

*NOTICE OF FINAL DECISION*  
*OF BOARD OF APPEALS*

RE: Case No. V-42-13 Caro Fonji

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the Board Order setting forth the action taken by the Board of Appeals in your case on the following date: July 10, 2013.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that on August 28, 2013, the above notice and attached Order of the Board were mailed, postage prepaid, to all persons of record.

(Original Signed)

Anne F. Carter  
Administrator

cc: Petitioner  
Adjoining Property Owners  
M-NCPPC, Permit Review Section  
DPIE/Building Code Official, Permitting

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF APPEALS FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
*Sitting as the Board of Zoning Appeals*

Petitioner: Caro Fonji

Appeal No.: V-42-13

Subject Property: Lot 16, Block S, Palmer Park Subdivision, being 7916 Allendale Drive, Landover,  
Prince George's County, Maryland

Heard and Decided: July 10, 2013

Board Members Present and Voting: Bobbie S. Mack, Chairperson  
Albert C. Scott, Vice Chairman  
Anastasia T. Johnson, Member

**RESOLUTION**

This appeal is brought before the Board of Appeals, sitting as the Board of Zoning Appeals for the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Prince George's County, Maryland (the "Board"), requesting a variance from the strict application of the provisions of Subtitle 27 of the Prince George's County Code (the "Zoning Ordinance").

In this appeal, a proceeding pursuant to Section 27-229 of the Zoning Ordinance, Petitioner requests that the Board approve a variance from Section 27-120.01(c) of the Zoning Ordinance, which prescribes that no parking space, parking area, or parking structure other than a driveway no wider than its associated garage, carport, or other parking structure may be built in the front yard of a dwelling in the area between the front street line and the sides of the dwelling. Petitioner proposes to construct a driveway in the front yard of a semi-detached dwelling. A waiver of the parking area location requirement is requested.

**Evidence Presented**

The following testimony and record evidence were considered by the Board:

1. The property was subdivided in 1954, contains 5,374 square feet, is zoned R-35 (One-Family Semi-Detached Residential) and is improved with a semi-detached single-family dwelling and shed. Exhibits ("Exhs.") 2, 3, 6 and 7. The existing dwelling was built in 1955. Exhs. 6 and 7.
2. The subject lot is long and extremely narrow, being more than 145 feet deep and only 36 feet wide. Exh. 2.
3. Petitioner would like to construct a 9.5' x 20' driveway, a portion of which will be located in front of the dwelling. Since a portion of the driveway will be located in an area prohibited by Section 27-120.01(c), a waiver of the parking area location requirement was requested. Exh. 10.
4. Petitioner testified that she is often unable to secure parking on her street and a fire hydrant in front of her house reduces parking space. Exh. 8(E).

**Applicable Code Section and Authority**

Section 27-230 of the Zoning Ordinance authorizes the Board to grant variances when, by reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness, shape, topography, or other extraordinary situation or condition of specific parcels of property, the strict application of the Zoning Ordinance would result in peculiar and unusual practical difficulties or an exceptional or undue hardship upon the owner of the property, provided such relief can be granted without substantial impairment of the intent, purpose and integrity of the General Plan or Master Plan.

Findings of the Board

After hearing all the testimony and reviewing the evidence of record, the Board finds that the requested variance complies with the applicable standards set forth in Section 27-230, more specifically:

Due to the narrowness of the property, the difficulty in finding available on-street parking near the property, a fire hydrant further reducing the amount of parking space on the street in front of the subject property, and the character of the neighborhood, granting the relief requested would not substantially impair the intent, purpose and integrity of the General Plan or Master Plan, and denying the request would result in a peculiar and unusual practical difficulty upon the owner of the property.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, unanimously, that a waiver of the parking area location requirement in order to construct a 9.5' x 20' driveway in the front yard of a semi-detached dwelling on the property located at Lot 16, Block S, Palmer Park Subdivision, being 7916 Allendale Drive, Landover, Prince George's County, Maryland, be and is hereby APPROVED. Approval of the variance is contingent upon development in compliance with the approved site plan, Exhibit 2.

**BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

By: (Original Signed)  
Bobbie S. Mack, Chairperson

**NOTICE**

Within thirty (30) days from the date of this decision, any person, firm, corporation, or governmental agency who was a party to the Board's proceedings and is aggrieved by its decision may file an appeal to the Circuit Court of Prince George's County.

Further, Section 27-233(a) of the Prince George's County Code states:

A decision of the Board, permitting the erection of a building or structure, shall not be valid for more than two (2) years, unless a building permit for the erection is obtained within this period and the construction is started and proceeds to completion in accordance with the terms of the decision and the permit.