

3-30-22

ORDINANCE NO. 32170

An ordinance amending Chapter 51A, “Dallas Development Code: Ordinance No. 19455, as amended,” of the Dallas City Code by amending Section 51A-3.102, “Board of Adjustment”; providing additional criteria relating to municipal board of adjustment zoning variances based on unnecessary hardship; providing a penalty not to exceed \$2,000; providing a saving clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.

WHEREAS, the 87th Texas Legislature met in regular session between January 12, 2021 and May 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 1475 was filed on January 29, 2021; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 1475 provided additional criteria relating to municipal board of adjustment zoning variances based on unnecessary hardship; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 1475 was approved by both chambers of the Texas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, H.B. 1475 was signed by Governor Greg Abbott on June 7, 2021 and took effect on September 1, 2021; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That Subsection (d), “Powers and Duties,” of Section 51A-3.102, “Board of Adjustment,” of Article III, “Decisionmaking and Administrative Bodies,” of Chapter 51A, “Dallas Development Code: Ordinance No. 19455, as amended,” of the Dallas City Code is amended to read as follows:

“(d) Powers and duties. The board has the following powers and duties, which must be exercised in accordance with this chapter:

(1) To hear and decide appeals from decisions of administrative officials made in the enforcement of the zoning ordinance of the city. For purposes of this section, “administrative official” means that person within a city department having the final decision-making authority within the department relative to the zoning enforcement issue.

(2) To interpret the intent of the zoning district map when uncertainty exists because the actual physical features differ from those indicated on the zoning district map and when the rules set forth in the zoning district boundary regulations do not apply.

(3) To hear and decide special exceptions that are expressly provided for in this chapter.

(4) To bring about the discontinuance of a nonconforming use under a plan whereby the owner's actual investment in the structure(s) prior to the time that the use became nonconforming can be amortized within a definite time period.

(5) To hear and decide requests for change of occupancy of a nonconforming use to another nonconforming use.

(6) To hear and decide requests for the enlargement of a nonconforming use.

(7) To hear and decide requests for reconstruction of a nonconforming structure on the land occupied by the structure when the reconstruction will not permanently prevent the return of the property to a conforming use and will not increase the nonconformity.

(8) To require the vacation and demolition of a nonconforming structure that is determined to be obsolete, dangerous, dilapidated, or substandard.

(9) To consider on its own motion or upon the request of interested property owners, the operation or alteration of any use which is a nonconforming use because of its noncompliance with the environmental performance standards set forth in this chapter, and to specify the conditions and standards which must be complied with for continuance of the nonconforming use.

(10) To grant variances from the front yard, side yard, rear yard, lot width, lot depth, lot coverage, floor area for structures accessory to single family uses, height, minimum sidewalks, off-street parking or off-street loading, or landscape regulations provided that:

(A) In general.

(i) the variance is not contrary to the public interest when, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of this chapter would result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of the ordinance will be observed and substantial justice done;

(ii[~~B~~]) the variance is necessary to permit development of a specific parcel of land that differs from other parcels of land by being of such a restrictive area, shape, or slope that it cannot be developed in a manner commensurate with the development upon other parcels of land with the same zoning; and

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(iii[~~C~~]) the variance is not granted to relieve a self-created or personal hardship, nor for financial reasons only, except as provided in Subparagraph (B)(i), nor to permit any person a privilege in developing a parcel of land not permitted by this chapter to other parcels of land with the same zoning.

(B) Structures. In exercising its authority under Subsection (A)(ii), the board may consider the following as grounds to determine whether compliance with the ordinance as applied to a structure that is the subject of the appeal would result in unnecessary hardship:

(i) the financial cost of compliance is greater than 50 percent of the appraised value of the structure as shown on the most recent appraisal roll certified to the assessor for the municipality under Section 26.01 of the Texas Tax Code;

(ii) compliance would result in a loss to the lot on which the structure is located of at least 25 percent of the area on which development is authorized to physically occur;

(iii) compliance would result in the structure not being in compliance with a requirement of a municipal ordinance, building code, or other requirement;

(iv) compliance would result in the unreasonable encroachment on an adjacent property or easement; or

(v) the municipality considers the structure to be a nonconforming structure.”

SECTION 2. That a person violating a provision of this ordinance, upon conviction, is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000.

SECTION 3. That Chapter 51A of the Dallas City Code shall remain in full force and effect, save and except as amended by this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That any act done or right vested or accrued, or any proceeding, suit, or prosecution had or commenced in any action before the amendment or repeal of any ordinance, or part thereof, shall not be affected or impaired by amendment or repeal of any ordinance, or part thereof, and shall be treated as still remaining in full force and effect for all intents and purposes as if the amended or repealed ordinance, or part thereof, had remained in force.

SECTION 5. That the terms and provisions of this ordinance are severable and are governed by Section 1-4 of Chapter 1 of the Dallas City Code, as amended.

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SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so ordained.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CHRISTOPHER J. CASO, City Attorney

By Casey Byers
Assistant City Attorney

Passed APR 13 2022



PROOF OF PUBLICATION – LEGAL ADVERTISING

The legal advertisement required for the noted ordinance was published in the Dallas Morning News, the official newspaper of the city, as required by law, and the Dallas City Charter, Chapter XVIII, Section 7.

DATE ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL APR 13 2022

ORDINANCE NUMBER 32170

DATE PUBLISHED APR 16 2022

ATTESTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. G. J.", written over a horizontal line.