BARDENWERPER, TALBOTT & ROBERTS, PLLC

- ATTORNEYS AT LAW -

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STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE GUIDELINES OF THE CORNERSTONE 2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Applicant:

Fireside Financial, LLC

Owner:

Fireside Investment Pool, LLC

Location:

3913 Accomack Drive

RECEIVED

Proposed Use:

Mini-Storage

MAY 19 2014

Engineers, Land Planners and

DESIGN SERVICES

Landscape Architects:

Land Design & Development, LLC

Request:

Change in Zoning from OTF to C-M

INTRODUCTION

This is an application for a mini-storage facility on vacant property that is located next door to a Ford Truck Plant parking lot and apartments owned and renovated by this same developer/property owner. Final style and design of the mini-storage will be similar to other facilities where the backs of the buildings, faced with split-faced block, basically serve as a screen wall around the storage units.

GUIDELINE 1: COMMUNITY FORM

The community form for this area is Suburban Workplace which is characterized by a variety of uses mostly like this one or more intense. Adjoining apartment uses, in accordance with this Form District, will be well screened and buffered. Apartment dwellers are some of the predominate users of mini-storage facilities.

GUIDELINE 2: CENTERS

The Intents of this Guideline 2 are several fold: to promote an efficient use of land in existing infrastructure, to lower utility costs by reducing the need for extensions, to reduce commuting time and transportation related air pollution, to provide neighborhood centers and marketplaces that include a diversity of goods and services, to encourage vitality and sense of place, and to restrict individual or isolated commercial uses in noncommercial areas. The proposed ministorage facility complies with all of these Intents of this Guideline because this property is ideal for this use given its location surrounded by the uses identified above on the edge of a large mixed use industrial, retail and apartment activity center. Locating the mini-storage facility where there is a clear market demand in an area with a sizeable residential support population with multiple retail and industrial users as well as pass-by traffic, helps reduce commuting and transportation related air pollution because people don't have to drive long distances, as they often do, for their mini-storage needs. The proposed min-storage facility also addresses the other

Intent statements of this Guideline because it is a compact development that fits well, given its aesthetic appeal and full mitigation of adverse impacts, with nearby commercial and industrial uses and with nearby commercial, industrial and apartments predominantly existing in the area.

Policies 1 and 2 of this Guideline propose locating activity centers when a proposed use requires a special location in or near a specific land use or transportation facility. This proposed ministorage facility complies with these Policies of this Guideline because, as stated, a Suburban Workplace is appropriate for this kind of use, and further mini-storage requires special locations, notably on streets near significant residential, industrial and/or commercial support populations and businesses from where they draw their trade.

Policy 3 of this Guideline suggests location of commercial development in activity centers where it can be demonstrated that significant support population exists. Not only is there little competition for mini-storage facilities in this immediate area, but there is a support population in very short driving distances from the proposed mini-storage facility.

Policy 5 of this Guideline recommends a mixture of compatible uses in a Suburban Workplace. The way that the proposed mini-storage facility relates to other nearby multifamily residential and commercial uses in terms of design and use of building materials makes this mini-storage facility compatible with other uses. They are compatible among other reasons because the exterior of the mini-storage facility acts as a masonry wall, which is what residential neighborhoods often prefer in terms of screening and because of all of the other design commitments that will become a part of this application.

GUIDELINE 3: COMPABILITY

The Intents of this Guideline are to allow a mixture of land uses as long as they are designed to be compatible with each other, to prohibit the location of sensitive land uses in areas where accepted standards for noise, lighting, odors or similar nuisances are violated, and to preserve the character of the existing neighborhoods. The proposed mini-storage facility complies with these Intents of this Guideline because it is evident from the filed development plan and elevation renderings to be submitted prior to the LD&T committee review that the will finally be designed in a highly compatible manner given the nearby uses and their designs and uses of building materials. All sides except at the drive way opening will be faced with attractive, split-face block wall to protect visual noise and activity nuisances associated with a mini-storage facility because it is, other than a cemetery or mausoleum, the most underutilized commercial use of any kind. It does not involve lighting, noise, odors or similar nuisances. Per binding elements, lighting will be set below the roof lines so that lighting will not shine into adjoining neighborhoods but will be contained within the confines of the building spaces themselves. The use is quiet and limited per binding element and won't involve any kind of active participation of customers other than occasional delivering of items to, and removing them from, storage. The split-face block masonry wall around the perimeter of the mini-storage facility helps preserve the character of the neighborhood.

Policies 1 and 2 of this Guideline pertain specifically to the use of building materials and other design techniques to ensure compatibility, in this case, with the adjoining residential neighborhood. As stated, the perimeter split-face block, color compatible walls of the ministorage facility screen and buffer residences from activities on the inside. The walls of the ministorage facility will be further softened with landscaping along the perimeter.

Policies 5, 7, 8 and 9 of this Guideline all pertain, as stated above, to the nuisances of odors, noise, lighting and other visual impacts, which are often commonplace in commercial and industrial facilities. But a mini-storage facility doesn't involve any of these typical nuisances that need to be mitigated because there are no odors associated with it, no noise is involved, lighting is held below the rooflines of the buildings, and the outside walls of the mini-storage facility shield any unwanted adverse visual impacts. The split-face block, color compatible masonry wall in itself will be attractive enough, and its appearance can be softened with landscaping. Binding elements pertaining to use and other impact mitigation are also proposed.

Policy 6 of this Guideline pertains to traffic. It should be noted here, as in the discussion of traffic and transportation in Guidelines 7 and 8, that traffic from a mini-storage facility is as low as anything. Because the proposed retail center is a small one, its traffic generation will also be largely pass-by, and it already exists in the neighborhood.

Policy 19 pertains to hazardous materials, and, although neighbors have expressed some concern about whether hazardous materials would be located within the mini-storage facility, none will be, and restrictions will be imposed by binding element so that hazardous materials cannot be stored on site.

Policies 21, 22 and 23 pertain to transitions, buffering and setbacks. The mini-storage facility itself is a good use for a large lot in a Suburban Workplace. The proposed mini-storage facility has no nuisances associated with it, and the outside of it looks like a masonry wall which is what neighbors typically want.

Policies 24 and 25 of this Guideline pertain to the impacts of parking, loading and delivery. Access to and from the mini-storage facility will be from Accomack Drive. Those areas will be completely screened off from views of these facilities by the exterior wall of the mini-storage facility which will be as a split-face block masonry screening wall. Everything will be screened by these screening walls and by landscaping. Elevations and cross sections submitted with this application demonstrate this. Parking, because of the size of these proposed uses, will be minimal.

GUIDELINE 6: ECONOMIC GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

The Intents and Policies of this Guideline are to ensure the availability of necessary usable land to facilitate commercial development, to reduce public and private costs for land development, and to assure that commercial development is located in activity centers. As stated above, there is a demand for mini-storage facilities in this area, and the Suburban Workplace is a perfectly appropriate place for this use, given all the described impact mitigation.

GUIDELINES 7 AND 8: CIRCULATION AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITY <u>DESIGN</u>

The Intents and Policies of these Guidelines are to provide for safe and proper functioning of the street network, to ensure that a development does not exceed the carrying capacity of adjoining streets, to ensure good internal and external circulation, to address congestion and air quality issues, to protect streetscapes and transit corridors, and to provide efficient, safe and attractive roadways, transit routes and sidewalks.

The proposed mini-storage facility complies with these Intents of these Guidelines because, as stated above, this is a low intensity use that does not negatively impact the transportation network. Mini-storage contributes virtually no traffic, and mostly accommodates pass-by and nearby residential traffic. There is an access point off Accomack Drive which can handle this small volume of traffic.

Policies 1, 2, 8 and 9 of Guideline 7 pertain to impacts of developments, impact mitigation measures, where necessary, appropriate levels of service for the adjoining roadways, and, as necessary, dedication of additional right-of-way. The development plan filed with this application and the obvious low traffic volumes associated with this use show that this proposed project will not negatively impact Accomack Drive.

Policies 10, 11, 12 13, 14 and 16 of this Guideline all pertain to development plan requirements, such as adequate parking, corner clearances, median openings, access design and so forth. Prior to LD&T, the development plan will receive a preliminary stamp of approval from the Metro Transportation Planning, assuring compliance with all of these particular design standards.

Policies 5, 9, 10 and 11 of Guideline 8 similarly address issues of site design, notably with respect to access, site distances and internal circulation. All of these issues are addressed on the development plan and will be reviewed and approved by the Metro Transportation Planning prior to docketing for LD&T.

GUIDELINE 9: BICYCLE, PEDESTRIAN AND TRANSIT

The Intents and Policies of this Guideline all deal with assuring that provisions for pedestrian, bicycle and transit usage and access are assured for uses that rely on them. Only sidewalks are relevant in this case, and they will be provided along the property frontage.

GUIDELINES 10, 11 AND 12: STORM WATER, WATER QUALITY AND AIR QUALITY

The Intents and Policies of these Guidelines pertain to the environmental issues. As to stormwater management, area drainage issues have been examined by MSD together with engineers and land planners at Land Design and Development, and the site plan will be preliminarily approved by MSD prior to docketing for LD&T based on design and the fact that post-development rates of runoff will not exceed pre-development conditions. There are no blue line streams involved on this property that will be adversely affected.

As to water quality, the typical way that this is addressed at this point in time in this community is through construction standards addressing soil erosion and sediment control, which will be addressed at construction stage.

As to air quality, as stated above, because this is a very low generating use, not much traffic impact will be involved. And to the extent that this use is needed by the nearby residential areas, it will be easily accessible.

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GUIDELINE 13: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This Guideline and its Policies require adequate landscaping along the perimeters of properties and within interior parking areas. As the development plan filed with this application shows, landscaping, as required by the Land Development Code, is provided along the perimeter and within the interior parking areas.

For all the foregoing reasons on the development plan, on elevations and application filed herewith and more to be explained at LD&T and the public hearing, this mini-storage facility complies with all other applicable Guidelines and Policies of the Cornerstone 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

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