November 28, 2017

Constantine Alexander, Chairman Cambridge Board of Zoning Appeals City of Cambridge 831 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, MA 02139

Re:

2050-2070 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

Comprehensive Permit Case # 4874

Project Change and Request for Determination that Project Change is Insubstant

RVICES

Dear Mr. Alexander:

The Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) is requesting approval for the addition of a single unit as an insubstantial change to an existing Comprehensive Permit issued January 1982, as allowed under 760 CMR 56. The changes are being made to the current Comprehensive Permit for the Leonard J. Russell Apartments to increase the number of affordable elderly oriented dwelling units from 51 to 52.

Approval of the additional unit as an insubstantial change is appropriate because all alterations are within the existing structure, no structural changes are proposed, the alteration results in only a nominal change to the ratio of gross floor area to lot area, and the proposal results in the addition of a much-needed elderly/disabled housing unit. Although the 10 existing parking spaces, approved under the original Comprehensive Permit, do not meet the minimum standard for elderly housing, the project's location in Porter Square provides ample access to public transportation, and usage trends since the building's construction show that the 10 spaces more than meet the building's needs.

The following documents are attached in support of this application:

- Assessors GIS Block Map
- Dimensional Form
- Plot Plan
- Floor Plan
- Elevations
- Photographs

Background

The Leonard J. Russell Apartments are an elderly/ADA accessible development consisting of 51 dwelling units (all one bedroom) in one building. The building mass is comprised of 4, 5 and 6

story sections, and is located at 2050 Massachusetts Avenue. At the time the building was erected, it was located in a Business C District; this zoning district required two significant variances from the residential requirements of the Business C District that were obtained: an increase above the units allowed, from twenty four to fifty one; and an increase in the permitted height from thirty five feet to approximately fifty eight feet. The BZA approved the zoning relief on January 4, 1982 and issued a comprehensive permit under MGL Chapter 40B, Sections 20-22.

The building is currently located in a Business A-2 District; the building has a gross floor area of 44,151 square feet, of which 41,909 square feet is residential use, and 2,242 square feet is occupied by the North Cambridge Senior Center. The building is situated on a 15,234 square foot lot; where the first floor occupies 6,462 square feet, a raised patio area occupies 1,363 square feet, the remainder of the lot features a driveway accessed from Massachusetts Avenue that leads to 10 parking spaces in the rear of the building. The current ratio of gross floor area to lot area is 2.89%, and the lot area for each dwelling unit is 298.7. The Ratio of usable open space to lot area is 9%. The width of the lot is 148.74 feet and the minimum depth of the lot is 95.75 feet.

CHA has recently received funding to perform a large scale renovation of the existing building. The scope of work consists of new systems and selective upgrades, including a roof replacement and exterior repairs to existing masonry cladding, upgraded unit interiors including new kitchens, bathrooms, and finishes; an elevator replacement; upgraded common areas and management office; upgraded landscaping; and upgraded plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and fire protection systems.

A part of the proposed work includes adding one affordable elderly housing unit by converting underutilized common space to residential space. The two story high common space on the third floor is proposed to be converted to a unit. 173 square feet of additional dwelling space will be created by a partial infill, within the structure, at the fourth floor. Please see A-103 and A-104, Architectural Third and Fourth Floor Plans, and A-461, Architectural Enlarged Unit E Plan, attached. Like the existing units, the proposed additional unit will meet the definition of Elderly Oriented Housing. The addition of one unit changes the ratio of gross floor area to lot area from 2.89 to 2.91%, and the lot area for each dwelling unit from 298.7 to 292.9.

Continuing Comprehensive Permit Eligibility

The Project continues to meet the standards of the original Comprehensive Permit: meeting the need for elderly housing, reasonable density and use for the area, and consistency with local needs. The Russell Apartments will continue to serve the elderly population in Cambridge. The project continues to be regulated by DHCD and HUD and subject to low income housing requirements as a result of a new LIHTC allocation and Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) vouchers, and will continue to be operated by the Cambridge Housing Authority. Because all of the facts on which the Board originally determined the Project to be eligible for a Comprehensive Permit continue to be applicable, the Board continues to have jurisdiction to review changes to the Project and even to grant additional zoning relief in the form of an amendment to the Comprehensive Permit, if needed.

Determination of Insubstantial Change

The DHCD regulations applicable to Comprehensive Permits provide, at 760 CMR 56.05(11), that if an applicant desires to change the details of its project as approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals after a Comprehensive Permit is granted, the applicant may notify the Board in writing, describing the proposed change and request that the Permit be amended to include the change. If the changes do not significantly expand the scope of relief granted in the original permit, 760 CMR 56.05(11) allows the Board to determine that it is an "insubstantial change", and the Permit may be amended to include the changes, without further action. CHA is therefore requesting the Board's determination that the above described changes to the Russell Apartments project are insubstantial under 760 CMR 56.05(11), and that plans for the building renovation may be so amended.

Very Truly Yours:

Michael J. Johnston Executive Director

BZA APPLICATION FORM

DIMENSIONAL INFORMATION

OCATION: 2050 Massachusetts Avenue			ZONE: Business A-2		
HONE: <u>617-303-1147</u>	(Judy OMara)	REQUESTED USE/OCCUPANCY: Residental/Community Center			
		EXISTING CONDITIONS	REQUESTED CONDITIONS	ORDINANCE REQUIREMENT	<u>'s</u> '
TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA:		44,151	44,324	•	(max.)
OT AREA:		15,234			(min.
ATIO OF GROSS FLOOR AREA		2.9		1.75	_ (max.
OT AREA FOR EACH DWELLING UNIT:		299	293	300	_ (min.)
IZE OF LOT:	WIDTH	148.74		95.75	_ (min.
	DEPTH				
Setbacks in Feet:	FRONT	0	0	0	(min.)
	REAR	33.92	33.92	20	_ (min.)
	LEFT SIDE	3.87	3.87	10	_ (min.)
	RIGHT SIDE	3.87	3.87	10	_ (min.)
SIZE OF BLDG.:	HEIGHT	58.5	141	61.83	(max.
	LENGTH				
	WIDTH				
ATIO OF USABLE O	PEN SPACE				
<u> </u>		9%	<u> </u>	None	(min.)
NO. OF DWELLING UNITS:		51	52	50	(max.
NO. OF PARKING SPACES:			10	(m	in./max)
NO. OF LOADING AREAS:				1	_ (min.)
ISTANCE TO NEARE	ST BLDG.	N/A	N/A	N/A	_ (min.)

^{1.} SEE CAMBRIDGE ZONING ORDINANCE ARTICLE 5.000, SECTION 5.30 (DISTRICT OF DIMENSIONAL

REGULATIONS).

2. TOTAL GROSS FLOOR AREA (INCLUDING BASEMENT 7'-0" IN HEIGHT AND ATTIC AREAS GREATER THAN 5') DIVIDED BY LOT AREA.

3. OPEN SPACE SHALL NOT INCLUDE PARKING AREAS, WALKWAYS OR DRIVEWAYS AND SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM DIMENSION OF 15'.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE BOARD OF ZONING APPEAU

Case No.: 4874

Location:

2050-2070 Mansachusetth Avenue - Bus. C and Res. B Zores Middlesex County Registry of Deeds Book 14194, Page 181

Mititioner: Cambridge Housing Authority

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Comprehensive Permit under Chapter 774 of the State Ldw to permit construction of fifty-one low-income elderly

housing units.

Rate of Filing of Petition: November 4, 1981

Dates of Public Notice:

Nevember 5 and 12, 1981

Date of Public Mearing:

November 19, 1981

Members of the Board:

Hugh Adams Russell, Chairperson

Brendan Sullivan U. L. Clauson Metvir Gadd

At the public hearing held on November 19, 1981, the four-member Board heard Frederick Putnam, Director, Planning and Development Department of the Cambridge Mousing Authority; George Metzger, Architect, Hill, Miller, Friedlaender, Hollander, Inc., developers and Attorney Hollis Young, Coursel for Cambridge Housing Authority

The Cambridge Housing Authority proposes to construct fifty-one un|ts of elderly housing on vacant city-owned land. Two significant variances from the residential requirements of the Business C district are required, an increase above the units allowed, from twenty-four to fifty-one, and an increase in the permitted height from thirty-five feet to approximately fifty-eight feet. Petitioner requests a Comprehensive Permit under Chapter 774 of the State Law for the development with all variances necessary included. The State Executive Office of Communities and Development has granted 2.2 million dollars for the development which would provide much peeded housing for the elderly in Combridge.

Mr. Metager said that they have tried to reach a design that is compatible to the community and has had several meetings with the neighbors and with the Cambridge Community Development Department to discuss the design. The proposed building consists of fifty-one one-bedroom opartments in a six and four story building with approximately 1300 square feet of commercial/public use space on the first floor and twelve off street parking spaces at the rear of the building.

The Board received reports from the following City Departments; Chief Daniel Reagan of Cambridge Fire Department, who recommended more room for a ladder truck at the rear of the building; L. M. Preston, Traffic Engineer, Department of Traffic and Parking who recommended nine-foot parking spaces to make access and egress easier; Commissioner Conrad Facene, Department of Public Works and Chairman Paul Ryan of Combridge Council on Aging, who were in favor. Commissioner Joseph Colluct of the Building Department stated that building permits must be obtained and the plans submitted at that time must comply with the State Building Code. Chairman Arthur C. Parris, Cambridge Planning Board found that the proposal would be a positive contribution to the physical and social environment of the neighborhood and would fulfill a need for elderly housing in the City.

Edward F. Deluca, President of the Combridge Committee of Elders, Inc., 15 Pearl Street, and Edward W. Abbott, 13 Creighton Street, immediate abutter to the site, wrote letters in favor of the petition. Councillor David Sullivan, Member of Cambridge City Council, Richard Griftin, from the Council of Aging and four neighbors spoke at the hearing in favor.

The second secon

In opposition, a petition with twenty nine signatures was submitted to the Board. Neighbors who spoke at the barring stated that they felt that the location of elderly housens on busy Massachusetts Avenue was inappropriate; that the density and height violated their residential district; that this would result in overcrowding of the area which has been the site of several large residential developments recently; and that the property should be privately developed and remain on the City tax rolls.

After hearing the testimony presented, the Board (unds:

- 1. That there is a need for elderly housing,
- That the proposed development is in reasonable density and use for the area.
- 3. That the application is consistent with local needs.

THEREFORE, the Board of Zoring Appeal voted quantificially to drant the Comprehensive Permit and hereby requests the Euperinterdent of Buildings to issue the accessary permit for construction of fifty-one units of elderly housing on premises known as 2050-2070 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE. Collective, Massachusetts in accordance with the Massachusetts State Building Code and the Cambridge Zoning Ordinance, with the following conditions:

- That the petitioner continue to meet with the community on a regular basis to discuss any character in degree.
- 2. That, if the design is changed from the design shown to the Board at this hearing in terms of height, number of units, exterior design and materials and general use of the land area of this rite, the potitioner submit those changes to the Board of Zoning appeal for approval before obtaining a building permit. At the same time, petitioner submit to the Board a statement indicating the review process, with the community that has taken place and the results of such a process. This is not intended to limit the right of any member of the community to submit letters of explanation at that time for consideration by the Board of Zoning Appeal.

Hugh-Adoms Russell Charperson

ATTEST: A true and correct copy of decision filed with the officer of the City Clerk and Planning Board on Alexander 1997.

by Eden 1998 Sunglesq. . Secretary.

Date: JAN 4 1982

Twenty days have clapsed since the filing of this decision. No appeal has been filed______

Appeal has been filed and dismissed denied

ty clerk, with on cambridge





Front Elevation on Massachusetts Avenue



East Elevation



Front Ramp, Stair and Sidewalk at Russell Apartment Entrance



Front Entrance at North Cambridge Senior Center



South Elevation at Parking Area



South Elevation at Driveway



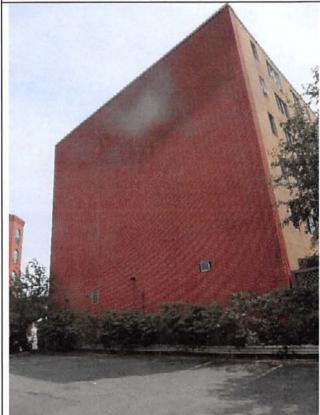
South Elevation at East Stair Exit



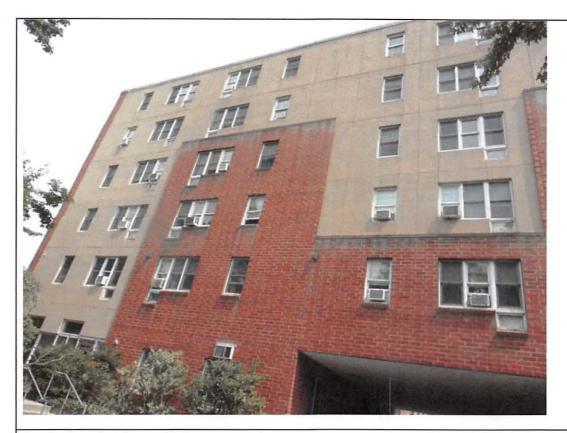
South Elevation At Raised Outdoor Patio



Outdoor Raised Patio



West Elevation



South Elevation (west side)



South Elevation (east side)



Parking Area (looking east)



Parking Area (looking west)

