

# Zoning Board of Appeals Application

# STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY

In order for a variance to be granted, a practical difficulty, as determined by the Board, must be present. On a separate sheet, please clearly identify and explain the practical difficulty justifying the variance request. Dimensional or other non-use variances shall not be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals unless it can be determined that all of the following facts and conditions exist:

- a) Exceptional characteristics of property for which the variance is sought make compliance with dimensional requirements substantially more difficult than would be the case for the great majority of properties in the same zoning district. Characteristics of property which shall be considered include exceptional narrowness, shallowness, smallness, irregular shape, topography, vegetation and other similar characteristics.
- b) The characteristics which make compliance with dimensional requirements difficult must be related to the premises for which the variance is sought, not some other location.
- c) The characteristics which make compliance with the dimensional requirements shall not be of a personal nature.
- d) The characteristics which make compliance with dimensional requirements difficult must not have been created by the current or a previous owner.
- e) The proposed variance will not be harmful or alter the essential character of the area in which the property is located, will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property, or unreasonably increase the congestion in public streets, or increase the danger of fire or endanger the public safety, or unreasonably diminish or impair established property value within the surrounding area, or in any other respect impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals or welfare of the inhabitants of the City.

# **MOTION TEMPLATE GRANT VARIANCE**

## **RESOLUTION TEMPLATE**

Moved by: Seconded by:

That the variance request for [applicant name, address or location], for [request]

Be <u>granted</u> for the following reasons:

The applicant has demonstrated that:

- a) Exceptional characteristics of property for which the variance is sought make compliance with dimensional requirements substantially more difficult than would be the case for the great majority of properties in the same zoning district. Characteristics of property which shall be considered include exceptional narrowness, shallowness, smallness, irregular shape, topography, vegetation and other similar characteristics.
- b) The characteristics which make compliance with dimensional requirements difficult must be related to the premises for which the variance is sought, not some other location.
- c) The characteristics which make compliance with the dimensional requirements shall not be of a personal nature.
- d) The characteristics which make compliance with dimensional requirements difficult must not have been created by the current or a previous owner.
- e) The proposed variance will not be harmful or alter the essential character of the area in which the property is located, will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property, or unreasonably increase the congestion in public streets, or increase the danger of fire or endanger the public safety, or unreasonably diminish or impair established property value within the surrounding area, or in any other respect impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals or welfare of the inhabitants of the City

Yeas: Nays:

## **MOTION CARRIED / FAILED**

# **MOTION TEMPLATE DENY**

Moved by: Seconded by:

That the variance request for *[applicant name, address or location]*, for *[request]* 

## Be <u>denied</u> for the following reason(s):

The applicant has not demonstrated that:

- f) Exceptional characteristics of property for which the variance is sought make compliance with dimensional requirements substantially more difficult than would be the case for the great majority of properties in the same zoning district. Characteristics of property which shall be considered include exceptional narrowness, shallowness, smallness, irregular shape, topography, vegetation and other similar characteristics.
- g) The characteristics which make compliance with dimensional requirements difficult must be related to the premises for which the variance is sought, not some other location.
- h) The characteristics which make compliance with the dimensional requirements shall not be of a personal nature.
- i) The characteristics which make compliance with dimensional requirements difficult must not have been created by the current or a previous owner.
- j) The proposed variance will not be harmful or alter the essential character of the area in which the property is located, will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property, or unreasonably increase the congestion in public streets, or increase the danger of fire or endanger the public safety, or unreasonably diminish or impair established property value within the surrounding area, or in any other respect impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals or welfare of the inhabitants of the City

Yeas: Navs:

## **MOTION CARRIED / FAILED**

# **MOTION TEMPLATE POSTPONE**

Moved by: Seconded by:

# RESOLVED, that the variance request for [applicant name, address or location], for [request]

Be <u>postponed</u> for the following reason(s):

Yeas: Nays:

## **MOTION CARRIED / FAILED**

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#### ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – OPENING STATEMENT

The Zoning Board of Appeals is a group of seven of your neighbors appointed by the Troy City Council to decide on requests for variances and other matters that are brought before them. A variance is a relaxation of the literal provisions of the Zoning Ordinance. Applicants must indicate a hardship or practical difficulty with the land that would warrant the granting of the variance.

#### PROCEDURE

The Board will hear the items in the order that they appear on the approved agenda. When an item is called, the Chairperson will verify that the applicant is present. Then the City Administration will summarize the facts of the case. If there is less than a full board (7 members) present at a meeting, an applicant may request a postponement so his or her request can be heard by a full board. If there is no request for a postponement, the applicant will then be given an opportunity to address the Board to explain the justification for the action requested.

After the applicant makes their presentation, and answers any questions that the Board may have, the Chairperson will open the Public Hearing. Any person wishing to speak on the request should raise their hand and when recognized by the Chairperson, come up to the podium. The speaker should identify themselves with name and address, indicate their relationship to the property in question (i.e. next-door neighbor, live behind the property, etc.) and state whether they are in favor of or against the variance request and give reasons for their opinion. Comments must be directed through the Chairperson. Comments should be kept as brief as possible and closely pertain to the matter under consideration. Only one person will be recognized by the Chairperson to speak at one time.

At the conclusion of public comments, the Chairperson will close the Public Hearing. Once the Public Hearing is closed, no other public comment will be taken unless in response to a specific question by a member of the Board. The Board will then make a motion to approve, deny, or postpone the request. In order for the request to pass a minimum of four votes are needed. If the request is not granted, the applicant has the right to appeal the Board's decision to Oakland County Circuit Court.



500 West Big Beaver Troy, MI 48084 troymi.gov 248.524.3364 planning@troymi.gov

# ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING AGENDA

Michael Bossenbroek, Chair, David Eisenbacher, Vice Chair Thomas Desmond, Tyler Fox, Aaron Green, Mahendra Kenkre, Jim McCauley, Barbara Chambers, Alternate, Jeffrey Forster, Alternate

February 21, 2023	7:00 P.M.	COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- 1. ROLL CALL
- 2. PROCEDURE
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES January 17, 2023
- 4. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>
- 5. <u>HEARING OF CASES:</u>
  - A. <u>944 MARENGO, OLLIE APHIADEAN</u>- A variance request to divide a land parcel into two parcels, each having 72.61 feet width and frontage, where the Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum 100 feet width and frontage.

ZONING ORDINANCE SECTION: 4.06 C, R-1B Zoning District

- 6. <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u>
- 7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS
- 8. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 9. ADJOURNMENT

On January 17, 2023 at 7:04 p.m., Chairperson Bossenbroek called the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL

<u>Present:</u> Michael Bossenbroek Barbara Chambers Thomas Desmond (arrived 7:10) David Eisenbacher Aaron Green

<u>Also Present:</u> Paul Evans, Zoning and Compliance Specialist Allan Motzny, Assistant City Attorney

- 2. <u>PROCEDURE</u>- read by Vice Chairperson Eisenbacher
- 3. <u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> –

Moved by Chambers Seconded by Eisenbacher

RESOLVED, to approve the January 17, 2023 draft minutes.

Yes: All

MOTION PASSED

- 4. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u> No changes.
- 5. <u>HEARING OF CASES:</u>
  - A. <u>1870 PARROT, WILLIAM & STACY BAKER</u>- A variance request to construct a home addition set back 37 feet from the rear property line where the Zoning Ordinance requires the addition be set back 45 feet from the rear property line.

Moved by Eisenbacher Seconded by Green

RESOLVED, to grant the request.

Yes: All

MOTION PASSED

B. <u>5321 ROCHESTER, CHRISTOPHER BAHOORA FOR M&M CUSTOM HOME</u> <u>DESIGN</u>- A variance request to divide a land parcel into two parcels, each having 81.54 feet width and frontage, where the Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum 85 feet width and frontage.

Moved by Green Seconded by Bossenbroek

RESOLVED, to deny the request

Yes: Bossenbroek, Green No: Eisenbacher, Chambers, Desmond

MOTION FAILS

Moved by Eisenbacher Seconded by Desmond

RESOLVED, to grant the request

Yes: Eisenbacher, Chambers, Desmond No: Bossenbroek, Green

MOTION FAILS

**REQUEST DENIED** 

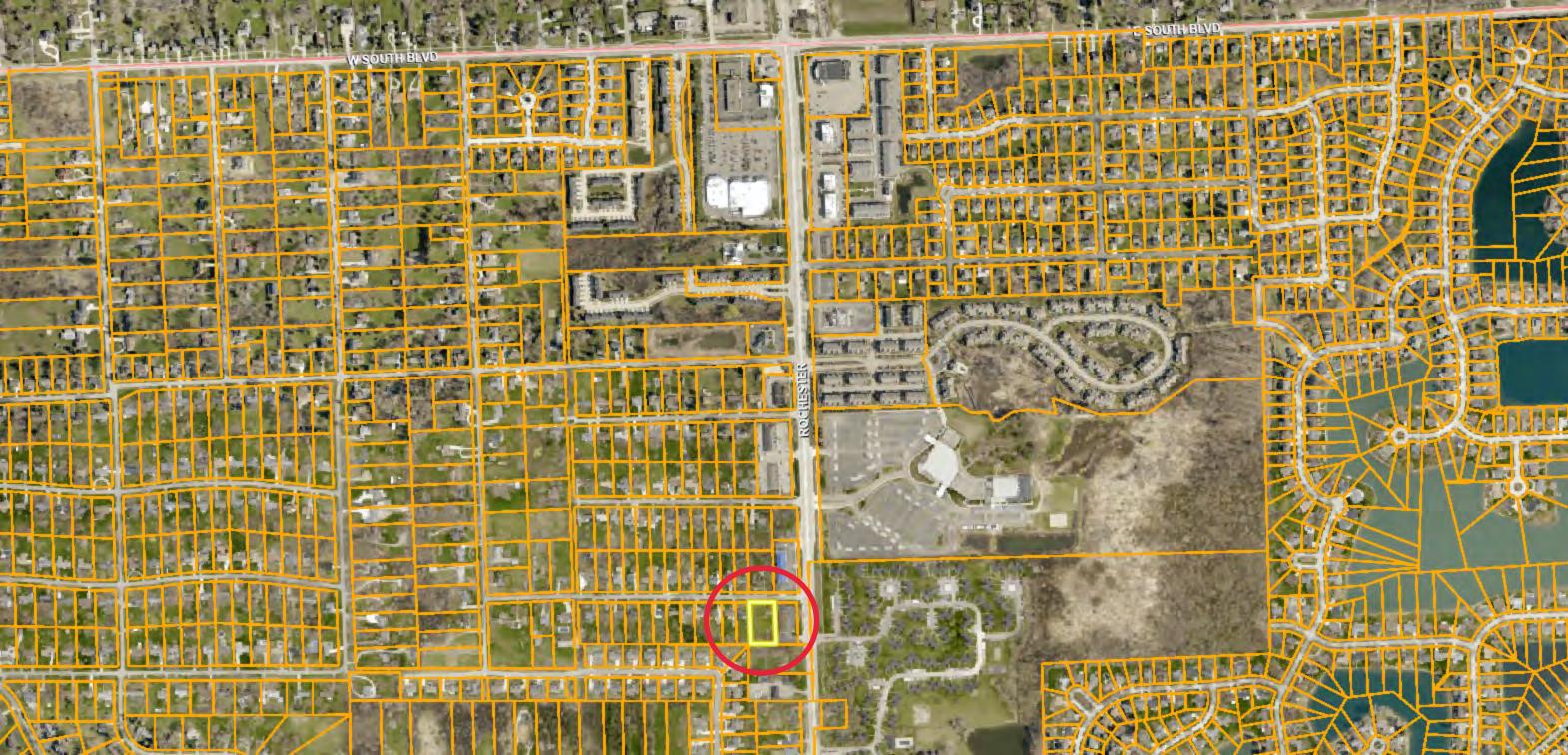
- 6. <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> Mr. Evans advised the Board of upcoming MML training.
- 7. <u>MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS</u> None
- 8. <u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u> –None
- 9. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u> The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting ADJOURNED at 8:16 p.m.

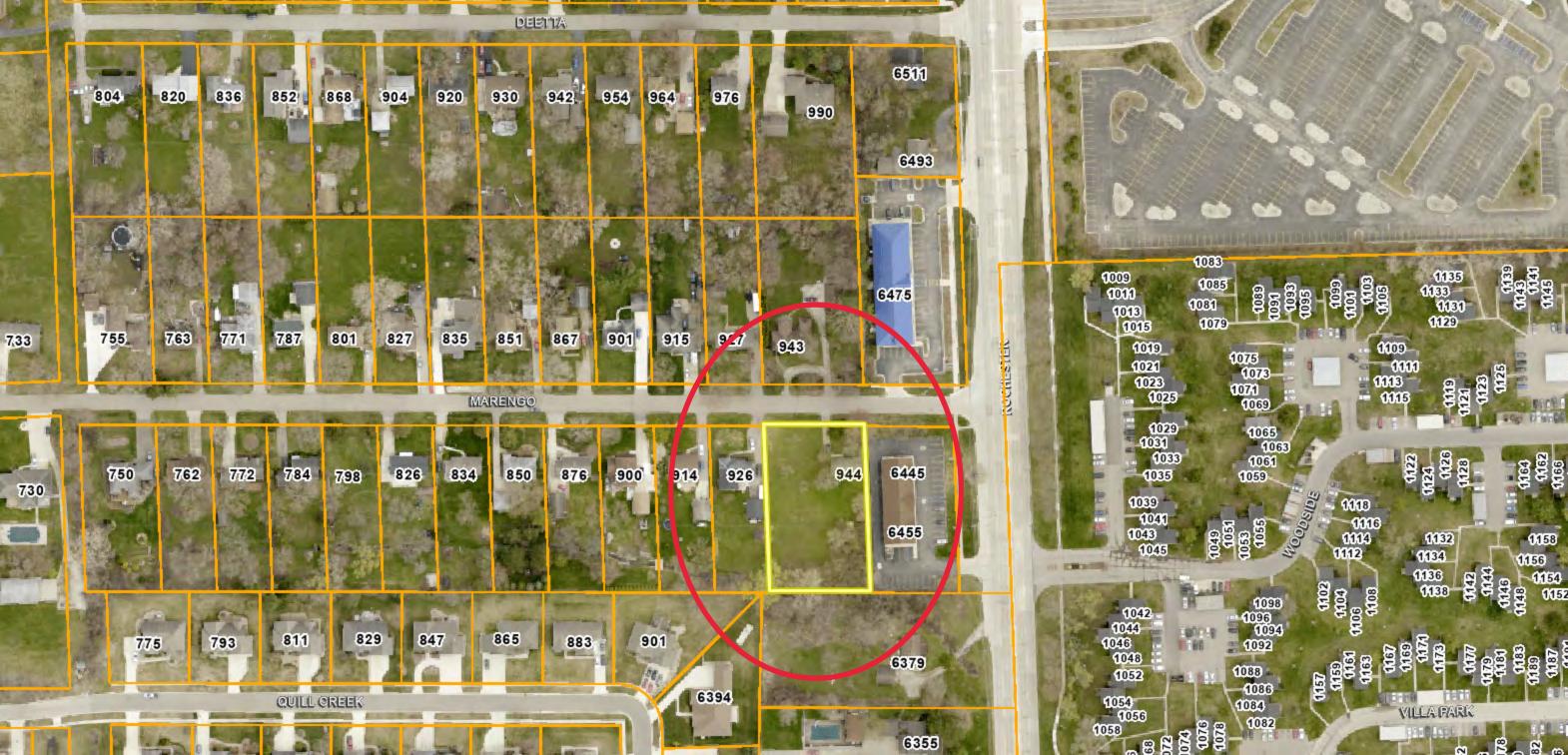
Respectfully submitted,

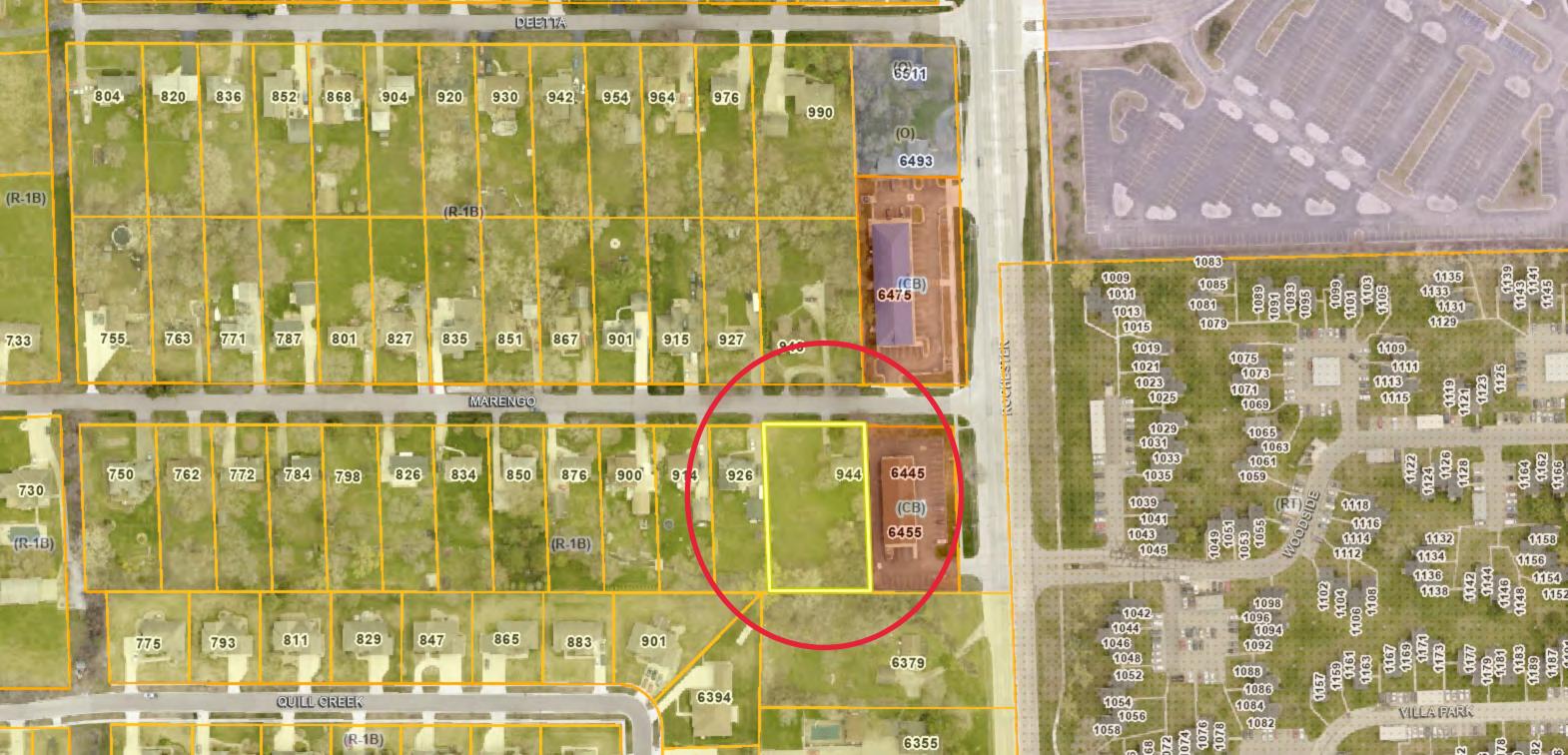
Michael Bossenbroek, Chairperson

Paul Evans, Zoning and Compliance Specialist

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CITY OF TROY | PLANNING DEPT. | 500 WEST BIG BEAVER | TROY, MI 48084 | 248-524-3364

# Zoning Board of Appeals Application

## planning@troymi.gov | Fee \$150.00

THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETS THE **THIRD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL**. PLEASE FILE A COMPLETE DIGITAL APPLICATION AND FEE AT LEAST **36 DAYS BEFORE** THE MEETING DATE. PRE APPLICATION MEETING WITH PLANNING DEPARTMENT REQUIRED BEFORE FILING APPLICATION.

1.	ADDRESS OF	THE SUBJECT PROPERTY:	944 Marengo Dri	ive		
		X-IDENTIFICATION-NUMBER				una — Médérekan dan dalah dalah dalam daram daram semanan se
3,	ZONING ORDI	NANCE SECTIONS RELATED	TO THE REQUEST: _	.06(C)		
	HAVE THERE	BEEN ANY PREVIOUS APPEA D	ALS INVOLVING THIS P	ROPERTY?	If yes, provide date(s) and	l 
5.	<u>APPLICANT:</u> NAME <mark>OIIIe</mark>	Apahidean				
	COMPANY					
	ADDRESS 92	14 Marengo Drive				
	CITY Troy		STATE	MI		
	PHONE	586-604-8554			· · · · · ·	
		idean@comcast.net				
		TO THE PROPERTY OWNER	same as owner			



CITY OF TROY I PLANNING DEPT. I 500 WEST BIG BEAVER I TROY, MI 48084 I 248-524-3364

# Zoning Board of Appeals Application

6. PROPERTY OWNER:

COMPANY		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP_
TELEPHONE		
E-MAIL		

The undersigned hereby declares under penalty of perjury that the contents of this application are true to the best of my (our) knowledge, information and belief.

The applicant accepts all responsibility for all of the measurements and dimensions contained within this application, attachments and/or plans, and the applicant releases the City of Troy and its employees, officers, and consultants from any responsibility or liability with respect thereto.

I, Ollie Apahidean (APPLICANT) HEREBY DEPOSE AND SAY THAT ALL THE ABOVE STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED ARE TRUE AND CORRECT AND GIVE PERMISSION FOR THE BOARD MEMBERS AND CITY STAFF TO ENTER THE PROPERTY TO ASCERTAIN PRESENT CONDITIONS.

DATE

Failure of the applicant or their authorized representative to appear before the Board as scheduled shall be cause for denial or dismissal of the case with no refund of fees. The applicant will be notified of the time and date of the hearing by mail. If the person appearing before the Board is not the applicant or property owner, signed permission must be presented to the Board.

Approved variances are good for a one year period.

#### CITY of TROY ASSESSING DEPARTMENT APPLICATION FOR DESCRIPTION CHANGE

Owner's name:	Olimpiu Apahidean	Da	ite: 1/11/2023	
Signature:	alinothal		Parcel Number(s)	
Address:	944 Marengo Drive			
City State Zip	Troy, MI 48085	20	-03-279-013	
Phone (home)				
Phone (work)				
	e listed & sign form, use additional sheets	s if needed)		
This request is for a	:			
SPLIT: (				
Survey and D	escription(s) of existing parcel(s) attache			
Survey and De	escription(s) of each new parcel and remain	ainder parcel(s) attached		
Survey detaili	ng correction(s) supplied			
	w of Transfer decument supplied if see		RECEIVED	
Recorded cop	y of Transfer document supplied, if nece	ssary.	JAN 11 2023	
( ) Property Taxe	s current (Assessing Department to verif	v)		
) Special Asses	sments current (Assessing Department t	o verify)	CITY OF TROY ASSESSING DEPT.	
) Name, Addres	s, Mailing Address (if different) of each p	arcel supplied		
( ) Review and A	pproval by Planning Department (if neces	ssary), submitted by Assessir	ng Department	
APPROVAL by Asse	ssing Department:	DENIAL by Assessing D	epartment	
	description change has been reviewed essing by the Assessing Department.	denied by the the Assess following reason(s):	scription change has been ing Department for the requirements for zoning	
Signature		<ul> <li>( ) Does not meet setb</li> <li>( × ) Does not meet widt</li> </ul>	ack requirements	
Title	Date	the second se	h requirements (24' res.) ing requirements scape requirements	

- ( ) Accessory building only, on land
- ) Allowable site coverage exceeded

Signature Title Deput 1/11 123 Date

City of Troy Assessing Department 500 W Big Beaver Troy, MI 48084-5285 (248) 524-3311

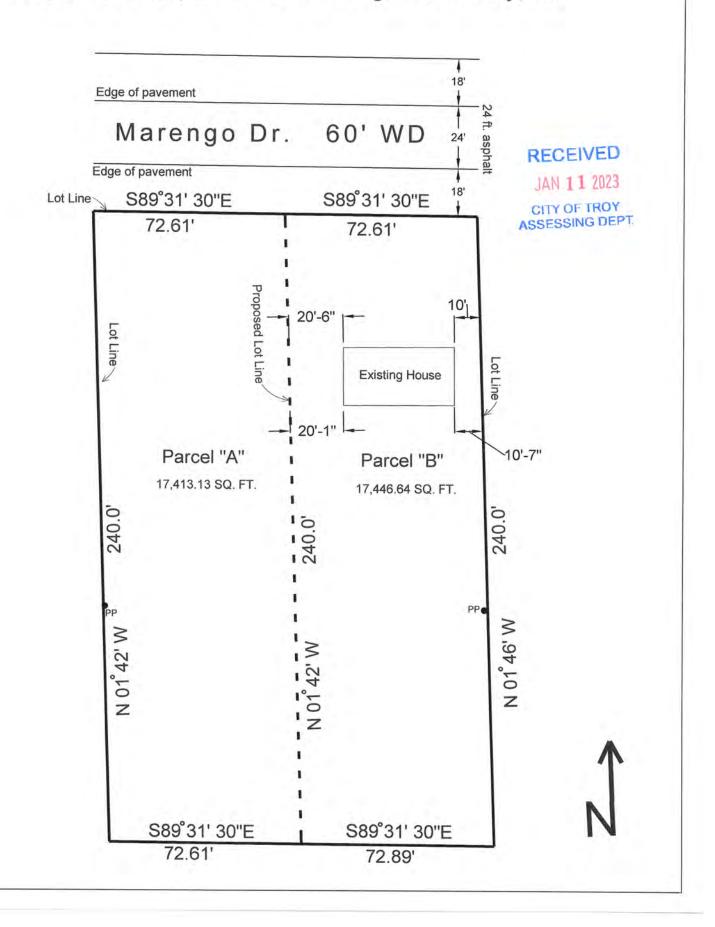
(

\* After completing form, Print and Sign.

owners involved.

Remember to add additional pages for all

# Proposed Lot Split for 944 Marengo Drive Troy, MI



Zoning Board of Appeals City of Troy Planning Department 500 W. Big Beaver Rd. Troy, MI 48085

#### **RE: STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY**

Dear Zoning Board of Appeals:

Please accept the following Statement of Practical Difficulty in support of petitioner's non-use variance request for the property located at 944 Marengo Drive, Troy, MI 48085; Parcel Identification Number 20-03-279-013 (the "subject property" or the "property").

#### Introduction

The subject property is a single-family home zoned as R-1B. The subject property is located on Lot 1 of the Clark Estates platted subdivision (Exhibit "B "). Petitioner is the owner of the subject property and is proposing a lot split which would create two equal sized parcels. Petitioner's intention is to keep the existing home located on the easterly portion of the property. The petitioner's intention is also to build a new home on Parcel "A" resulting from the split (Exhibit "C"). The proposed home will be similar to the existing newer homes in the neighborhood. The size, style and floor plan of the proposed home have not been established yet.

#### History

The subject property has an interesting history, dating back almost 100 years. The subject property was originally platted on February 21, 1925 as part of the Troy Little Farms Subdivision (see Exhibit "A"). Sixty of the seventy-five lots created in this subdivision had lot widths of 50 feet or less. The subject property, as it exists today, was initially platted as Lot 55,56 and half of 57. Another unique characteristic is the platting of a 20 feet wide public alley between the subject property and Lots 1,2,3 and 4 with frontage on Rochester Road. If we fast

forward almost thirty years, public records indicate that the subject property was re-platted on July 13, 1953 as part of the newly formed subdivision, Clark Estates. Lot 55, 56 and half of lot 57 of the old Troy Little Farms Subdivision were all combined to create Lot 1 as reconfigured in the new Clark Estates subdivision. (see Exhibit "B"). In 1953, Troy was still a township and a zoning ordinance had not been created yet. City of Troy records indicate that on June 24, 1957, Zoning Ordinance No. 23-1 was passed. The house on this property was built prior to the lot being zoned as R-1B under the newly implemented zoning ordinance.

Another significant historical fact is the vacation of the public alley, adjacent to the subject property. Public records indicate that in 1987, the full width of 20 feet was vacated to Lots 1,2,3 and 4 of the Troy Little Farms Subdivision Plat. Street and alley vacations, according to the City standards, should be split in half with all adjacent properties. If this would have been done, the subject property would have gained 10 feet in lot frontage.

#### **Technical Details**

The basis for the petitioner's variance request relates to the property width requirements under Section 4.06(C) of the Troy Zoning Ordinance. This section requires that the property zoned R-1B have a minimum road frontage width of 100 feet. Based upon the petitioner's intentions as described above, the proposed split of Lot 1 would result in two lots, each with 72.61 feet of frontage. This will require a variance of 27.39 feet for each lot. The new parcels, otherwise, will comply with all other dimensional requirements under the current zoning ordinance.

#### Standard

The standard of granting a non-use variance is more lenient than for a use variance. "To justify the grant of a non-use variance- there need only be a showing of practical difficulty. It is not necessary to show unnecessary hardship." *Heritage Hill Association, Inc. v Grand Rapids*, 48 Mich. App. 7. 765, 769, 211 N.W.2d 77 (1973). When analyzing practical difficulties in the context of a variance request, Michigan courts consider "whether the denial deprives the owner the use of the property, compliance would be unnecessarily burdensome, or granting a variance would do substantial justice to the owner." *Norman Corp. v. East Tawas*, 263 Mich. App. 194, 203, 687 N.W.2d 861 (2004).

The City of Troy Zoning Ordinance expressly authorizes the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant a dimensional variance in circumstances such as these:

Where a literal enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance would involve practical difficulties within the meaning of this Article, the Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the power to authorize such variation of the provisions of this Ordinance with such conditions and safeguards as it may determine as may be in harmony with the spirit of this Article and so that the public safety and welfare be secured and substantial justice done.

Troy, Michigan, Zoning Ordinance 15.04(E)(1).

The ordinance provides guidance as to what constitutes "practical difficulties" and sets forth the following standards for the Zoning Board of Appeals to grant a non-use variance.

- a. The exceptional characteristics of the property for which the variance is sought make compliance with dimensional requirements substantially more difficult than would be the case for the great majority of properties in the same zoning district. Characteristics of the property which shall be considered include exceptional narrowness, shallowness, smallness, irregular shape, topography, vegetation and other similar characteristics.
- b. The characteristics which make compliance with dimensional requirements difficult must be related to the premise for which the variance is sought, not some other location.
- c. The characteristics which make compliance with the dimensional requirements difficult shall not be of a personal nature.

- d. The characteristics which make compliance with the dimensional requirements difficult must not have been created by the current or previous owner.
- e. The proposed variance will not be harmful or alter the essential character of the area in which the property is located, will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to the adjacent property or unreasonably increase the congestion in the public streets, or increase the danger of fire or endanger the public safety, or unreasonably diminish or impair established property value within the surrounding area, or in any other respect impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals or welfare of the inhabitants of Troy.

Troy, Michigan, Zoning Ordinance 15.04(E)(2)

#### Analysis of Marengo Drive Properties

A detailed analysis of the properties on Marengo Drive that are part of Clark Estate Subdivision provides substantial evidence that the proposed variance request will result in two lots, Parcel "A" and Parcel "B" (Exhibit "C") that will match harmoniously with the existing character of the neighborhood.

Exhibit "D" provides an aerial graphic showing the building footprint of all the houses, detached garages and accessory structures located on all the properties on Marengo Drive. This drawing also shows the width of all the houses at their front elevations and the distance between houses at their front elevations.

Table "1" provides the same data from Exhibit "D". The average width of the houses is approximately 50 feet. The average distance between houses is approximately 31 feet.

Chart "1" is a different representation of the data from Table "1".

Exhibit "E" provides several key geometric characteristics of the proposed vacant lot after the split. This drawing shows a possible building footprint located withing the limits of the minimum side yard setbacks required by the Zoning ordinance for this lot. It also shows that the maximum building footprint that can be constructed on this

lot is approximately 44 feet in width; this is 6 feet less than the average width of all the homes on Marengo. This drawing also shows that the approximate distance between a future home on this lot and the existing home at 926 Marengo is 38 feet; this is 7 feet more than the average side yard distance between all the existing homes on Marengo. This drawing also shows that the approximate distance between a future home on this lot and the existing home at 944 Marengo is 34 feet; this is 3 feet more than the average side yard distance between all the existing home at 944 Marengo.

All dimensions and measurements for this analysis were obtained from City of Troy GIS maps.

The detailed analysis provided above clearly shows that the two lots resulting from the requested variance will match harmoniously and contiguously with the other lots and existing homes on Marengo Drive.

#### **Analysis of Practical Difficulties**

Here, all of the facts and conditions required by the zoning ordinance are presented. A literal interpretation of the dimensional requirements would involve practical difficulties for the petitioner resulting from exceptional characteristics of the subject property, namely the frontage dimension of the property. These characteristics relate directly to the property itself and are not of a personal nature. These characteristics were not created by the current or previous property owner. The characteristics were created by platting modification that occurred more than 75 years ago. The characteristics were created due to the re-platting of the property in 1953 from its original plat in 1925. This re-platting took multiple, legally buildable lots and combined them into one lot.

The proposed variance will not alter the essential character of the surrounding area or otherwise result in any harmful or negative consequences. The proposed split will not have any negative aesthetic impact on the surrounding area because the frontage and area of the proposed lots are very similar to the 22 of the 26 lots on Marengo Drive that have lot frontage widths of 80 feet.

The granting of the variance will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the ordinance. The proposed variance will not impair the supply of air or light, will not unreasonably increase traffic congestion, will not increase the danger of fire or endanger public safety, and will in no way be injurious to the neighborhood or otherwise detrimental to the general welfare. There are no practical considerations that support a literal enforcement of the width requirement in this instance and granting the petitioner's variance request will serve in the interests of justice.

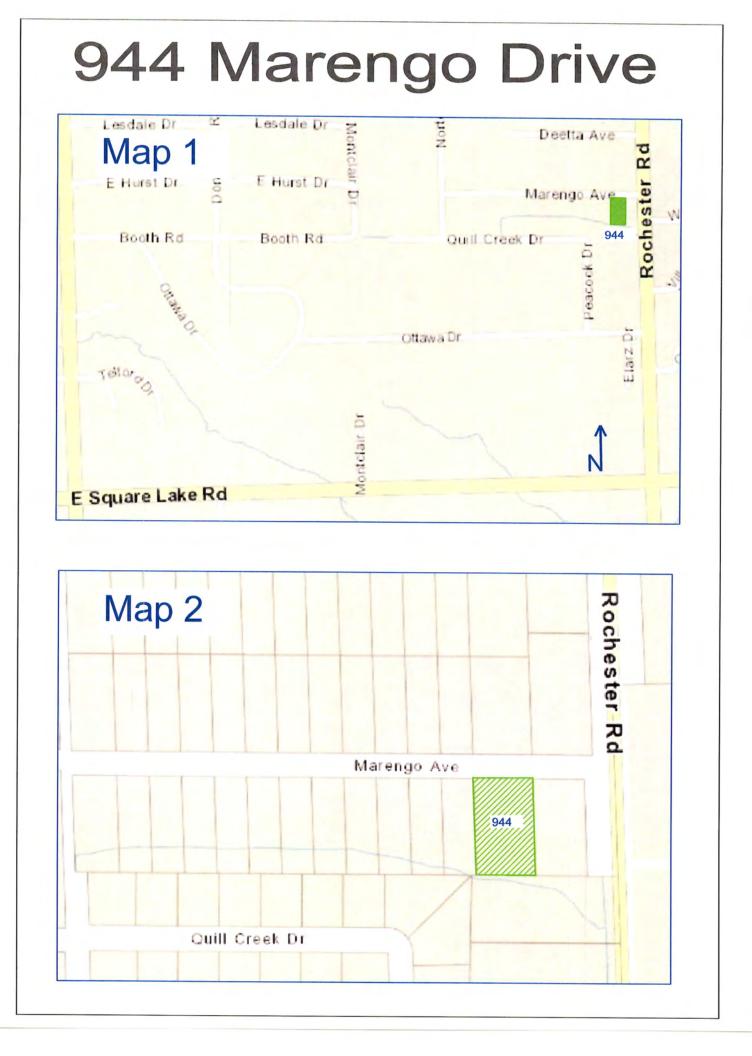
#### Conclusion

The petitioner will face practical difficulties if the width requirement is enforced literally, as a result of the exceptional characteristics of the subject property. By granting the requested variance, the spirit of the ordinance will be observed, the surrounding area will not be negatively impacted, and substantial justice will be done. For all these reasons, the petitioner respectfully requests that the Zoning Board of Appeals grant his variance request.

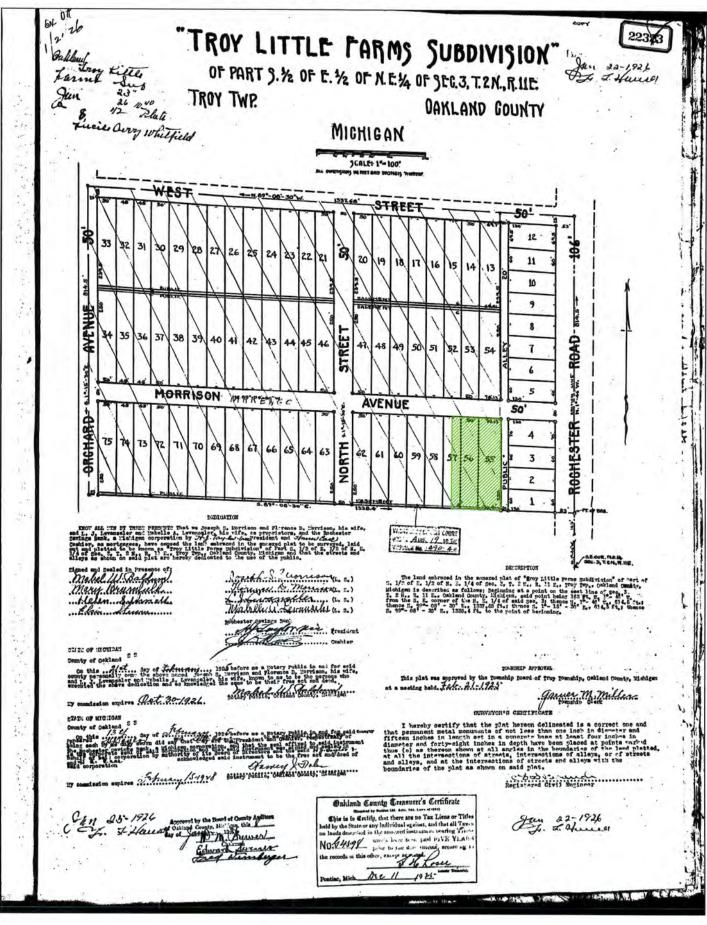
Respectfully,

**Ollie Apahidean** 

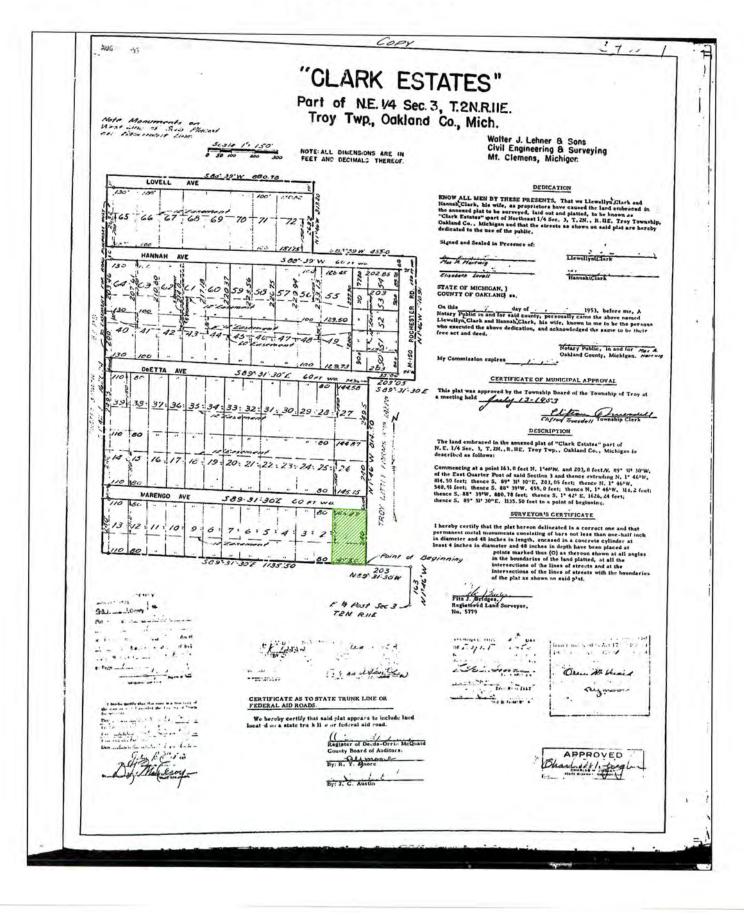
Petitioner

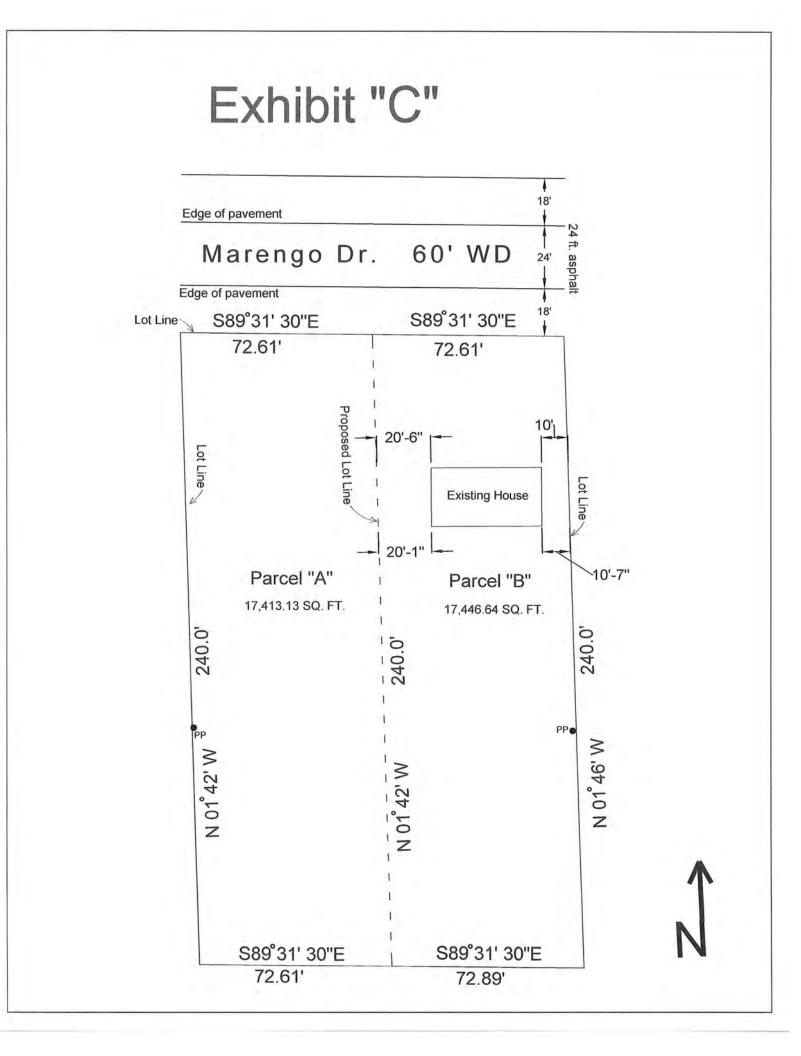


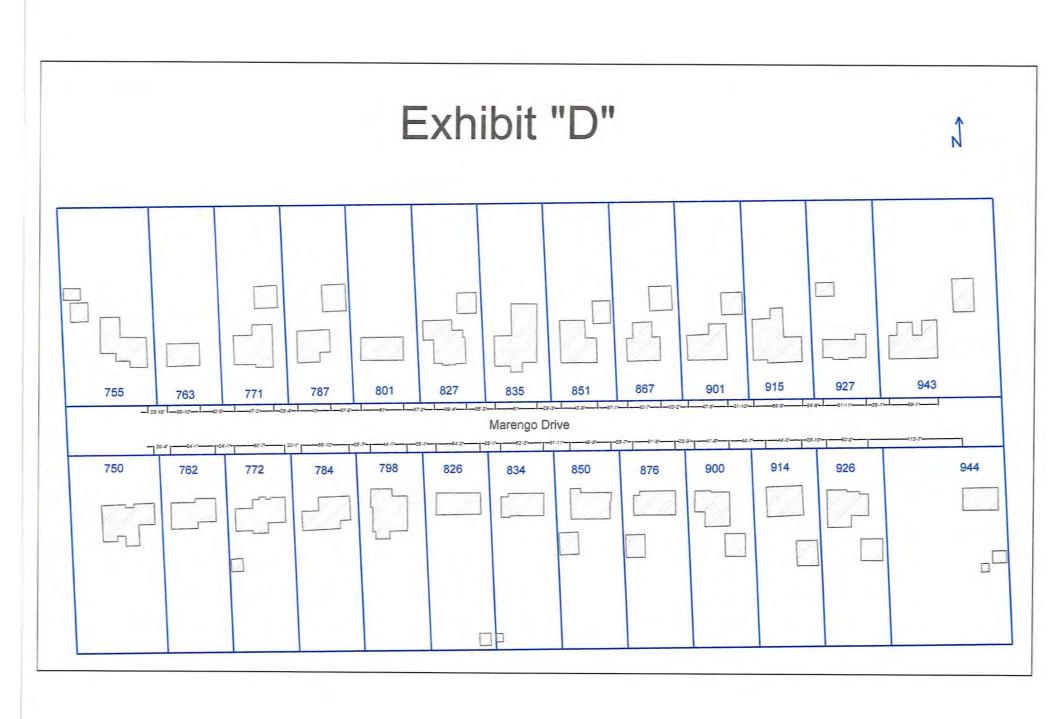
# Exhibit "A"



# Exhibit "B"







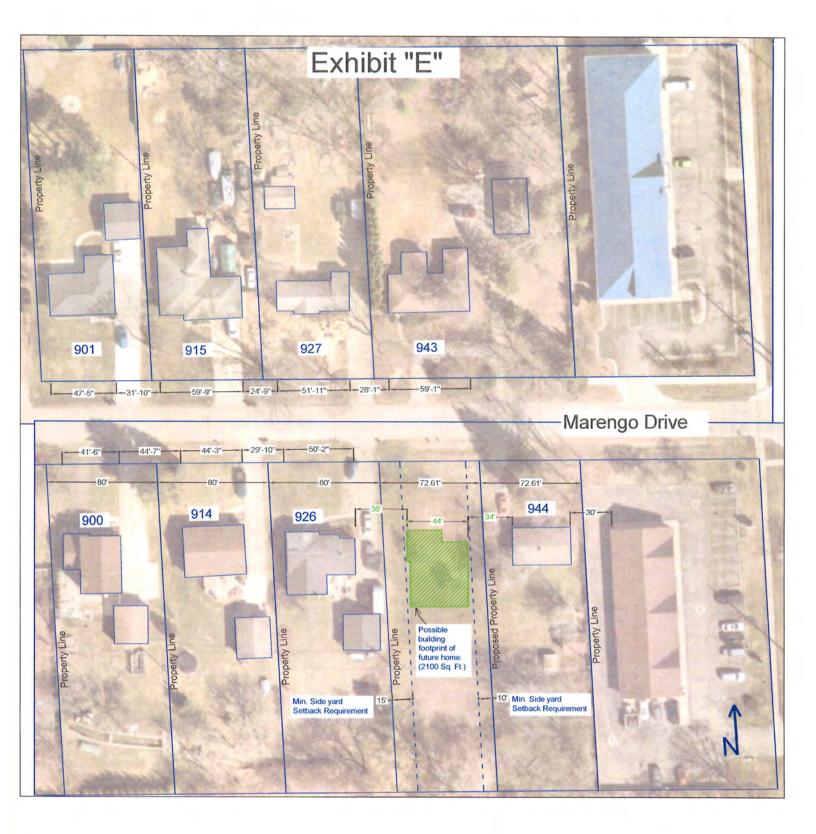


		Table 1	
	 Analysis of Properti	ies on Marengo Dr Troy	ι, MI
Street Number	Structure Area Footprint - House and Garage (Sq. Ft.)		Distance between houses at front elevation (Feet)

#### Houses on the South Side of the Street

750	110	2400	61	21
762	80	1600	54	
772	80	1910	60	25
784	80	1820	58	21
798	80	2180	44	26 35
826	80	1400	54	
834	80	1370	52	26
850	80	2150	49	32
876	80	1950	51	27
900	80	2100	41	<u>24</u> 45
914	80	2250	44	
926	80	2210	50	<u>→</u> 30

#### Houses on the North Side of the Street

755	110	2520	55	24
763	80	950	39	43
771	80	2660	47	30
787	80	2240	40	38
801	80	1260	51	38
827	80	2550	39	36
835	80	3050	51	
851	80	2400	43	30
867	80	2250	40	38
901	80	2250	47	34
915	80	2650	59	32
927	80	1180	51	25
943	143	3000	59	<b>29</b>

Average	2092	50	31	
Median	2210	51	30	
Lowest	950	39	21	
Highest	3050	60	45	

