



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** ORD. 2022-163, **Version:** 1

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To authorize the special use of the ~~[property]~~ properties known as 2301 Commerce Road and 3001 Commerce Road for the purpose of parking areas and drive aisles illuminated by lighting structures in excess of 35 feet in height, upon certain terms and conditions. (As Amended) (8<sup>th</sup> District)

WHEREAS, the owner of the property known as 3001 Commerce Road, which is situated in a M-1 Light Industrial District, desires to use such property for the purpose of parking areas and drive aisles illuminated by lighting structures in excess of 35 feet in height, which use, among other things, is not currently allowed by section 30-710.12(5), concerning improvement of parking areas and parking lots, of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with section 17.11 of the Charter of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, it has been made to appear that, if granted subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this ordinance, the special use granted by this ordinance will not be detrimental to the safety, health, morals and general welfare of the community involved, will not tend to create congestion in streets, roads, alleys and other public ways and places in the area involved, will not create hazards from fire, panic or other dangers, will not tend to overcrowding of land and cause an undue concentration of population, will not adversely affect or interfere with public or private schools, parks, playgrounds, water supplies, sewage disposal, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences and improvements, and will not interfere with adequate light and air; and

WHEREAS, (i) the City Planning Commission has conducted a public hearing to investigate the circumstances and conditions upon which the Council is empowered to authorize such use, (ii) the City Planning Commission has reported to the Council the results of such public hearing and investigation and its

recommendations with respect thereto, and (iii) the Council has conducted a public hearing on this ordinance at which the person in interest and all other persons have had an opportunity to be heard;

NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY OF RICHMOND HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. **Finding.** Pursuant to section 30-1050.1 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, the Council hereby finds that the special use set forth in and subject to the terms and conditions of this ordinance will not (i) be detrimental to the safety, health, morals and general welfare of the community involved, (ii) tend to create congestion in streets, roads, alleys and other public ways and places in the area involved, (iii) create hazards from fire, panic or other dangers, (iv) tend to overcrowding of land and cause an undue concentration of population, (v) adversely affect or interfere with public or private schools, parks, playgrounds, water supplies, sewage disposal, transportation or other public requirements, conveniences and improvements, or (vi) interfere with adequate light and air.

§ 2. **Grant of Special Use Permit.**

(a) Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this ordinance, the property known as 3001 Commerce Road and identified as Tax Parcel No. S008-0601/054 in the 2022 records of the City Assessor, being more particularly as shown on a survey entitled “A Consolidation & Lot Split Survey of Two Parcels of Land Bounded by Commerce Road, Ruffin Road, Gunn Street, and CSX Transportation Incorporated Right-of-Way in the City of Richmond, VA,” prepared by Timmons Group, and dated June 8, 2021, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of this ordinance, hereinafter referred to as “the Property,” is hereby permitted to be used for the purpose of parking areas and parking aisles illuminated by lighting structures in excess of 35 feet in height, hereinafter referred to as “the Special Use,” substantially as shown on the plans entitled “Deepwater - Building C Deepwater Industrial Park Richmond, VA,” prepared by Timmons Group, dated October 1, 2021, and last revised on January 26, 2022, and entitled “Deepwater - Building A, Deepwater Industrial Park, Richmond, VA,” prepared by Timmons Group, dated October 1, 2021, and last revised on March 3, 2022,

hereinafter referred to, collectively, as “the Plans,” copies of which are attached to and made a part of this ordinance.

(b) The adoption of this ordinance shall constitute the issuance of a special use permit for the Property. The special use permit shall inure to the benefit of the owner or owners of the fee simple title to the Property as of the date on which this ordinance is adopted and their successors in fee simple title, all of which are hereinafter referred to as “the Owner.” The conditions contained in this ordinance shall be binding on the Owner.

§ 3. **Special Terms and Conditions.** This special use permit is conditioned on the following special terms and conditions:

(a) The Special Use of the Property shall be as parking areas and parking aisles illuminated by lighting structures in excess of 35 feet in height, substantially as shown on the Plans.

(b) Wireless communications equipment may be co-located on the lighting structures at or below the height authorized in this ordinance, subject to the applicable provisions of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended.

§ 4. **Supplemental Terms and Conditions.** This special use permit is conditioned on the following supplemental terms and conditions:

(a) All required final grading and drainage plans, together with all easements made necessary by such plans, must be approved by the Director of Public Utilities prior to the issuance of the building permit.

(b) Storm or surface water shall not be allowed to accumulate on the land. The Owner, at its sole cost and expense, shall provide and maintain at all times adequate facilities for the drainage of storm or surface water from the Property so as not to adversely affect or damage any other property or public streets and the use thereof.

(c) Facilities for the collection of refuse shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of the Director of Public Works. Such facilities shall be located or screened so as not to be visible from adjacent

properties and public streets.

(d) Any encroachments existing, proposed on the Plans or contemplated in the future shall require separate authorization and shall be subject to the applicable provisions of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, and all future amendments to such laws.

(e) In all other respects, the use of the Property shall be in accordance with the applicable underlying zoning regulations.

§ 5. **General Terms and Conditions.** This special use permit is conditioned on the following general terms and conditions:

(a) No permit implementing this special use permit shall be approved until satisfactory evidence has been presented to the Zoning Administrator that any delinquent real estate taxes applicable to the Property have been paid.

(b) The Owner shall be bound by, shall observe and shall comply with all other laws, ordinances, rules and regulations applicable to the Property, except as otherwise expressly provided in this ordinance.

(c) Words and phrases used in this ordinance shall be interpreted to have the meanings ascribed to them by section 30-1220 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, unless the context clearly indicates that a different meaning is intended.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this special use permit is being approved due, in part, to the mitigating effects of each and every condition attached hereto; consequently, if any portion of this ordinance is determined to be invalid for any reason by a final, non-appealable order of any Virginia or federal court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity shall cause the entire ordinance to be void and of no further effect from the effective date of such order.

(e) The privileges granted by this ordinance may be revoked pursuant to the provisions of sections 30-1050.7 through 30-1050.11 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, and all future amendments to such laws. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this ordinance shall constitute a

violation of section 30-1080 of the Code of the City of Richmond (2020), as amended, and all future amendments to such law, or any other applicable laws or regulations.

(f) When the privileges granted by this ordinance terminate and the special use permit granted hereby becomes null and void, whether as a result of the Owner relinquishing this special use permit in a writing addressed to the Director of Planning and Development Review or otherwise, use of the Property shall be governed thereafter by the zoning regulations prescribed for the district in which the Property is then situated.

§ 6. **Implementation.** The Commissioner of Buildings is authorized to issue a building permit substantially in accordance with the Plans for the Special Use subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this ordinance. An application for the building permit shall be made within 730 calendar days following the date on which this ordinance becomes effective. If either the application for the building permit is not made within the time period stated in the previous sentence or the building permit terminates under any provision of the Virginia Statewide Building Code, this ordinance and the special use permit granted hereby shall terminate and become null and void.

§ 7. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

### **O & R Request**

**DATE:** April 25, 2022

**EDITION:** 1

**THROUGH:** The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor (Patron: Mayor, by Request)  
(This in no way reflects a recommendation on behalf of the Mayor.)

**THROUGH:** J.E. Lincoln Saunders, Chief Administrative Officer

**THROUGH:** Sharon L. Ebert, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Economic Development and Planning

**FROM:** Kevin J. Vonck, Director, Department of Planning and Development Review

**RE:** To authorize the special use of the property known as 3001 Commerce Road for the purposes of parking areas and drive aisles illuminated by lighting structures in excess of 35 feet in height, upon certain terms and conditions.

**ORD. OR RES. No.**

**PURPOSE:** To authorize the special use of the property known as 3001 Commerce Road for the purposes of parking areas and drive aisles illuminated by lighting structures in excess of 35 feet in height, upon certain terms and conditions.

**REASON:** The subject property is located in the M-1 Light Industrial District and lighting for parking areas and drive aisles is a permitted use. However, Section 30 710.12 of the zoning ordinance limits the height of lighting fixtures serving parking areas to thirty-five feet (35'). The proposed lighting plans call for lighting structures that exceed 35 feet in height. Therefore a special use permit is necessary for this request.

**RECOMMENDATION:** In accordance with the requirements of the City Charter and the Zoning Ordinance, the City Planning Commission will review this request and make a recommendation to City Council. This item will be scheduled for consideration by the Commission at its June 20, 2022 meeting.

**BACKGROUND:** The approximately 18 acre property is currently being developed as an industrial park, with multiple large warehouse buildings. The property is surrounded by other industrial properties to the north and west. Commerce Road and Interstate 95 are located to the east, and the residential neighborhood of Castle Heights is located to the south, across Ruffin Road.

An industrial park with large warehouse buildings is currently under construction on the subject property. The lighting installations will provide illumination to the parking areas and drive aisles serving Buildings 'A' and 'C.'

The Richmond 300 Master Plan recommends Industrial Uses for the Property. Primary uses include retail/office/personal service, multi-family residential, cultural, and open space. Secondary uses include institutional and government.

The property is surrounded by other industrial properties to the north and west. Commerce Road and Interstate 95 are located to the east, and the residential neighborhood of Castle Heights is located to the south, across Ruffin Road.

**FISCAL IMPACT / COST:** The Department of Planning and Development Review does not anticipate any impact to the City's budget for this or future fiscal years.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:** Staff time for processing the request; preparation of draft ordinance; and publishing, mailing and posting of public notices.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY:** No

**REVENUE TO CITY:** \$2,400

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Upon adoption

**REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE:** May 23, 2022

**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE:** June 27, 2022

**REQUESTED AGENDA:** Consent

**RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE:** None

**CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES:** City Planning Commission  
June 20, 2022

**AFFECTED AGENCIES:** Office of Chief Administration Officer  
Law Department (for review of draft ordinance)

**RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.:** None

**REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S):** None

**ATTACHMENTS:** Draft Ordinance, Application Form, Applicant's Report, Plans

**STAFF:** Richard Saunders, Senior Planner, Land Use Administration, 804 646 5648

Key Issues:

Retain on Consent Agenda

Move to Regular Agenda

Refer Back to Committee

Remove from Council Agenda

Strike

Withdrawn

Continue to: