

TOWN OF CARRBORO



LAND USE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT REQUEST

"Dear Potential Business Operator:

Please be advised that it may be necessary to meet with several members of Town staff as well as outside agencies to identify and fully understand all rules, regulations, and policies applicable to your business. Please refer to the 'Checklist for Opening a Business in Carrboro.'

To the Town Council, the Planning Board, and the Appearance Commission, as appropriate, of the Town of Carrboro:

I (we), the undersigned do hereby respectfully make application and petition the Carrboro Town Council to amend the Land Use Ordinance. In support of this application, the following facts are shown:

- 1) The Land Use Ordinance, at present, would allow (description/quote, page and number of section in question):**

See attached response.

- 2) The proposed amendment to the Land Use Ordinance would allow (describe briefly intended change):**

See attached response.

- 3) State the reasons for the proposed amendment:**

See attached response.

SIGNATURE:

Jim Spencer

applicant

Jim Spencer Architects

{print}

ADDRESS:

109A Brewer Lane, Carrboro, NC 27510

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March 27, 2020

104 Cobb Street
 Carrboro, NC 27510
 PIN: 9778-96-7546, 9778-96-7518

Land Use Ordinance Amendment Request

1) The Land Use Ordinance, at present, would allow (description/quote, page and number of section in question):

The property at 104 Cobb Street in Carrboro is zoned B-1 (C) Town Center Business. As stated in section 15-136, 'This district is designed to encourage and accommodate a unified, compact, contiguous shopping and entertainment area focused around restaurants, specialty shops, arts and crafts. This area is intended for development around a theme or themes consistent with the Carr Mill, The Station, and historic or old Carrboro. The area is intended to accommodate the pedestrian user.'

Although B-1(C) allows for residential use under certain circumstances, per section 15-160.1 Residential Uses in B-1(C) Districts, 'Residential uses are not allowed on the ground floor of property within a B-1 (C) district.'

2) The proposed amendment to the Land Use Ordinance would allow (describe briefly intended change):

The proposed amendment would allow residential uses on the ground floor in the B-1(C), if the following criteria are met:

- 1) Every unit is classified as affordable under 15-182.4
- 2) The maximum number of units is limited to 4

If the above criteria are met, the development would adhere to the following standards:

- a) In regards to the Downtown Livability and Urban Amenities Provisions, section 15-204, the dollar value of the urban amenities to be installed within the downtown livability area shall equal an amount to 3.5 percent of the assessed value of the land that constitutes the development site,



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determined as of the date the development permit is approved.

b) In regards to the architectural standards, the development be exempt from the Standards for Downtown Development, section 15-178, and instead adhere to the Vernacular Architectural Standards listed in 15-177 (d)(3).

c) Regarding the tree canopy, section 15-319, the development will adhere to a 15% tree canopy standard. The newly planted trees needed to meet this standard will be chosen from the list of North Carolina native tree canopy, provided in section 15-315.

3) State the reasons for the proposed amendment:

The proposed amendment creates an opportunity for small 100% affordable infill projects in the Town Center Business district that meets the Town's goals of increasing affordable housing stock, particularly housing for seniors, with access to public transit. Only permitting residential uses on the second or higher floors requires the installation of an elevator if units are to be accessible to seniors and persons with mobility issues. The cost of an elevator is cost-prohibitive to creating affordable housing that is accessible to seniors and provides access to transit.

The proposed development at 104 Cobb Street is a project of the Northside Neighborhood Initiative, a partnership between the Marian Cheek Jackson Center and Self-Help Ventures Fund. They are working with Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, and propose demolition of the existing structures and re-development of the site with four (4) affordable unit townhomes.

Self Help Ventures Fund has worked with the Jackson Center's Compass Group over the past two years to identify desired uses for the property by the residents of the neighborhood. The Compass Group identified the need for affordable housing, especially for elderly residents. Allowing residential on the ground floor would accommodate this identified need for the neighborhood.

The townhouses are designed with reverence to the architecture and scale of the Lloyd-Broad Neighborhood, which currently contains a mix of one and two story residences. Each unit will have a front porch, which will sit close to the street setback. The design proposes the use of gable dormers and will incorporate masonry accents, which are both elements found in the architecture of neighboring homes. The height of each unit is 11' above grade at the front porch. The second level is set back 5' off the footprint of the ground level and is 19' above grade at the spring line of the roof. The units are approximately 28' above grade at the ridge.

Regarding Consistency with Carrboro Vision 2020



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This project fully embodies the intent that Carrboro should, “interact with non-profit groups that work to provide affordable housing,” stated in Section 6.17 - Housing for a Diverse Population of Carrboro Vision 2020. Further, the proposed text amendment with the specified criteria is an example of how the “town should continue to advocate for inclusionary zoning techniques to increase the local stock of affordable housing,” as stated in Section 6.14 of Vision 2020.

The proposed development will be geared towards senior (age 55+) housing, with 2 units as fully ADA compliant and 2 units that can be easily converted to ADA. This would allow Northside Neighborhood elders to age in the neighborhood in which they live (where many of them grew up). It would also, “allow our senior citizens to interact fully with the larger community,” and have access to public transit, as stated in Section 6.16 of Vision 2020.

Please see referenced sections of Carrboro Vision 2020 below as well as other sections that support the conditional rezoning for this development.

1.35 Human Services

The town should consider the impact of its ordinances and policies on the well being of its most vulnerable citizens, including the elderly, children, those with disabilities and those living on low-, middle-, or fixed incomes.

2.52 Balanced and Controlled Development

The town should continue to require the construction of a diverse housing stock.

3.28 Downtown Vitality

Carrboro encourages a variety of appropriate residential developments – single-family, multi-family, SROs, et cetera – in the downtown especially as part of mixed-use developments.

Housing for a Diverse Population

6.11 Town policy should accommodate a variety of housing styles, sizes and pricing. It should also address issues of density, funding and rezoning to allow for more nondetached housing, mixed-use development, and communal living options.

6.14 The town should continue to advocate for inclusionary zoning techniques to increase the local stock of affordable housing.

6.16 With our growing population of senior citizens, the town should support the creation of more housing that allows our senior citizens to interact fully with the larger community. Senior access to public transit will become an increasingly important concern.



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6.17 The town should interact with non-profit groups that work to provide affordable housing, including but not limited to the Land Trust, Orange Community Housing Corporation, Empowerment Inc., and Habitat for Humanity.

6.18 A minimum of 15 percent of the residential units in any residential development should meet the affordability criteria specified in Section 15-182.4 of the Carrboro Land Use Ordinance.