



CITY OF RICHMOND

Department of Planning & Development Review *Staff Report*

Ord. No. 2024-151: To authorize the special use of the property known as 2501 Porter Street for the purpose of a two-family detached dwelling, upon certain terms and conditions. (5th District)

To: City Planning Commission
From: Land Use Administration
Date: June 18, 2024

PETITIONER

Viaco, LLC

LOCATION

2501 Porter Street

PURPOSE

The applicant is requesting a Special Use Permit to allow for a two-family dwelling within the R-6 Single-Family Attached zoning district. A two-family detached structure is a permitted use in this zoning district on lots with no less than 5,000 square feet and 50 feet of street frontage. The subject parcel does not meet these lot criteria. A Special Use Permit is, therefore, requested.

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

Staff finds that the proposed use is a permitted use within the underlying zoning district and has the appearance of a single-family dwelling, consistent with the surrounding dwellings in the neighborhood.

Staff finds that with the ordinance conditions, the safeguards contained within the City Charter relative to the granting of Special Use Permits are met. Specifically, staff finds that the proposed special use would not be detrimental to the general welfare of the community involved and would not create congestion in the streets in the area involved.

Therefore, staff recommends approval of the Special Use Permit.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Site Description

The vacant 3,575 square foot, 27-foot wide, subject property is in the Swansboro neighborhood on the corner of Porter Street and West 25th Street.

Proposed Use of the Property

A two-family detached dwelling

Master Plan

The City's Richmond 300 Master Plan designates the property for Residential uses, which consists primarily of single-family houses on large- or medium-sized lots more homogeneous in nature.

Development Style: Houses on medium-sized and large-sized lots in a largely auto-dependent environment. Homes are setback from the street. Future developments continue and/or introduce a gridded street pattern to increase connectivity. Future single-family housing, accessory dwelling units, duplexes, and small multi-family residential buildings are built to a scale and design that is consistent with existing building.

Ground Floor: Not applicable.

Mobility: Bicycle and pedestrian access are prioritized and accommodated. Low residential density means that it is not possible to provide frequent transit within these areas; however, frequent transit may be found at the edges of these areas within more intense future land use designations. Many homes have driveways and/or garages, which are located off an alley behind the home if an alley is present.

Intensity: Buildings are generally one to three stories. Lot sizes generally range up to 5,000 to 20,000+ sq. ft. Residential density of 2 to 10 housing units per acre.

Primary Uses: Single-family houses, accessory dwelling units, and open space.

Secondary Uses: Duplexes and small multi-family buildings (typically 3-10 units), institutional, and cultural. Secondary uses may be found along major streets.

Zoning and Ordinance Conditions

Zoning Administration provided the following comments:

Zoning: R-6 District. Request to build a two-family detached dwelling. 6,000 sf lot area and 50' lot width required. 3575 sf lot area and 27.5' wide proposed. 15' front yard setback required (or as determined by the front yard setback of adjacent main buildings within 100') 15.9' proposed as determined by adjacent dwelling. 5' side yard setback required, 3.75' proposed. 5' Rear yard setback required, 51.17' proposed. 55% max lot coverage required, 35% proposed. (SUP required to waive lot area, lot width and side yard setback requirements.)

This special use permit would impose development conditions, including:

- The Special Use of the Property shall be as a two-family detached dwelling, substantially as shown on the Plans.
- The height of the Special Use shall not exceed two stories, substantially as shown on the Plans.
- All building elevations and site improvements shall be substantially as shown on the Plans.
- All mechanical equipment serving the Property shall be located or screened so as not to be visible from any public right-of-way.

Surrounding Area

The surrounding neighborhood is in the R-6 Single-Family Attached Residential District and contains primarily single-family dwellings.

Neighborhood Participation

Staff notified area residents and property owners as well as the Swansboro Neighborhood Association. No comments in support or opposition have been received.

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