

RDMD/Planning and Development Services

DATE: March 15, 2007

TO: Orange County Zoning Administrator

FROM: RDMD/PDS/Land Use Services

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Planning Application PA06-0105 for Variance

PROPOSAL: The applicant proposes a single story addition to an existing single-family residence (on a corner lot) that would encroach 9 feet into the required rear yard setback of 25 feet, requiring a Variance.

LOCATION: 13301 Flint Drive, East Orange/North Tustin unincorporated community, at the intersection of Flint and Allegheny Drives, Third Supervisorial District.

APPLICANT: Larry Friend, property owner

STAFF CONTACT: J. Alfred Swanek, Project Manager
Phone: (714) 796-0140 FAX: (714) 834-4772

SYNOPSIS: PDS/Land Use Services recommends Zoning Administrator approval of PA06-0105 subject to the attached Findings and Conditions of Approval.

BACKGROUND:

The subject site is located in the unincorporated community of “East Orange/North Tustin”. The subject site is a corner lot measuring 100 feet wide by 143 feet deep (with a corner cut-off) and developed with a one-story single-family dwelling with 1963 ft. of living area which began to be built in 1958.

SURROUNDING LAND USE:

Direction	Zoning	Existing Land Use
Project Site	E4 “Small Estates”	Single-family Residence
North	E4 “Small Estates”	Single-family Residence
South	E4 “Small Estates”	Single-family Residence
West	E4 “Small Estates”	Single-family Residence
East	E4 “Small Estates”	Single-family Residence



REFERRAL FOR COMMENT AND PUBLIC NOTICE:

A Notice of Hearing was mailed to all owners of record within 300 feet of the subject site, and to the North Tustin Specific Plan Advisory Committee. Additionally, notice was posted at the site, at the 300 N. Flower Building and as required by established public hearing posting procedures. A copy of the planning application and a copy of the proposed site plan were distributed for review and comment to County Divisions, the City of Tustin, and NTAC. As of the writing of this staff report, no comments raising issues with the project have been received from other County divisions. The City of Tustin had no comment, and NTAC recommended approval of the application on February 21, 2007

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The proposed project is Categorically Exempt (Class 5, minor alterations in land use limitations such as setback variance) from the requirements of CEQA. Appendix A contains the required CEQA Finding.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The home at the time of initial construction in 1958 received Variance 3197, to allow the attached garage to be its current 16 feet from the rear. The proposal is to now add non-livable workshop space to the rear of the garage, of which 85 square feet would be closer than the permitted 25 foot distance to the rear property line.

The applicant is also currently adding 986 square feet of living area to the existing home in areas where no variance is required. This addition is shown on the plans as if it were already built.

The justification for granting a variance lies in the nature of the property in question, and staff accordingly recommends the decision-maker consider the difficulty of adding to an existing residence with a corner lot configuration, as well as the considerable extent of pool hardscape on the neighbor's property, which functionally separates the area of this encroachment from any nearby living space on any property. The variance requested is only for a single story addition, and the request only covers some 10% of the width of the lot.

Before this variance request can be approved, the Zoning Administrator, in accordance with State and County planning laws, must be able to make the following variance findings listed below. If the Zoning Administrator cannot make these findings, the application must be disapproved.

1. There are special circumstances applicable to the subject building site which, when applicable zoning regulations are strictly applied, deprive the subject building site of privileges enjoyed by other property in the vicinity and subject to the same zoning regulations.
2. Approval of the application will not constitute a grant of special privileges, which are inconsistent with the limitations placed upon other properties in the vicinity and subject to the same zoning regulations when the specified conditions are complied with.

Staff is of opinion the Zoning Administrator can make these two special variance findings. The special circumstances would be the difficulty of adding to an existing residence with a corner lot configuration, plus the substantial separation from any adjacent habitable structure in the immediate area of the requested setback variance.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

PDS/Land Use Services recommends the Zoning Administrator:

- a. Receive staff report and public testimony as appropriate; and
- b. Approve Planning Application PA06-0102 for Variance, subject to the attached Findings and Conditions of Approval.

Respectfully submitted

Ron Tippetts, Chief
LUSD/Site Planning Section

APPENDICES:

- A. Recommended Findings
- B. Recommended Conditions of Approval

EXHIBITS:

1. Applicant's Letter of Explanation
2. Minutes of NTAC Meeting of 2/21/07
3. Site Plans

APPEAL PROCEDURE:

Any interested person may appeal the decision of the Zoning Administrator on this permit to the Orange County Planning Commission within 15 calendar days of the decision upon submittal of required documents and a filing fee of \$245.00 filed at the Development Processing Center, 300 N. Flower St., Santa Ana. If you challenge the action taken on this proposal in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this report, or in written correspondence delivered to the RDMD/Planning and Development Services.