting indoor gatherings. To allow the continuity of operations and essential functions related to construction, the Department of Planning and Zoning developed guidelines for conducting virtual meetings that must be met for approval of alternative compliance. This alternative process will allow applicants the same rights as others, to submit development plans, during a time when in-person events are restricted due to public health concerns.

2. Uniqueness of the property or topographical conditions would result in practical difficulty; other than economic, or unreasonable hardship from strict adherence to the regulations.

The presubmission community meeting requirement is an administrative procedure required for most developments to begin the development process. Physical conditions of the property are not considered when applying the presubmission community meeting requirements. Therefore, this criterion does not apply.

3. The variance will not confer to the applicant a special privilege that would be denied to other applicants.

Alternative compliance to the physical meeting requirement will not confer a special privilege since it is the only means of conducting these meetings under CDC guidelines and will be needed for all applicants during this time. The pre-submission community will be held through virtual means and DPZ will require that guidelines be met to ensure that all necessary information is provided, and accommodations are made to assist people that may need assistance accessing technology.

4. The modification is not detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare, or injurious to other properties.

Conducting a virtual presubmission community meeting will comply with the CDC guidelines, allow for social distancing and the policies enacted to protect the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approval of this Alternative Compliance is subject to the following conditions:

1. The petitioner must comply with the Department of Planning and Zoning's Virtual Presubmission Meeting Guidelines for applying and hosting a virtual public meeting (attached).

Indicate this alternative compliance 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 alternative compliance will remain valid as long as the Howard County State of Emergency is in effect.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Wellen at (410) 313-2350 or email at jwellen@howardcountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Amy Gowan
5B4D5DD9470C4D4...

Amy Gowan, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning

AG/ac/js

cc: Research
DLD - Julia Sauer



Howard County Maryland
Department of Planning and Zoning
 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

(410) 313-2350

DPZ Office Use only:
 File No. *WP-22-046*
 Date Filed *11/12/21*

ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE APPLICATION

Site Description: Apartment Building and Associated Parking Garage

Subdivision Name/Property Identification: Dorsey Business Center, Parcel A

Location of property: 6800 Deerpath Road

Existing Use: Office Building **Proposed Use:** 250 Unit Apartment Building

Tax Map: 37 **Grid:** 24 **Parcel No:** 634 **Election District:** 1st

Zoning District: TOD **Total site area:** 4.3 Acres

Please list all previously submitted or currently active plans on file with the County (subdivision plans, Board of Appeals petitions, alternative compliance petitions, etc.). If no previous plans have been submitted, please provide a brief history of the site and related information to the request:

F-86-151, SDP-05-029

In the area below, the petitioner shall enumerate the specific numerical section(s) from the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations for which an alternative compliance is being requested and provide a brief summary of the request. Please use the additional page if needed.

Section Reference No.	Brief Summary of Request
16.128(c)(1)	Request to hold a virtual meeting in-lieu of a public meeting.

Section Reference No.	Brief Summary of Request

Signature of Property Owner:  **Date:** 11/8/2021

Signature of Petitioner Preparer:  **Date:** 

Name of Property Owner: Mark Levy **Name of Petition Preparer:** Benchmark Engineering, Inc

Address: 6800 Deerpath Road **Address:** 8480 Baltimore National Pike

City, State, Zip: Elkridge, MD 21075 **City, State, Zip:** Ellicott City, MD 21043

E-Mail: mlevy@handrock.com **E-Mail:** bei@bei-civilengineering.com

Phone No.: 410-579-2442 **Phone No.:** 410-465-6105

Contact Person: Mark Levy **Contact Person:** Chris Ogle

Owner's Authorization Attached