

ARTICLE 8: BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Section 8.01 Members, Terms and Meetings

Pursuant to Section 19-908, Reissue Revised Statutes of 1943 (in full): The board of adjustment shall consist of five (5) regular members, plus one (1) additional member designated as an alternate who shall attend and serve only when one of the regular members is unable to attend for any reason, each to be appointed for a term of three (3) years and removable for cause by the appointing authority upon written charges and after public hearings. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of any member whose term becomes vacant. One member only of the board of adjustment shall be appointed from the membership of the planning commission, and the loss of membership on the planning commission by such member shall also result in his or her immediate loss of membership on the board of adjustment and the appointment of another planning commissioner to the board of adjustment. After September 9, 1995, the first vacancy occurring on the board of adjustment shall be filled by the appointment of a person who resides in the extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction of the City at such time as more than two hundred persons reside within such area. Thereafter, at all times, at least one (1) member of the board of adjustment shall reside outside of the corporate boundaries of the City but within its extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction. The board of adjustment shall adopt rules in accordance with the provisions of any ordinance adopted pursuant to sections 19-901 to 19-914. Meetings of the board shall be held at the call of the chairperson and at such other times as the board may determine. Such chairperson, or in his or her absence the acting chairperson, may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses. All meetings of the board shall be open to the public. The board shall keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the vote of each member upon each question, or, if absent or failing to vote, indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the office of the board and shall be a public record.

Section 8.02 Appeals to Board, Record of Appeal, Hearings and Stays

As provided in Section 19-909, Reissue Revised Statutes of 1943 (in full): Appeals to the Board of Adjustment may be taken by any person aggrieved or by any officer, department, board or bureau of the City affected by any decision of the administrative officer. Such appeal shall be taken within a reasonable time, as provided by the rules of the Board, by filing with the officer from whom appeal is taken and with the Board of Adjustment a notice of appeal specifying the grounds thereof. The officer from whom the appeal is taken shall forthwith transmit to the Board all the papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken. An appeal stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from, unless the officer from whom the appeal is taken certifies to the Board of Adjustment, after the notice of the appeal shall have been filed with him, that by reason of facts stated in the certificate a stay would, in his opinion, cause imminent peril to life or property. In such case, proceedings shall not be stayed otherwise than by a restraining order which may be granted by the Board of Adjustment or by a court of record in application on notice to the officer from whom the appeal is taken and on due cause shown. The Board of Adjustment shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal, give public notice thereof, as well as due notice to the parties, in interest, and decide the same within a reasonable time. Upon the hearing any party may appear in person or by agent or attorney.

Section 8.03 Powers and Jurisdiction on Appeal

The Board of Adjustment shall have the following powers:

- 8.03.01 To hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official or agency based on or made in the enforcement of any zoning regulation or any regulation relating to the location or soundness of structures;
- 8.03.02 to hear and decide, in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, requests for interpretation of any map, or for decisions upon other special questions upon which the Board is authorized by this Ordinance to pass; and
- 7.03.03 To grant variances, where by reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness or shape of a specific piece of property at the time of enactment of this Ordinance, or by reason of exceptional topographic conditions or other extraordinary and exceptional situation or condition of such piece of property, the strict application of any regulation under this Ordinance would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties to or exceptional and undue hardships upon the owner of such property, to authorize, upon an appeal relating to the property, a variance from such strict application so as to relieve such difficulties or hardship, if such relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially impairing the intent and purpose of this Ordinance.
 - 8.03.03.01 The Board of Adjustment shall authorize no such variance, unless it finds that:
 - 1. The strict application of the Ordinance would produce undue hardship;

2. Such hardship is not shared generally by other properties in the same zoning district and the same vicinity;
3. The authorization of such variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property and the character of the district will not be changed by the granting of the variance; and
4. The granting of such variance is based upon reasons of demonstrable and exceptional hardship as distinguished from variations for purposes of convenience, profit or caprice. No variance shall be authorized unless the Board finds that the condition or situation of the property concerned or the intended use of the property is not of so general or recurring a nature as to make reasonably practicable the formulation of a general regulation to be adopted as an amendment to this Ordinance.

In exercising the above mentioned powers, the Board may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the order, requirement, decision or determination appealed from, and may make such order, requirement, decision or determination as ought to be made, and to that end shall have all the powers of the officer from whom the appeal is taken. The concurring vote of four (4) members of the Board shall be necessary to reverse any order, requirement, decision or determination of any such administrative official, or to decide in favor of the applicant on any matter upon which it is required to pass under this Ordinance or to effect any variation in this Ordinance.

Section 8.04 Appeals to District Court

Any person or persons, jointly or severally, aggrieved by any decision of the Board of Adjustment may appeal as provided by Section 19-912, Reissue Revised Statutes of 1943 (in full).