

# Planning Commission

## Staff Report

February 2, 2023



<b>Case No:</b>	22-ZONE-0114
<b>Project Name:</b>	1239 S Clay Street Rezoning
<b>Location:</b>	1239 S Clay Street
<b>Owner(s):</b>	River City Housing Inc.
<b>Applicant:</b>	River City Housing Inc.
<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Louisville Metro
<b>Council District:</b>	6 – (vacant)
<b>Case Manager:</b>	Dante St. Germain, AICP, Planner II

### REQUESTS

- **Change in zoning** from R-6 Single Family Residential to U-N Urban Neighborhood
- **Variance** from 5.4.1.D.3 to permit the private yard area to be less than the required 20% of the area of the lot (required 20%, requested 18%, variance of 2%) (22-VARIANCE-0151)
- **Detailed District Development Plan** with Binding Elements

### CASE SUMMARY/BACKGROUND

The subject site is located along S Clay Street one and one-half blocks north of the intersection with Camp Street, and consists of one lot. The applicant proposes to rezone the site in order to subdivide the lot into two single-family lots and construct two semi-detached single-family homes.

The site is located across S Clay Street from Shelby Park. It is otherwise generally surrounded by single-family residential uses. The S Shelby Street commercial corridor is located one block to the east.

The site is located in the study area for the Smoketown/Shelby Park Neighborhood Plan. The site is within the area recommended to be or remain residential in use.

### STAFF FINDING

Staff finds that the proposed zoning change meets the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan. The variance is adequately justified and meets the standard of review. The site plan meets the requirements of the Land Development Code with the exception of the requested variance, and generally meets the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan.

### TECHNICAL REVIEW

Plan 2040

Land Development Code (Louisville Metro)

Smoketown/Shelby Park Neighborhood Plan (2002)

MSD and Transportation Planning have provided preliminary approval of the proposal.

## **INTERESTED PARTY COMMENTS**

Three emails in support of the proposal and one email in opposition were received by staff.

## **STANDARD OF REVIEW FOR REZONING**

Criteria for granting the proposed form district change/rezoning: KRS Chapter 100.213

1. The proposed form district/rezoning change complies with the applicable guidelines and policies Plan 2040; OR
2. The existing form district/zoning classification is inappropriate and the proposed classification is appropriate; OR
3. There have been major changes of an economic, physical, or social nature within the area involved which were not anticipated in Plan 2040 which have substantially altered the basic character of the area.

## **STAFF ANALYSIS FOR CHANGE IN ZONING**

The site is located in the Traditional Neighborhood Form District

This form is characterized by predominantly residential uses, by a grid pattern of streets with sidewalks and often including alleys. Residential lots are predominantly narrow and often deep, but the neighborhood may contain sections of larger estate lots, and also sections of lots on which appropriately integrated higher density residential uses may be located. The higher density uses are encouraged to be located in centers or near parks and open spaces having sufficient carrying capacity. There is usually a significant range of housing opportunities, including multi-family dwellings. Traditional neighborhoods often have and are encouraged to have a significant proportion of public open space such as parks or greenways, and may contain civic uses as well as appropriately located and integrated neighborhood centers with a mixture of mostly neighborhood-serving land uses such as offices, shops, restaurants and services. Although many existing traditional neighborhoods are 50 to 120 years old, the Traditional Neighborhood Form may be used when establishing new developments and redevelopments. Revitalization and reinforcement of the Traditional Neighborhood Form will require particular emphasis on (a) preservation and renovation of existing buildings in stable neighborhoods (if the building design is consistent with the predominant building design in those neighborhoods), (b) in the case of new developments or redevelopments using traditional building scales and site layouts, (c) the preservation of the existing or establishing a new grid pattern of streets and alleys, and (d) preservation of or creation of new public open spaces.

Following is staff's analysis of the proposed rezoning against the Goals, Objectives and Policies of Plan 2040.

The requested zoning district would permit the lot to be subdivided in such a way as to generally match the character of a Traditional Neighborhood, and also the specific neighborhood surrounding the site. The lots in the immediate vicinity vary in width, but many are narrow. The proposal would permit the construction of two semi-detached single-family homes with a shared wall, which is a compatible building type for the neighborhood.

The proposed zoning district is generally in compliance with the plan elements and CHASE principles of Plan 2040. All other agency comments should be addressed to demonstrate compliance with the remaining Goals, Objectives and Policies of Plan 2040.

A checklist is attached to the end of this staff report with a more detailed analysis. The Louisville Metro Planning Commission is charged with making a recommendation to the Louisville Metro Council regarding the appropriateness of this zoning map amendment. The Louisville Metro Council has zoning authority over the property in question.

**STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR VARIANCE FROM SECTION 5.4.1.D.3**

- (a) The requested variance will not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare.

STAFF: The requested variance will not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare, because the structure must be constructed to comply with all applicable building codes, including fire codes, and the Land Development Code, except where relief is requested.

- (b) The requested variance will not alter the essential character of the general vicinity.

STAFF: The proposed reduction in private yard area will be unlikely to be noticeable to any neighbors, and will not be visible from the street.

- (c) The requested variance will not cause a hazard or nuisance to the public.

STAFF: The requested variance will not cause a hazard or nuisance to the public because the structure must be constructed to comply with all building codes.

- (d) The requested variance will not allow an unreasonable circumvention of the zoning regulations.

STAFF: The requested variance will not allow an unreasonable circumvention of the zoning regulations as the proposed building envelope is a normal length for a building in the Traditional neighborhood, and having parking off the alley is also a normal condition for this type of development. The alley is fairly narrow, and the front of the parking pad must be 42' from the rear side of the alley, which results in the encroachment into the required private yard area.

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. The requested variance arises from special circumstances which do not generally apply to land in the general vicinity or the same zone.

STAFF: The requested variance does not arise from special circumstances which do generally apply to the land in the generally vicinity or the same zone as the proposed new lots have not been created yet.

2. The strict application of the provisions of the regulation would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land or create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant.

STAFF: The strict application of the provisions of the regulation would create an unnecessary hardship on the applicant as the applicant proposed parking in the rear, which is the cause of the encroachment and reduction in private yard area. Not permitting a parking pad in the rear of each lot would likely result in homeowners parking on the grass or pouring their own gravel or concrete pads. It would be most helpful for the developer to pour the pads in compliance with regulations.

3. The circumstances are not the result of actions of the applicant taken subsequent to the adoption of the zoning regulation from which relief is sought.

STAFF: The circumstances are not the result of actions of the applicant taken subsequent to the adoption of the zoning regulation from which relief is sought as the applicant is requesting the variance and has not begun construction.

### **STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR DDDP**

- (a) The conservation of natural resources on the property proposed for development, including: trees and other living vegetation, steep slopes, water courses, flood plains, soils, air quality, scenic views, and historic sites;

STAFF: No natural resources are evident on the site. The site is currently vacant but was previously developed.

- (b) The provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation both within the development and the community;

STAFF: Provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation within and around the development and the community has been provided, and Metro Public Works has approved the preliminary development plan.

- (c) The provision of sufficient open space (scenic and recreational) to meet the needs of the proposed development;

STAFF: No open space provisions are pertinent to the request.

- (d) The provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community;

STAFF: The Metropolitan Sewer District has approved the preliminary development plan and will ensure the provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community.

- (e) The compatibility of the overall site design (location of buildings, parking lots, screening, landscaping) and land use or uses with the existing and projected future development of the area;

STAFF: The overall site design is in compliance with existing and planned future development in the area. The proposed structure would be compatible with existing development in the area.

- (f) Conformance of the development plan with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Revised plan certain development plans shall be evaluated for conformance with the non-residential and mixed-use intent of the form districts and comprehensive plan.

STAFF: The development plan conforms to applicable requirements of the Land Development Code and Plan 2040 with the exception of the requested variance. The site plan generally complies with the policies and guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan. The site plan would permit semi-detached single-family housing.

## REQUIRED ACTIONS

- **RECOMMEND** that Metro Council **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Change-in-Zoning** from R-6 to U-N
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Variance**
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Detailed District Development Plan** with **Binding Elements**

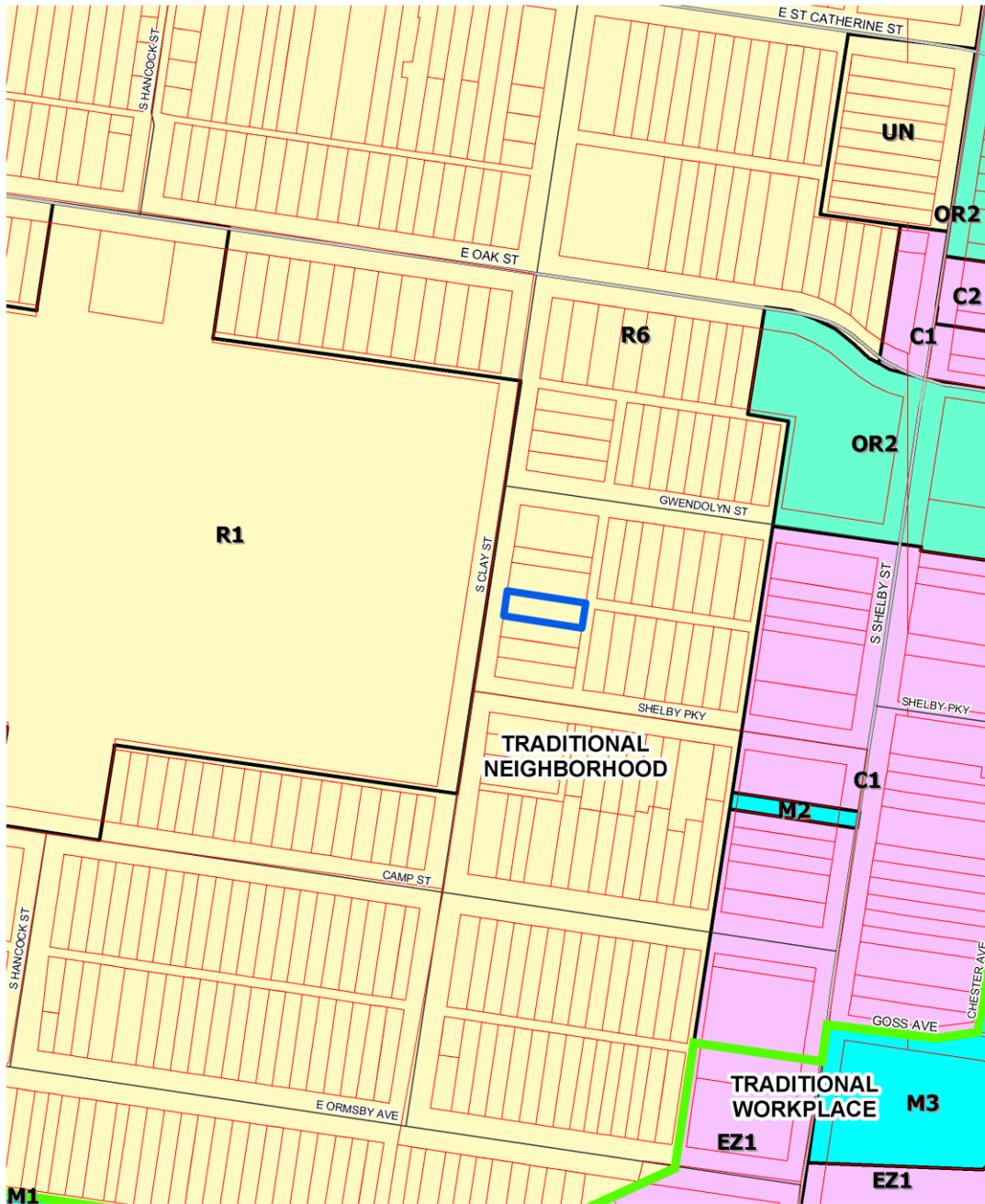
## NOTIFICATION

Date	Purpose of Notice	Recipients
12/12/2022	Hearing before LD&T	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> tier adjoining property owners and current residents Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 6
01/19/2023	Hearing before PC	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> tier adjoining property owners and current residents Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 6
01/17/2023	Hearing before PC	Sign Posting on property
01/25/2023	Hearing before PC	Legal Advertisement in the Courier-Journal

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Zoning Map
2. Aerial Photograph
3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist
4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. Zoning Map



1239 S Clay Street  
feet



190

Map Created: 5/2/2022



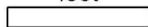
Copyright (c) 2022, LOUISVILLE AND JEFFERSON COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT (MSD), LOUISVILLE WATER COMPANY (LWC), LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT and JEFFERSON COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR (PVA). All Rights Reserved.



2. Aerial Photograph



1239 S Clay Street  
feet



190

Map Created: 5/2/2022



Copyright (c) 2022, LOUISVILLE AND JEFFERSON COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT (MSD), LOUISVILLE WATER COMPANY (LWC), LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT and JEFFERSON COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR (PVA). All Rights Reserved.

### 3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist

- + Exceeds Guideline
- ✓ Meets Guideline
- Does Not Meet Guideline
- +/- More Information Needed
- NA Not Applicable

#### Traditional Neighborhood: Residential

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
1	Community Form: Goal 1	7. Locate higher density and intensity uses near major transportation facilities and transit corridors, employment centers, in or near activity centers and other areas where demand and adequate infrastructure exists or is planned.	✓	The proposal is not for higher density and intensity zoning.
2	Community Form: Goal 1	9. Ensure an appropriate transition between uses that are substantially different in scale and intensity or density of development. The transition may be achieved through methods such as landscaped buffer yards, vegetative berms, compatible building design and materials, height restrictions and setback requirements.	✓	No transitions are necessary – the proposed zoning district and adjacent zoning districts are in the same intensity class.
3	Community Form: Goal 2	9. Encourage new developments and rehabilitation of buildings that provide commercial, office and/or residential uses.	✓	The proposal would allow for new development providing residential uses.
4	Community Form: Goal 3	10. Encourage development to avoid wet or highly permeable soils, severe, steep or unstable slopes where the potential for severe erosion problems exists in order to prevent property damage and public costs associated with soil slippage and foundation failure and to minimize environmental degradation.	NA	No wet or highly permeable soils, or severe, steep or unstable slopes are evident on the site.
5	Community Form: Goal 4	2. Encourage preservation of distinctive cultural features including landscapes, natural elements and built features.	✓	No distinctive cultural features are evident on the site.
6	Community Form: Goal 4	3. Encourage preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic sites listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and/or recognized by the Louisville Metro Landmarks Commission or other national, state or local government historic preservation agencies.	✓	No historic assets are evident on the site.



#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
7	Mobility: Goal 1	4. Encourage higher densities and intensities within or near existing marketplace corridors, existing and future activity centers, and employment centers to support transit-oriented development and an efficient public transportation system.	✓	The proposal is not for higher density or intensity zoning.
8	Mobility: Goal 2	4. Avoid access to development through areas of significantly lower intensity or density development if such access would create significant nuisances.	✓	Access to the site is via S Clay Street and an alley.
9	Mobility: Goal 3	2. To improve mobility, and reduce vehicle miles traveled and congestion, encourage a mixture of compatible land uses that are easily accessible by bicycle, car, transit, pedestrians and people with disabilities. Housing should be encouraged near employment centers.	✓	The proposal would increase the mixture of compatible land uses in a walkable neighborhood close to transit. The nearest transit line is along S Shelby Street approximately 1 block to the east.
10	Mobility: Goal 3	5. Evaluate developments for their impact on the transportation network (including the street, pedestrian, transit, freight movement and bike facilities and services) and air quality.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
11	Mobility: Goal 3	6. Ensure that those who propose new developments bear or share in rough proportionality the costs of transportation facilities and services made necessary by development.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
12	Mobility: Goal 3	9. When existing transportation facilities and services are inadequate and public funds are not available to rectify the situation, the developer may be asked to make improvements, roughly proportional to the projected impact of the proposed development, to eliminate present inadequacies if such improvements would be the only means by which the development would be considered appropriate at the proposed location.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
13	Mobility: Goal 3	10. Ensure that necessary improvements occur in accordance with long-range transportation plans and level of mobility criteria for all modes of travel.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
14	Mobility: Goal 3	21. Prevent safety hazards caused by direct residential access to high speed roadways.	✓	No direct residential access to high-speed roadways is proposed.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
15	Community Facilities: Goal 2	1. Locate development in areas served by existing utilities or capable of being served by public or private utility extensions.	✓	The relevant utilities have approved the proposal.
16	Community Facilities: Goal 2	2. Ensure that all development has an adequate supply of potable water and water for fire-fighting purposes. Locate only very low-density land uses on sites that use on-lot sewage disposal systems or on a private supply of potable water.	✓	Louisville Water Company has approved the proposal.
17	Community Facilities: Goal 2	3. Ensure that all development has adequate means of sewage treatment and disposal to protect public health and to protect water quality in lakes and streams as determined by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD).	✓	MSD has approved the proposal.
18	Livability: Goal 1	5. Encourage development that recognizes and incorporates the unique characteristics of identified general landscape types and native plant communities (e.g., upland hardwood forest) throughout Louisville Metro.	✓	No natural resources are evident on the site. Street trees will be provided.
19	Livability: Goal 1	17. Determine site susceptibility to erosion; identify the presence of on-site carbonate conditions and features that are vulnerable to site disturbance; identify the extent of existing groundwater use and the impacts of the project on groundwater resources, flow patterns, and existing and proposed surface drainage. Then mitigate potential hazards to such systems resulting from the project.	NA	No karst terrain is evident on the site.
20	Livability: Goal 1	21. Mitigate negative development impacts to the integrity of the regulatory floodplain by encouraging development patterns that minimize disturbance and consider the increased risk of more frequent flooding events.	NA	The site is not located in the regulatory floodplain.
21	Housing: Goal 1	1. Encourage a variety of housing types including, but not limited to, detached and attached single family, multi-family, mixed use, zero lot line, average lot, cluster, and co-housing. Allow for accessory residential structures and apartments. Housing types should reflect the Form District pattern.	✓	The proposal would increase the variety of housing types in the neighborhood and provide single-family semi-detached housing which reflects the form district pattern.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
22	Housing: Goal 1	2. Promote housing options and environments that support aging in place. Encourage housing for older adults and people with disabilities to be located close to shopping and transit routes and, when possible, medical and other supportive facilities.	✓	The proposal would support aging in place by increasing the variety of housing options in a walkable, connected neighborhood which has transit service nearby.
23	Housing: Goal 2	1. Encourage inter-generational, mixed-income and mixed-use development that is connected to the neighborhood and surrounding area.	✓	The proposal would permit inter-generational, mixed-income development that is connected to the neighborhood and surrounding area.
24	Housing: Goal 2	2. Locate housing within proximity to multi-modal transportation corridors providing safe and convenient access to employment opportunities, as well as within proximity to amenities providing neighborhood goods and services. Higher density, accessible residential uses should be located along transit corridors and in or near activity centers.	✓	The site is in proximity to a multi-modal transportation corridor providing safe and convenient access to employment opportunities and to amenities providing neighborhood goods and services. The site is close to an activity corridor at S Shelby Street.
25	Housing: Goal 3	1. Encourage provision of fair and affordable housing by providing a variety of ownership options and unit costs throughout Louisville Metro. Expand opportunities for people to live in quality, variably priced housing in locations of their choice by encouraging affordable and accessible housing in dispersed locations throughout Louisville Metro.	✓	The proposed zoning district would encourage the provision of fair and affordable housing by increasing the variety of ownership options and price points in Louisville Metro.
26	Housing: Goal 3	2. As neighborhoods evolve, discourage displacement of existing residents from their community.	✓	No existing residents will be displaced by the proposal.
27	Housing: Goal 3	3. Encourage the use of innovative methods such as clustering, mixed-use developments, co-housing, and accessory apartments to increase the production of fair and affordable housing.	✓	The proposed zoning district would permit innovative methods of housing. The proposal would permit semi-detached housing and accessory dwelling units.

#### 4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. The development shall be in accordance with the approved district development plan, all applicable sections of the Land Development Code (LDC) and agreed upon binding elements unless amended pursuant to the Land Development Code. Any changes/additions/alterations of any binding element(s) shall be submitted to the Planning Commission or the Planning Commission's designee for review and approval; any changes/additions/alterations not so referred shall not be valid.

2. No outdoor advertising signs, small freestanding signs, pennants, balloons, or banners shall be permitted on the site.
3. Construction fencing shall be erected when off-site trees or tree canopy exists within 3' of a common property line. Fencing shall be in place prior to any grading or construction to protect the existing root systems from compaction. The fencing shall enclose the entire area beneath the tree canopy and shall remain in place until all construction is completed. No parking, material storage or construction activities are permitted within the protected area.
4. Before any permit (including but not limited to building, parking lot, change of use, site disturbance, alteration permit or demolition permit) is requested:
  - a. The development plan must receive full construction approval from Construction Review, Louisville Metro Public Works and the Metropolitan Sewer District.
  - b. The property owner/developer must obtain approval of a detailed plan for screening (buffering/landscaping) as described in Chapter 10 prior to requesting a certificate of occupancy. Such plan shall be implemented prior to occupancy of the site and shall be maintained thereafter.
  - c. A minor subdivision plat or legal instrument shall be recorded creating the lot lines as shown on the development plan. A copy of the recorded instrument shall be submitted to the Division of Planning and Design Services prior to obtaining a building permit.
5. A certificate of occupancy must be received from the appropriate code enforcement department prior to occupancy of the structure or land for the proposed use. All binding elements requiring action and approval must be implemented prior to requesting issuance of the certificate of occupancy, unless specifically waived by the Planning Commission.
6. The applicant, developer, or property owner shall provide copies of these binding elements to tenants, purchasers, contractors, subcontractors and other parties engaged in development of this site and shall advise them of the content of these binding elements. These binding elements shall run with the land and the owner of the property and occupant of the property shall at all times be responsible for compliance with these binding elements. At all times during development of the site, the applicant and developer, their heirs, successors; and assignees, contractors, subcontractors, and other parties engaged in development of the site, shall be responsible for compliance with these binding elements.