6030 Hillandale Drive 6257 Hillandale Drive

- Agenda
- November 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Staff Report
- Application
- Supporting Documents



BOARD OF ZONING & APPEALS MEETING

Stonecrest City Hall – *In-Person** February 21, 2023, 6:30 PM

AGENDA

As set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Stonecrest will assist citizens with special needs given notice (7 working days) to participate in any open meetings of the City of Stonecrest. Please contact the City Clerk's Office via telephone (770.224-0200).

- I. Call to Order
- II. Oath of Office
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Minutes: The Approval of the Zoning Board Meeting Minutes Summary dated November 15, 2022
- V. Old Business:
- VI. New Business: Variance of Setback Requirements and Appeal of Administrative Decision Regarding the Denial of the Issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy

*Meeting will be held in-person and virtually via the www.zoom.com, Meeting can be viewed on the City of Stonecrest Youtube page. Citizens wishing to make public comment can come to City Hall and make comments on a laptop running the Zoom application at the podium in Council Chambers or submit their questions to Keirston McMillan, Secretary to the Zoning Board of Appeals, via email address keirston, mcmillan(astonecrestya, gov.)

Public Hearing(s):

LAND USE PETITION:

V22-008

PETITIONER:

Joshua Mahoney, Battle Law PC

LOCATION:

6257 Hillandale DR Stonecrest GA 30058

CURRENT ZONING:

OD (Office-Distribution) and Viewshed Overlay

CONDITION CZ-97061

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

To decrease in setback requirements from 75 ft to 50 ft

LAND USE PETITION:

AAA22-000002

PETITIONER:

Linda Dunlavy, Dunlavy Law Group, LLC on behalf of Applicant

Shah Ali Enterprises, LLC

LOCATION:

6030 Hillandale Drive Stonecrest GA 30058

CURRENT ZONING: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

M (Light Industrial) and Viewshed Overlay
To appeal administrative decision to deny issuance of certificate of

occupancy for convenience store/gas station

VII. Adjournment

MEETING MINUTES

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY



Stonecrest City Hall - 6:30 PM *Spoke-in-Person Meeting November 15, 2022

As set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Stonecrest will assist citizens with special needs given notice (7 working days) to participate in any open meetings of the City of Stonecrest. Please contact the City Clerk's Office via telephone (770-224-0200).

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Michael Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

II. Roll Call

Chairman Michael Armstrong (District 4) called the roll. Ms. Kelly Ross (District 1), Ms. Gwendolyn Green (District 2), Mr. Shedrick Harris (District 5) was present. Ms. Sonja Hicks (District 3) was absent. There was a quorum.

The Planning & Zoning Director, Ray White and Planner, Keirston McMillan were present. Attorney Alicia Thompson, Fincher Denmark, LLC, virtually attended.

III. Approval of the Agenda Need: Agenda not approved

IV. Minutes:

Commissioner Michael Armstrong called for a motion. The Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Minutes Summary dated August 1, 2022 was called for a motion to approve the Zoning Boards of Appeals Meeting Minutes Summary dated August 1, 2022. Gwendolyn Green (District 2) motioned to APPROVE. Ms. Kelly Ross (District 1) seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously APPROVED.

V. Presentations: Upcoming Cases Presented by Ms. Keirston McMillan, Planner

- > V-22-003 The property is located at 2418 Panola Road to increase the sign height and sign area.
- > V-22-004 The property is located at 2799 Evans Mills Road for a stream buffer for the construction of a new gas station and convience store.
- V-22-006 The property is located at 4460 Panola Road to restore the eroded portions of the stream bank and stabilize the embankment.

VI. Old Business: None

VII. New Business: Variance of Sign and Stream Buffer

LAND USE PETITION:

V-22-003

PETITIONER:

REGINALD MATTISON ON BEHALF OF NIGERIAN

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

CHURCH

LOCATION:

2418 PANOLA ROAD

CURRENT ZONING:

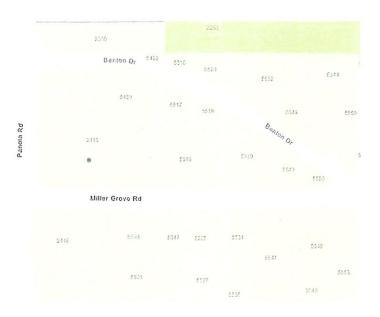
R-100 (RESIDENTIAL MEDIUM LOT)

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

TO INCREASE THE SIGN HEIGHT AND SIGN AREA

Keirston McMillan presented V-22-003- "The property is located at 2418 Panola Road height and sign area. The current zoning is R-100, residential medium lot with a parcel size of a little bit more or less of 2.6 acreage. The property owner is Mr. Ray Hartwell and the applicant is Mr. Reginald Madison. The staff recommendation is to approve it with a few conditions. The request here is to increase the sign height from six feet to eight feet nine inches and to increase the sign phase area from 32 square feet to 33.6 square footage. The current usage of this property is a place of worship known as the Nigerian Seventh Day Adventist Church. This two-story brick and frame church building sits on parcel 16.057.03.002. It was built in 1976 in unincorporated DeKalb County. The church is located at the corner of Panola Road and Miller Grove Road. There's a wooden post on the corner that appears to be worn, damaged and it needs a bit of repair. Existing Conditions. The current sign is a wooden post that appears worn and damaged and needs to be repaired. The current sign will be demolished and replaced. The height of the sign is 10 ft. The applicant is proposing to increase the height to 8' 9". The applicant is proposing to increase the sign area from 32 sq ft to 33.6 sq ft."

"In support of this recommendation to approve it, we have a few code_requirements that state that all monument signs shall not exceed 32 square feet of sign area and shall not exceed six feet in height. This is why the applicant is bringing this before the board. The board should be mindful and consider that this new sign is going to be more aesthetically appealing. We want to give the applicant the opportunity to just make some repairs so that it's more appealing to the eyesight for drivers going near the property can have something that's more legible and appealing. Does this grant variance really confer to the applicant? Would there be any significant privileges? No, there won't be any favoritism, meaning everything surrounding local merchants nearby, existing businesses and new businesses will all have to comply to the same code if we meet the adjustment. Everything complies with the code. Staff have considered it to be a benefit to the community and property. We now ask what your next steps is and would you guys support staff recommendation to approve."





Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Minutes Summary

VARIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Following are the specific considerations listed in Sec 21-79 of the Stonecrest Sign Ordinance that must be considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals in order to grant a variance. These considerations include:

- (1) Exceptional conditions pertaining to the property where the sign is to be located as a result of its size, shape, or topography, which are not applicable to other lands or structures in the area;
 - The new sign will be more aesthetically appealing and will be built in alignment with today's standards.
- (2) Granting the variance would not confer on the applicant any significant privileges which are denied to others similarly situated;
 No, the applicant will be shown no favoritism. All applicants are measured across the board using the same vetting process.
- (3) The exceptional circumstances are not the result of action by the applicant;
 By implementing this variance, the property's aesthetic appeal and the viewability of the text on the sign are enhanced.
- (4) The requested variance is the minimum variance necessary to allow the applicant to enjoy the rights commonly enjoyed by others similarly situated; There is no need for any additional variances to make the necessary change.
- (5) Granting of the variance would not violate more than one standard of this chapter; The variance does not violate any standards of this chapter.

Granting the variance would not result in allowing a sign that interferes with road or highway visibility or obstructs or otherwise interferes with the safe and orderly movement of traffic.

The variance would not interfere with road or highway visibility or obstruct or otherwise interfere with the safe and orderly movement of traffic.

Chairman Armstrong asked was the applicant present. The applicant was present.

Chairman Armstrong asked those in support to speak.

Those in support:

Spoke-in-person: Ms. Kelly Ross (District 1) asked did the Nigerian Seventh-Day Adventist Church have any other long-term beautification projects.

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Reginald Madison came forward and spoke on behalf of the Nigerian Seventh-day Adventist Church stated that the sign was the first step in beautification when trying to create a curb appeal to beautify the community.

Spoke-in-person: Gwendolyn Green (District 2) asked Mr. Madison will he be the only person creating the signage.

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Reginald Madison came forward and spoke on behalf of the Nigerian Seventh-day Adventist Church stated that he was not going to build the sign but will install it.

Spoke-in-person: Gwendolyn Green (District 2) asked was there anyone from the church body present and what was the anticipated time frame for the sign.

Spoke-in-person: A gentleman that stood next to Mr. Madison stated that he anticipates for the sign to be put up as soon as possible.

Chairman Armstrong asked those in opposition to speak. There were none.

Chairman Michael Armstrong asked for a motion. Mr. Shedrick Harris (District 5) motioned to **APPROVE PETITION V-22-003 WITH STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**. Ms. Gwendolyn Green (District 2) seconded the motion. The vote was **unanimously APPROVED**.

LAND USE PETITION:

V-22-004

PETITIONER:

NAUREEN LALANI WITH ATAI CONSTRUCTION

LOCATION:

2799 EVANS MILL ROAD

CURRENT ZONING:

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

C-1 AND STONECREST OVERLAY DISTRICT TIER 2 TO ENCROACH 902 SF (3%) INTO THE STREAM

BUFFER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GAS

STATION AND CONVENIENCE STORE.

Keirston McMillan presented V-22-004 — "The property is located at 2799 Evans Mill Road. The The current zoning for this property is C-1 - Local Commercial and Stonecrest Overlay District Tier 2. We're looking at about more or less 1.1 acreage. The property owners are by SRN PROPERTIES LLC. The applicant is Ms. Naureen Lalani with Atai Construction. Staff' recommends approval to encroach about 902 902 SF (3%) into the stream buffer for the construction of a new gas station and convenience store. As of now, this is a commercial property and a gas station known as Chevron. This property sits in the corner of Hillandale Drive and Evans Mills Road."

Existing Conditions

According to the engineers of Woodruff Design Associates, in addition to mitigating water quality and landscaping that do not currently exist on the site, the proposed improvements will design for stream bank protection that does not currently exists either and will allow for discharge mitigation that is not in place.

Ms. McMillan stated, "The applicant is going to demolish the existing gas station and rebuild. Staff recommend approving this proposed improvement and believe it's going to benefit the area and improve the site in the surrounding areas. It will not cause excessive or burdensome use of the existing infrastructure."

The pictures listed below show multiple images of what we are looking at to rebuild and make changes to.





"To support staffs recommendation of approval, I have a few codes that supports what's already in place with our comprehensive plan."

APPLICABLE CODE REQUIREMENTS

Land Development (Chapter 14)

Article 7 - Stream Buffer

a. Sec. 14-543. - Minimum stream buffer requirements.

- (a) Stream buffers are established along all perennial and intermittent streams in the City. These required stream buffers begin at the stream bank and extend 75 feet away from the stream. The buffers must remain undisturbed except as otherwise provided in section 14-544.
- (b) Any new stormwater discharge crossing a stream buffer or state buffer zone must be designed to ensure that sheet flow is established through the stream buffer and to prevent channelized flow through the stream buffer.
- (c) Piping of streams is not allowed in required stream buffers unless a variance is granted

City of Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 27):

Article 2 - District Regulations

a. Division 24 - Non-Residential Zoning Districts

Dimensional Requirements, Section 2.24.1, Table 2.24 which establishes the overall site requirements and lot coverage dimensions for C-1

· Lot area (min. square feet)

20,000

Lot width, street frontage (feet)

100 TC/RC: 90

Lot coverage (maximum percentage)

All other: 80

Height (maximum without a special land use permit (SLUP))**

2 story/35 feet

b. Division 26 – C-1 (Local Commercial) District:

Section 2.26.4 - Site and Building Design Standards

Article 3 - Overlay District Regulations

a. Division 5 - Stonecrest Area Overlay District

"The proposed changes in existing conditions and any other changes have been communicated with the staff. Granting of this variance would not go beyond the minimum necessary requirements for relief and it does not constitute granting special privilege which is inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties and the same zone district. Meaning, what goes on here will also apply to any others based on what they are proposing as well. As the code reads to date, the applicable provisions would cause undue hardship. Meaning, we have realized that the further review that actual proves this variance would help rather than hurt. This proposed project is necessary as it will result in the restoration or enhancement of the water and aquatic quality, which will actually improve those things. At the review on our Stonecrest Comprehensive plan, it is in support of that as well and will also approve it if the board agrees to those conditions."

Chairman Armstrong asked was the applicant present. The applicant was present.

Spoke-in-person: Ms. Kathleen Woodruff, a registered engineer, came forward and spoke on behalf of the owner and construction manager stated they are proposing to renovate a non-conforming lot, which is an existing gas station currently with a carwash that is already encroach into the buffers. Ms. Woodruff stated, "We are trying to make it a legal lot so that we can continue with our proposal to improve it. We will landscape per the Overlay District requirements that are currently in place. We will provide water quality, water quantity mitigation, fully renovate the building and canopy. We are not worried about any environmental conditions and do not need to move the storage tanks. We have no need to come into the 25-foot state buffer. We are really trying to bring a non-conforming lot into the legal stance since Stonecrest has incorporated and these ordinances have been put in place as this lot was developed long before that. We are reducing the encroachment within the 50-foot buffer and renovating that building. The way it corners off, creates a small encroachment that is very small but still necessary to get a variance approved.

Chairman Armstrong asked the ZBA Board did they have any questions for the applicant.

Ms. Kelly Ross (District 1) asked the time frame for the proposed development.

Spoke-in-person: Ms. Kathleen Woodruff stated they are ready to go and the contract is already in place. She also stated that she has been working with Deputy Director Keedra Jackson and staff regarding site plan and construction document submittals.

Mr. Shedrick Harris (District 5) asked did they plan to remove the carwash. Ms. Kathleen Woodruff replied, "right."

Ms. Gwendolyn Green (District 2) asked will the gas station remain at the location and will the company still be operated by the Chevron company.

Spoke-in-person: Ms. Kathleen Woodruff stated it will still be a gas station with a convenience store but they will be removing the car wash so they can extend the convenience store portion.

Chairman Armstrong asked those in opposition to speak. There were none.

Chairman Michael Armstrong asked for a motion. Ms. Kelly Ross (District 1) motioned to APPROVE PETITION V-22-004 WITH STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS. Mr. Shedrick Harris (District 5) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously APPROVED.

LAND USE PETITION:

PETITIONER: LOCATION:

CURRENT ZONING:

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

V-22-006

CORPORATE ENVIRONMENT RISK MANAGEMENT

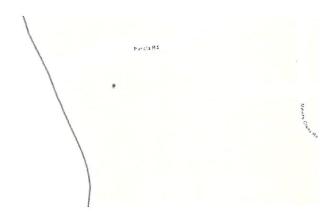
4460 PANOLA ROAD

R-100 AND ARABIAN MOUNTAIN OVERLAY

TO RESTORE THE ERODED PORTIONS OF THE STREAM

BANK AND STABILIZE THE EMBANKMENT.

Keirston McMillan presented V-22-006 - "The property is located at 4460 Panola Road. This particular zone is R-100 residential medium lot. The Arabian Mountain Overlay. The parcel size is about 80.79 acreage and the property owner is the City of Stonecrest Georgia. We will be partnering with the applicant, CERN, which is a corporate environmental risk management team. Staff recommends approving this petition with a few conditions because the applicant is seeking to restore the erotic portions of the screen bank and to stabilize the embankment by encroaching 25 to 50 inches onto the stream bank. The site is served on the south river stream bank at Panola Shoals trailhead. It is located near the southeast corner of the north intersection of Panola Road and SnapFinger Road in DeKalb County. "



"Sections of the screen embankment have eroded over time and they continue to do so with each major rainfall. Staff believe that it is important and very critical that we get a hold on this now as it continues to erode because there is a park nearby, which may cause further complications if we do not approve or move further with this project."



Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Minutes Summary



APPLICABLE CODE REQUIREMENTS

City of Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 14 – Land Development): Article 4 – Floodplain Management

- a. Division 2 Definitions
 - Section 14-409 Methods of reducing flood losses:
 - (a)Restrict or prohibit uses which are dangerous to health, safety, and property due to water or erosion hazards, or result in damaging increases in erosion or flood heights or velocities.
 - (b)Require that uses vulnerable to floods, including facilities which serve such uses, be protected against flood damage at the time of initial construction.
 - (c)Control the alteration of natural floodplains, stream channels, and natural protective barriers, which help accommodate or channel flood waters;

VARIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Following are the specific considerations listed in Sec 14-441: Nature of Variance of the Stonecrest Variance Procedure regarding land development and floodplain management. These considerations include:

(a)The variance criteria set forth in this division are based on the general principle of law that variances pertain to a piece of property and are not personal in nature. A variance may be granted for a parcel of property with physical characteristics so unusual that complying with the requirements of this article would create an exceptional hardship to the owner or the surrounding property owners. The characteristics must be unique to the property and not be shared by adjacent parcels. The unique characteristics must pertain to the land itself, not to the structure, its inhabitants, or the property owners. (b)It is the duty of the Mayor and City Council to help protect its citizens from flooding. This need is so compelling and the implications of the cost of ensuring a structure built below flood level is so serious that variances from the flood elevation or from other requirements in the flood ordinance are quite rare. The long-term goal of preventing and reducing flood loss and damage can only be met if variances are strictly limited. Therefore, the variance guidelines provided in this article are more detailed and contain multiple provisions that must be met before a variance can be properly granted. The criteria are designed to screen out those situations in which alternatives other than a variance are more appropriate.

Chairman Armstrong asked the applicant to come forward.

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Ishmael Lee, project engineer, came forward on behalf of the Sr. Engineer, Yasmin Moreno. Mr. Lee stated, "We are trying to store the integrity of the stream that have had some erosion over the years. This is an erosion control project putting in retaining walls, ready rock and stone. The buffer variance is a temporary variance during the intermediate stages of construction and the variance will be completely restored at completion of the construction. This is actually portions of the erosion control, the retaining wall parts of our ready rock retaining wall and the stone that is going to be encroaching there."

Chairman Armstrong asked the ZBA Board did they have any questions for the applicant.

Ms. Gwendolyn Green (District 2) asked will the encroachment be temporary and environmentally sound.

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Ishmael Lee stated that the temporary encroachment was really for the mobility of the contractor to construct the retaining wall and it will be environmentally sound.

Mr. Shedrick Harris (District 5) asked was the erosion caused by the state park, which is adjacent to the other side of the river or was it caused by the rain.

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Ishmael Lee stated, "It would be caused by the river itself. As the river swells over time, it just washes away the bank, depending on what kind of soil is there. Sometimes you can have like partial or a complete collapse of the bank and that's what kind of happens over time."

Mr. Shedrick Harris (District 5) stated, "Is it the state's responsibility to take care of the erosion because most of the erosion is coming from the rainwater as well as running down off of the State Park.

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Ishmael Lee stated, "I can't speak to whose responsibility it is but I know from our research it's mostly the stream going through there causing the erosion."

Ms. Kelly Ross (District 1) asked the time frame for the erosion solution to become successful.

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Ishmael Lee stated "It is a long-term solution but I can't give you an exact number on the life cycle. It will be immediately effective when the construction is complete."

Ms. Kelly Ross (District 1) stated, "Is there any projection around how often it needs to have maintenance or anything."

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Ishmael Lee stated, "I cannot give you an exact number. It would not need maintenance but mostly cutting the grass. It's a retaining wall and in some places there are multiple levels just keeping the grass and weeds maintained.

Ms. Gwendolyn Green (District 2) asked how would the flood plain impact the potential flooding.

Spoke-in-person: Applicant, Ishmael Lee stated, "The erosion is caused as the stream swells and it pulls sediment away from the bank. We're basically putting a wall there, which will act as a dam to protect the bank on the sediment."

Mr. Shedrick Harris (District 5) wanted to know does Pole Creek run through that particular river. Mr. Lee replied, "I'm not sure."

Chairman Armstrong opened motion for public hearing.

Chairman Armstrong asked those in support to speak. There were none.

Chairman Armstrong asked those in opposition to speak. There were none.

Chairman Armstrong closed the public hearing before going into discussion.

Commissioner Michael Armstrong asked for a motion. Ms. Gwendolyn Green (District 2) motioned to APPROVE PETITION V-22-006 WITH STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS. Ross seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously APPROVED.

I. Public Comments: The Secretary Keirston McMillan did not receive any public general comments to be read.

II. Adjournment

The vote was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM. Ms. Gwendolyn Green (District 2) motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Shedrick Harris (District 5) seconded the motion.

Visit the following link to view the meeting: ZBA Meeting 11-15-2022

APPROVED:		
Chairman	Date	
ATTEST:		
Secretary	Date	

Staff Reports



Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing February 21, 2023

CASE NUMBER:

AAA22-000002

PROPERTY LOCATION:

6030 Hillandale Drive Stonecrest GA 30058

(Parcel 16 088 01 002)

CURRENT ZONING:

M (Light Industrial)

PARCEL SIZE:

1.16 +/- acres

PROPERTY OWNER(S):

SHAH ALI INVESTMENT

APPLICANT:

Linda Dunlavy, Dunlavy Law Group, LLC on behalf of

Applicant Shah Ali Enterprises, LLC

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approval with Conditions

VARIANCE REQUEST:

To appeal administrative decision to deny issuance of certificate of occupancy for convenience store/gas station

Current Use

The current use of the subject property is for commercial purposes for use as a convenience store and a gas station. This property owner, Shah Ali Enterprises, has received a serious interest in the sale of the completed project from Circle K in the amount of \$4.3 million. Property is located at 6030 Hillandale Drive Stonecrest GA 30058.

Zoning and Case History

The subject property and all surrounding properties are zoned M – Light Industrial and Stonecrest Overlay District Tier 6. There were no known conditions of zoning found associated to this property.

The City's Zoning Ordinance prohibits package store but not alcohol outlets that are accessory to convenience store/gas stations.

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Administrative Appeal RE: AAA22-000002

February 21, 2023

Keirston McMillan, Planner





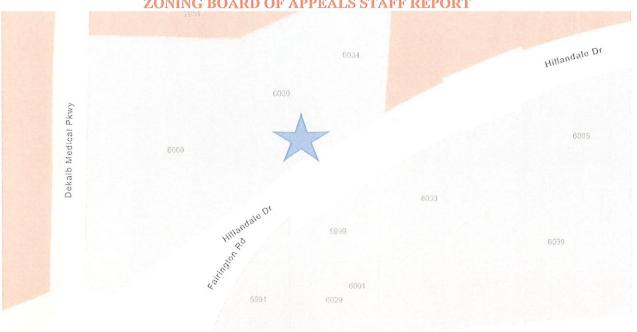


Figure 1: 6030 Hillandale Drive Retrieved from CityMap of Stonecrest, GA GIS

NS - Neighborhood Shopping C-1 - Local Commercial R-85 - Residential Med Lot C-2 - General Commercial OIT - Office-Institutional-Transitional R-75 - Residential Med Lot OI - Office-Institutional R-60 - Residential Small Lot OD - Office-Distribution M - Light Industrial RSM - Small Lot Residential Mix M-2 - Heavy Industrial MU-4 - Mixed-Use High Density MR-1 - Med Density Residential RE - Residential Estate

MR-2 - Med Density Residential

Page 2 Administrative Appeal RE: AAA22-000002 February 21, 2023 Keirston McMillan, Planner

R-100 - Residential Med Lot

Zoning



Existing Conditions

According to the Linda Dunlavy's administrative appeal application, "On November 4, 2022, more than one year after Shah Ali had been issued a land disturbance permit (#LD21-000029) and two years after a building permit had been issued, Keedra Jackson (Deputy Director of the City's Planning and Zoning Department) advised Shah Ali that because his proposed development did not meet requirements if a text amendment passed on July 26, 2021, it would need to apply for and secure a special land use permit before a certificate of occupancy could be issued. At the point of this communication, Shah Ali had completed construction of the gas station/convenience store in reliance upon the permits and other approvals provided by the City since over the course of the past 2+ years and expended more than \$3 million in construction costs."

Please note: The land disturbance permit (#LD21-000029) was issued on October 13, 2021. The commercial building permit (#CB20-000073) was issued on November 18, 2021.

Administrative Appeal

The applicant is seeking an administrative appeal for relief from the decision to deny the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for a convenience store/gas station. As a convenience store/gas station with an alcohol outlet, it is important to note Section 4.2.8. B of the Chapter 27 Zoning Ordinance prohibits alcohol outlets being within 600 feet of a school building, school grounds, educational facility, college campus or sexually oriented business or substance abuse treatment owned, operated, or approved by the state or county or municipal government. Furthermore, is the violation of the location criteria. Section 4.2.28.D., states Fuel pumps associated with convenience stores, gas stations, and service stations cannot be located within 100 feet of an intersection of a major arterial and a major or minor arterial road or located within 500 feet of an interstate highway intersection with an arterial street designated as on the Functional Classification Map in the City the Comprehensive Plan. Per staff's due diligence, there is another gas station adjacent to the subject property and there is a rehab facility next door. The applicant has violated these standards.





Figure 1: AAA22-000002 6030 Hillandale Drive



Figure 2: AAA22-000002 6030 Hillandale Drive

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APPLICABLE CODE REQUIREMENTS

Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 27)

Article 2 - District Regulations

Division 31: M (Light Industrial) District Sec. 2.31.1. Statement of purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of the City Council in establishing the M (Light Industrial) District is as follows:

- A) To provide areas for the establishment of businesses engaged in the manufacturing, processing, creating, repairing, renovating, painting, cleaning, or assembling of goods, merchandise, or equipment and the sale and distribution of such goods, merchandise or equipment in locations so designated in the comprehensive plan;
- B) To provide an environment for light industrial uses that produces no appreciable impact on adjacent properties and preserve the appeal and appearance of residential and commercial areas;
- C) To ensure that all establishments located within the M (Light Industrial) District operate in compliance with the noise standards contained in this chapter and that any negative noise impact resulting from the use of land within the M (Light Industrial) District is contained within the boundaries of said district and does not create noise problems for adjoining residential, office or commercial districts;
- D) To provide an area within City of Stonecrest for recycling and green businesses to locate;
- E) To generate employment opportunities and economic development;
- F) To ensure that M (Light Industrial) Districts are so located that transportation access to thoroughfares and freeways is available;
- G) To implement the future development map of the city's most current comprehensive plan

Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 27)

Article 1- General Requirements

Division 5: Variances and Appeals to the Zoning Board of Appeals

a. Sec. 7.5.2. – Appeals of decisions of administrative officials

A. General power.

The zoning board of appeals shall have the power and duty to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged by the appellant that there is error in any final order, requirement, or decision made by an administrative official based on or made in the enforcement of this zoning ordinance or as otherwise authorized by local law or the Code of the City of Stonecrest. Administrative officials must make final decisions covered by this section within 180 days of receipt of all necessary information to make such decision. A failure to act prior to the passage of 180 days shall not be construed to be a final order, requirement, or decision within the meaning of this division. If a decision is not made by the 181st day, the requested decision is deemed denied and becomes appealable. All such appeals shall be heard and decided following the notice requirements of section 7.2.4, and pursuant to the following criteria and procedural requirements.

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Administrative Appeal RE: AAA22-000002

February 21, 2023

Keirston McMillan, Planner



B. Appeals of decisions of administrative officials.

Appeals of decisions of administrative officials may be filed by:

- (1) Any person aggrieved by; or
- (2) An owner of property within 250 feet of the nearest property line of the property that is the subject of any final order, requirement, or decision of an administrative official, based on or made in the enforcement of this zoning ordinance, or as otherwise authorized by local law or the Code of the City of Stonecrest.

City of Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 27):

Division 5: Stonecrest Area Overlay District

Prohibited uses. The following principal uses of land and structures are prohibited.

- 1. Sexually Oriented Business
- 2. Pawn Shops
- 3. Package stores
- 4. Check cashing facility



STAFF ANALYSIS

Following are the specific variance considerations listed in Sec 7.5.3 of the Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance that must be considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals to grant a variance. These considerations include:

- A. By reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness, or shape of a specific lot, or by reason of exceptional topographic and other site conditions (such as, but not limited to, floodplain, major stand of trees, steep slope), which were not created by the owner or applicant, the strict application of the requirements of this chapter would deprive the property owner of rights and privileges enjoyed by other property owners in the same zoning district.

 There are no exceptional site conditions. The collected data showcases known events which support the argument of requested documentation being provided and submitted by the applicant. A request was communicated with staff for an administrative appeal.
- B. The requested variance does not go beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief and does not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the zoning district in which the subject property is located.

 Granting the administrative variance would not go beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief and does not constitute granting special privilege which is inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the zoning district in which the subject property is located. Due to the site factors, space requirements of the site, and conditions of the process of this development the applicant's request is reasonable.
- C. The grant of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the zoning district in which the subject property is located. By implementing or approving this variance request, the site and its surrounding area will be significantly impacted. There has however been concern about the proliferation of gas service stations in the city and their negative impacts on adjacent neighborhoods. These updated regulations allow Planning Commission, and City Council more opportunities to review Special Land Use Permits on a case-by-case basis for these uses. The updates also help to tighten up the location criteria for such uses restricting where they can be placed. However, based on the information presented and case finding, this case been in the pipeline for over two years, and the applicant had been receiving the "green" light via approved land use permits and commercial business permits that were reviewed by the building department. Before construction, then City Planner Christopher Wheeler confirmed zoning for applicant.
- D. The literal interpretation and strict application of the applicable provisions or requirements of this chapter would cause undue and unnecessary hardship.

As the code reads today, the applicable provisions would cause concern as this will be the second gas station in the area. It is in the City's best interest to thoroughly review all incoming documents and collaborate more effectively with between departments to avoid misinterpretation of the process or the ordinance. Therefore, considering the movement of the project, on a case by case basis, staff

Page 7 Administrative Appeal RE: AAA22-000002 February 21, 2023 Keirston McMillan, Planner



recommends the approval of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for applicant only after the condition to secure fuel underground storage permit has been met.

E. The requested variance would be consistent with the spirit and purpose of this chapter and the Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan text.

It is important to note the application and process started before the new ordinance took effect. The process began in October 2017, and the ordinance was passed on July 26, 2021. Based on the ordinance and information presented at the start of the project, the project was consistent with the spirit with the purpose of the existing chapter and the Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan. That is why the appeal has been brought before this board for further review. Based on the updated ordinance regarding convenience stores/gas stations with an alcohol outlet, new requirements such as acquiring a Special Land Use Permit and not being within 1,000 feet of another gas station and not being within 600 feet of an educational facility or substance abuse treatment facility are in effect. The requested variance would be consistent with the spirit and purpose of this chapter and the Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan, which has designated this site as Suburban on the Future Development Map.

NOTE: Special Land Use Permit (or SLUP) is in reference to cases where a use is permitted but there are supplemental use regulations.

RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions, it appears the applicant meets all the criteria for approval. Therefore, staff recommends **Approval** of AAA22-000002 with the following condition (s):

 The applicant shall secure fuel underground storage permit/license or certificate of station registration and a Special Land Use Permit before issuance of a certificate of occupancy



Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing February 21, 2023

CASE NUMBER:

V22-000008

PROPERTY LOCATION:

6257 Hillandale Drive (Parcel 16 105 03 002)

CURRENT ZONING:

OD - (Office Distribution) District

CONDITION:

CZ-97061

PARCEL SIZE:

2.09 +/- acres

PROPERTY OWNER(S):

CORNERSTONE CAPITAL INVESTMENT

APPLICANT:

Joshua Mahoney, Battle Law on behalf of Applicant

Cornerstone Capital Investment

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

VARIANCE REQUEST:

To decrease in setback requirements from 75 ft to 50 ft

Current Use

Based on findings presented in the letter of intent provide by Battle Law, "The proposed development will include a self-storage facility across one tract of two point twenty-six (2.26) acres. The building containing the self-storage units will be two (2) stories with a basement for a total footprint of 34,986 square feet and across the three levels, a combined 104,958 total square footage of storage space. The development will include two (2) road access points, both on Hillandale Road. One access point will provide first-level loading while the other will provide basement-level loading access. Thirteen (13) guest parking spaces (twelve [12] regular spaces and one [1] ADA accessible space) will be provided on the tract as well" (Battle, 2022, p. 2).

Zoning and Case History

The subject property and all surrounding properties are zoned OD (Office Distribution) District. ZONING OD

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CONDITION CZ-97061

Page 1

Variance Petition: V-22-000008

February 21, 2023

Keirston McMillan, Planner



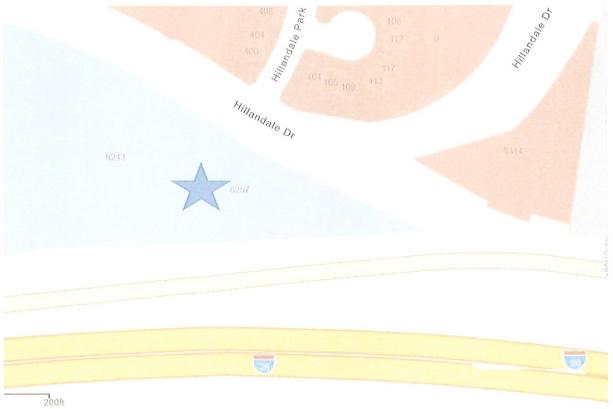


Figure 1: 6257 Hillandale DR Retrieved from CityMap of Stonecrest, GA Zoning GIS

Page 2 Variance Petition: V-22-000008 February 21, 2023 Keirston McMillan, Planner





Figure 2: Aerial View of 6257 Hillandale Drive Stonecrest, Georgia Retrieved from Google Maps

Existing Conditions CONDITION CZ-97061

Variance Request

The applicant is seeking a variance to decrease in setback requirements from 75 ft to 50 ft.

Page 3

Variance Petition: V-22-000008

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APPLICABLE CODE REQUIREMENTS

City of Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 27):

Article 2 – District Regulations

Division 28 – OD (Office-Distribution) District

Sec. 2.28.1. - Statement of purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of the City Council in establishing the OD (Office-Distribution) District is as follows:

- A. To provide convenient areas within the city for the development of office and distribution establishments which are necessary for the residents and business practitioners within the city; and
- B. To implement the future development map of the city's most current comprehensive plan.

City of Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance (Chapter 27):

Article 3 - Overlay District Regulations

Division 5 – Stonecrest Area Overlay District

Page 4 Variance Petition: V-22-000008 February 21, 2023 Keirston McMillan, Planner



VARIANCE CONSIDERATIONS AND STAFF ANALYSIS

Following are the criteria listed in Sec 7.5.3 of the City of Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance that must be considered by the Zoning Board of Appeals in deciding applications for variances:

1. By reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness, or shape of a specific lot, or by reason of exceptional topographic conditions and other site conditions (such as, but not limited to, floodplain, major stand of trees, steep slope), which were not created by the owner or applicant, the strict application of the requirements of this chapter would deprive the property owner of rights and privileges enjoyed by other property owners in the same zoning district;

The parcel's location between Hillandale Road and Interstate-20 create an irregular lot shape that is not congruent with the shape of building. As a result, this particular site location poses the risk of creating exceptional narrowness for the proposed development unlike other property owners in the area. Due to the lot's narrowness and triangular shape, the zoning code's minimum requirements related to parking minimums, impervious surface maximums, and greenspace minimums begin to conflict with one another. Because of this, the property owner is unable to fully develop the parcel for its intended use (Battle, 2022, p. 2).

The requested variance does not go beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief, and does not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the zoning district which the subject property is located;

"The required variance of lowering the minimum setback requirement from seventy-five feet (75') to fifty feet (50') does not go beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief and does not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the zoning district which the subject property is located. The variance would still allow for all minimum parking requirements to be met. Additionally, it keeps the footprint of the building under the maximum impervious area allowed in the zoning district while providing more than the minimum amount of greenspace required by the zoning district. Finally, as demonstrated in the concept plan, to build the storage facility to the correct proportions, the building goes right up to the proposed new setback of fifty feet (50'), and it would not be able to fit in the current required setback of seventy-five feet (75')" (Battle, 2022, p. 2).

3. The grant of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the zoning district in which the subject property is located;

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Variance Petition: V-22-000008

February 21, 2023

Keirston McMillan, Planner



The grant of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the zoning district in which the subject property is located.

4. The literal interpretation and strict application of the applicable provisions or requirements of this Chapter would cause undue and unnecessary hardship; not merely impose a casual/discretionary inconvenience up the applicant or his assigns;

The literal and strict application of the applicable provisions and requirements of this Chapter of the zoning code would cause undue and unnecessary hardship. The unusual lot shape and narrowness of the lot size would not allow for all the requirements of the zoning code to be met. By asking for this minimum variance on the setback, the applicant can as structurally develop the property to achieve its intended commercial purpose safely.

5. The requested variance would be consistent with the spirit and purpose of this Chapter and the City of Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan text.

The proposed purpose of the setback requirements within the City of Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance and the City of Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan text are

- A. To provide convenient areas within the city for the development of office and distribution establishments which are necessary for the residents and business practitioners within the city; and
- B. To implement the future development map of the city's most current comprehensive plan. and to provide transitional buffers between developments located to adjacent low density residential properties respectively.

By only requiring the minimum necessary variance adjustment need to provide relief, the requested variance remains consistent with the spirit and purpose of this Chapter and the City of Stonecrest Comprehensive Plan text by facilitating both these documents' spirits and outlined purposes. This variance will allow for more parking spaces and landscaping, which will contribute to the transitional buffer between developments. Furthermore, storage facilities have little to no adverse community impact – they are known for generating very low amounts of traffic and will not place further strain on school systems. Finally, by allowing the variance, the applicant will be able to build the storage facility that is necessary to support the nearby commercial and residential areas by adding additional climate-controlled, self-storage options (Battle, 2022, p. 3).

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RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions, it appears the applicant meets all the criteria for approval. Therefore, staff recommends **Approval** of *V-22-000008* to decrease in setback requirements from 75 ft to 50 ft.

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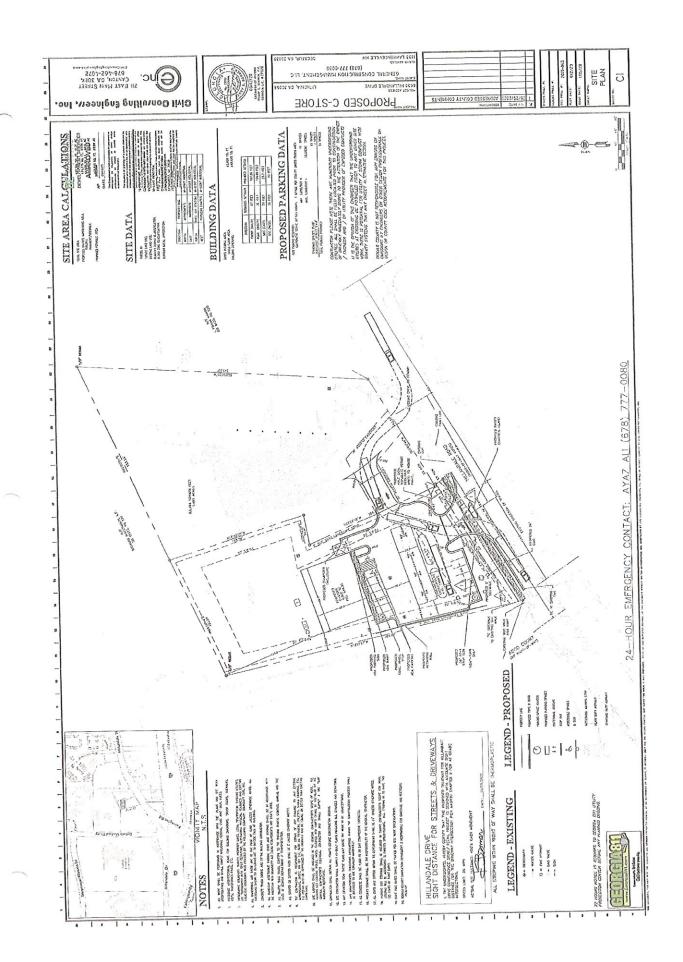
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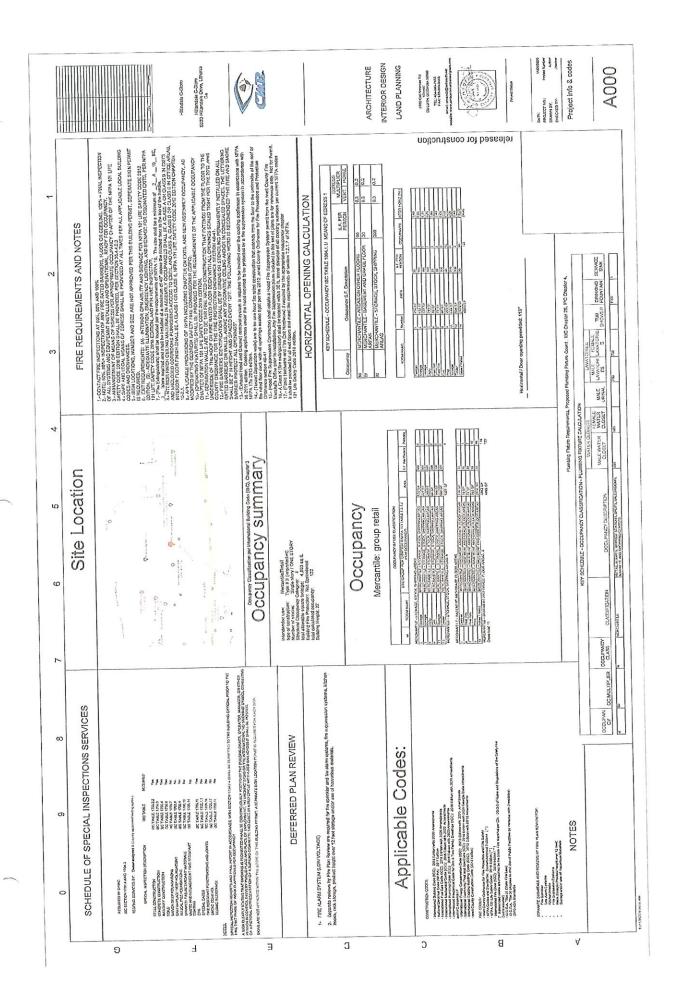
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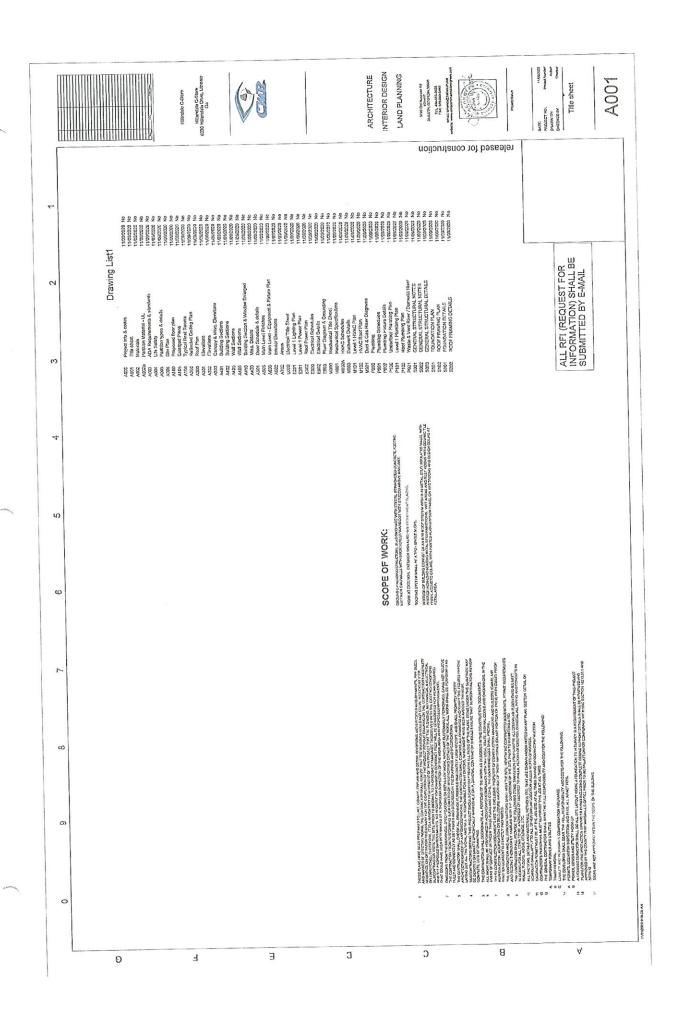
Page 8 Variance Petition: V-22-000008 February 21, 2023 Keirston McMillan, Planner

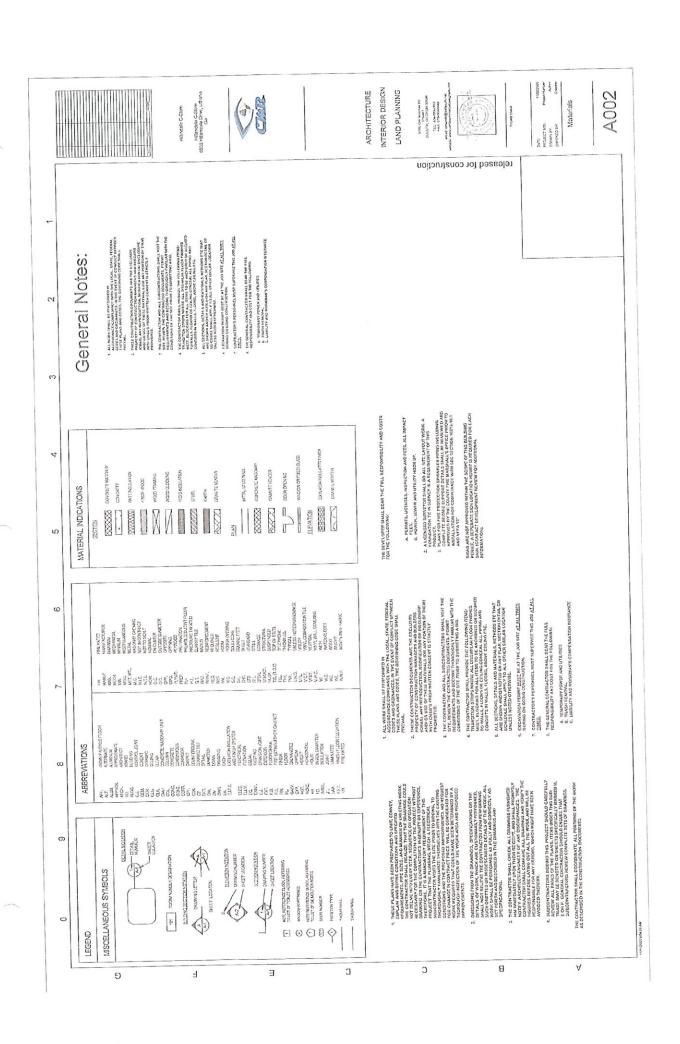
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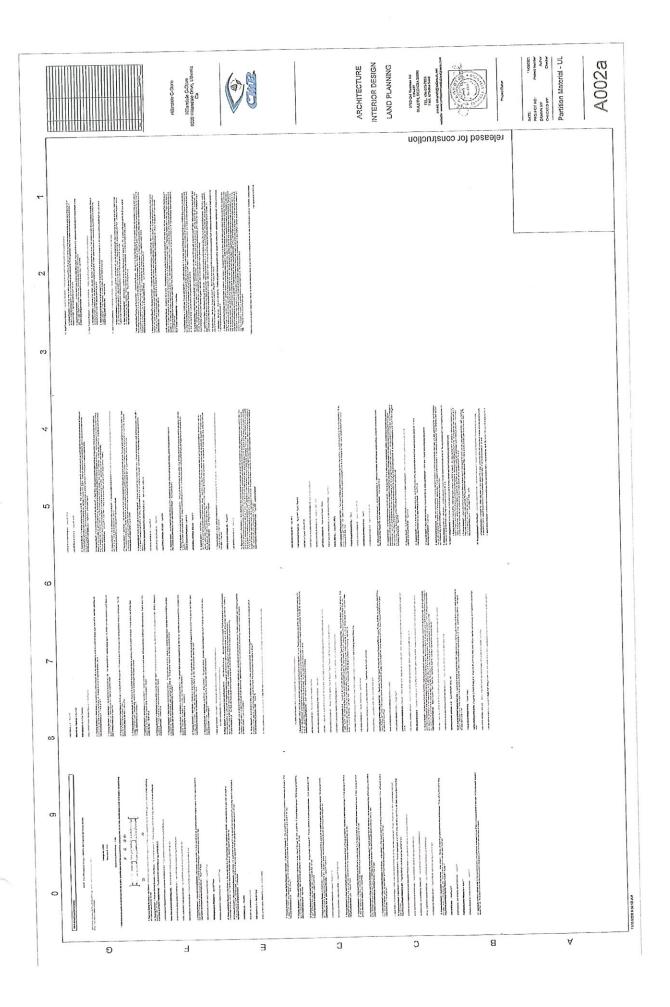
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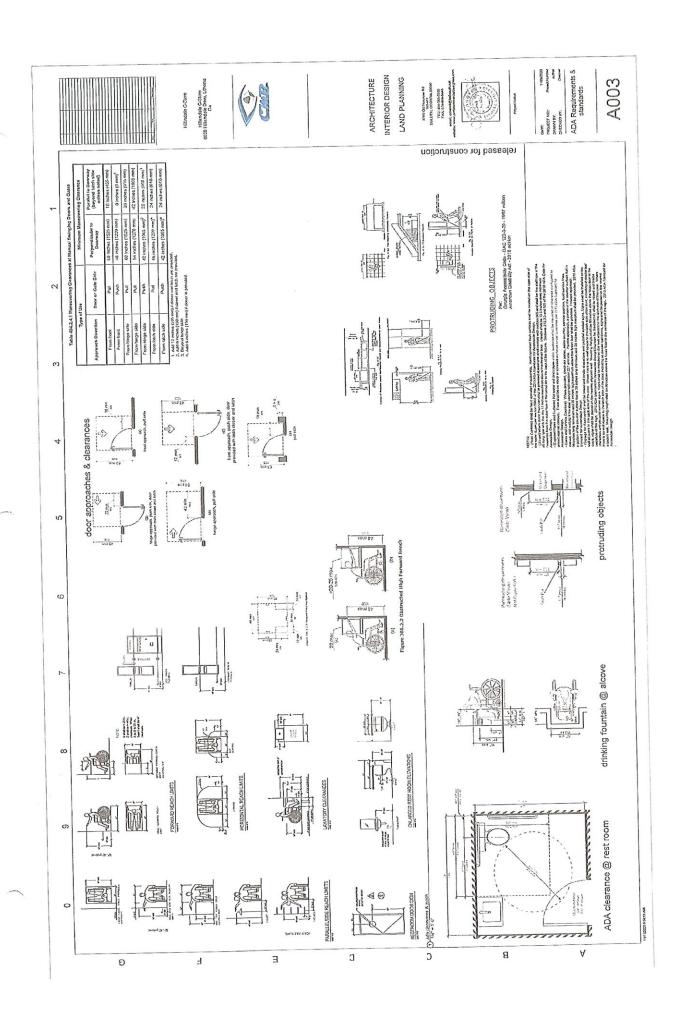


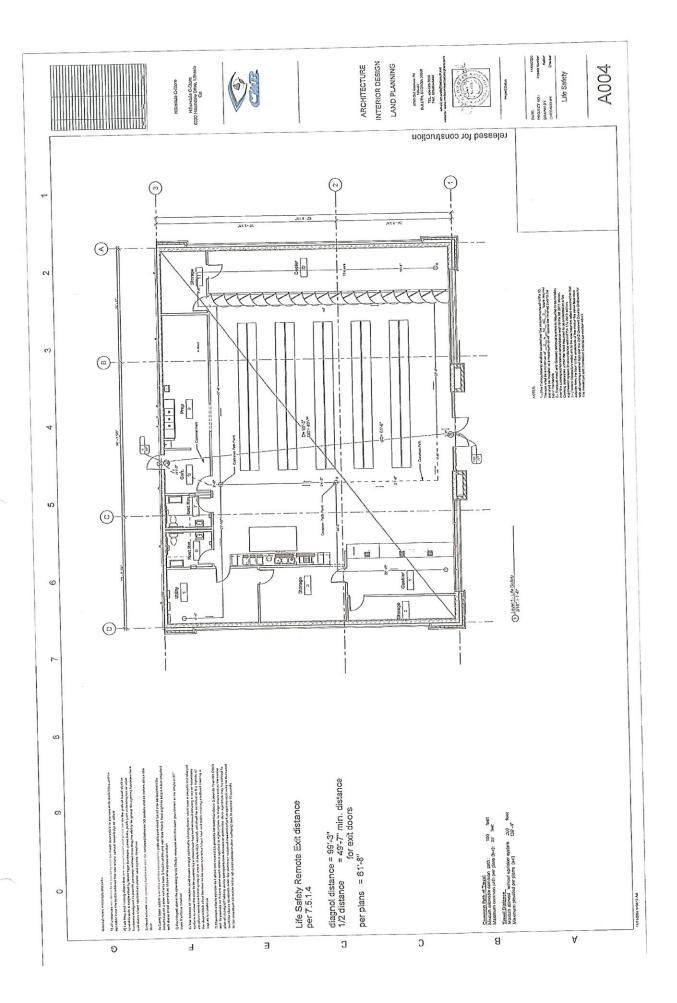


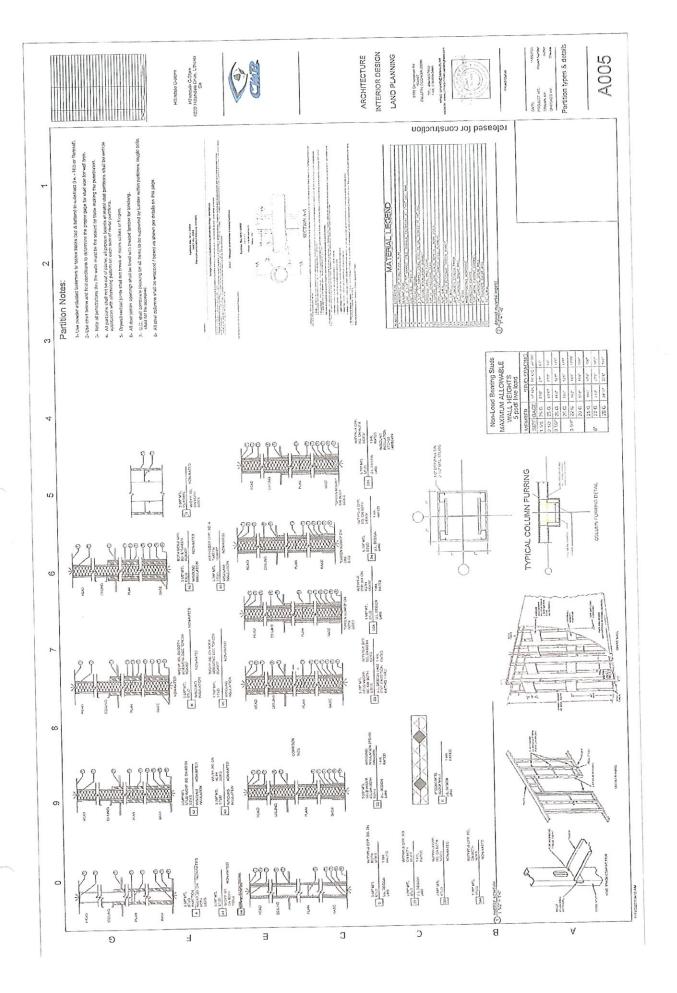


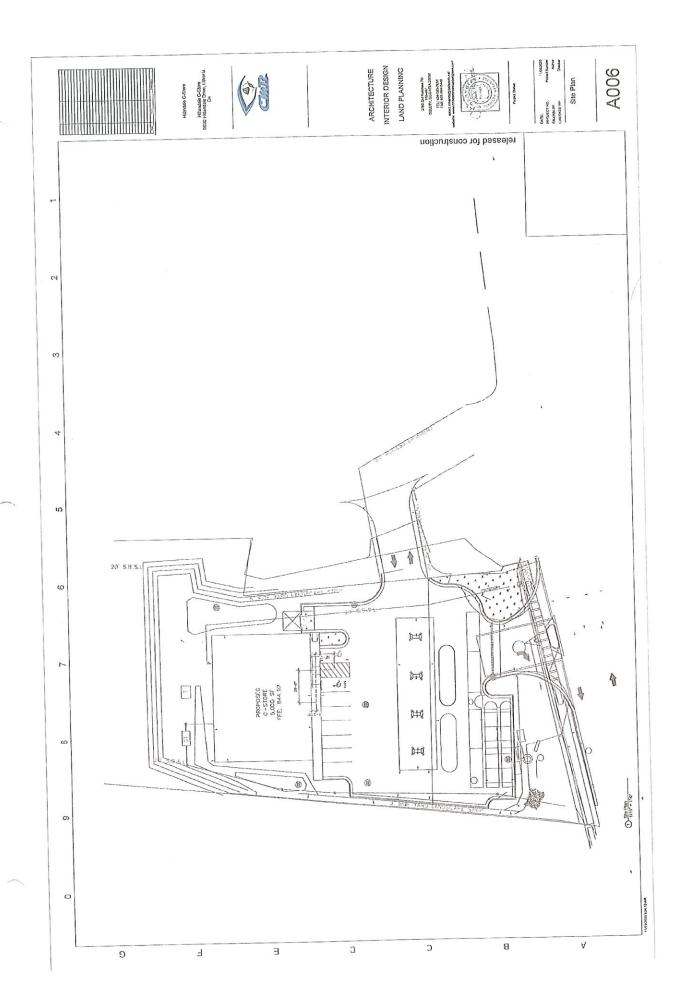


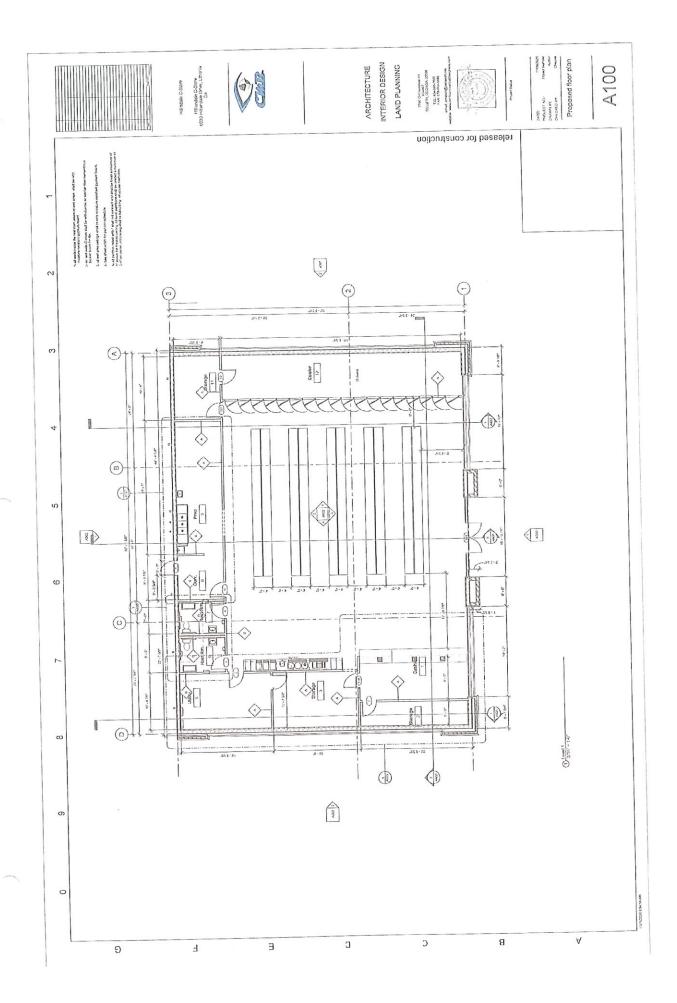


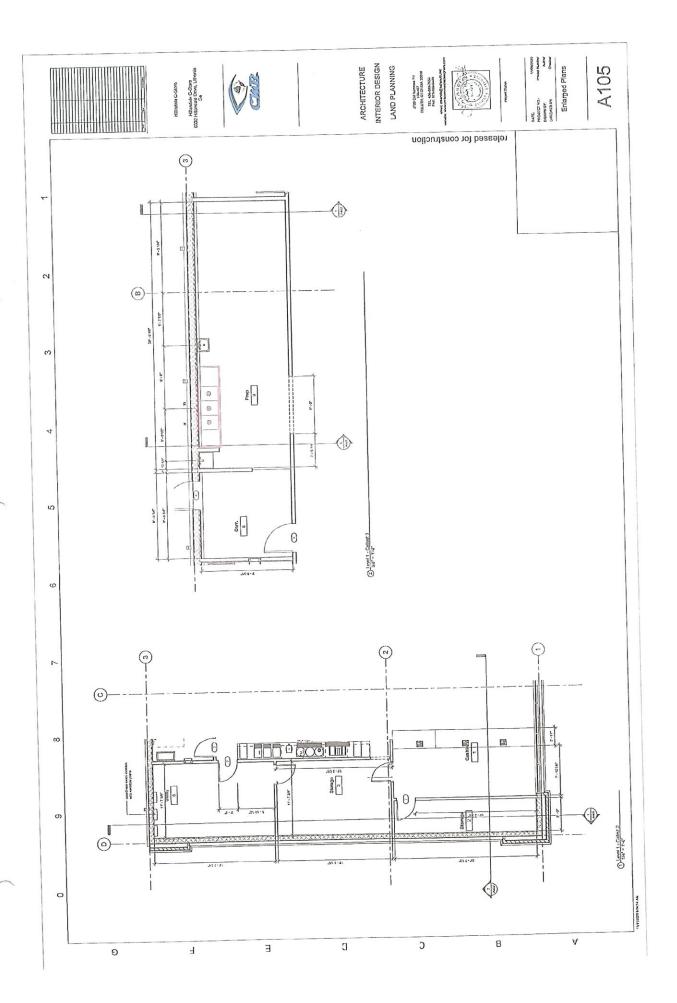


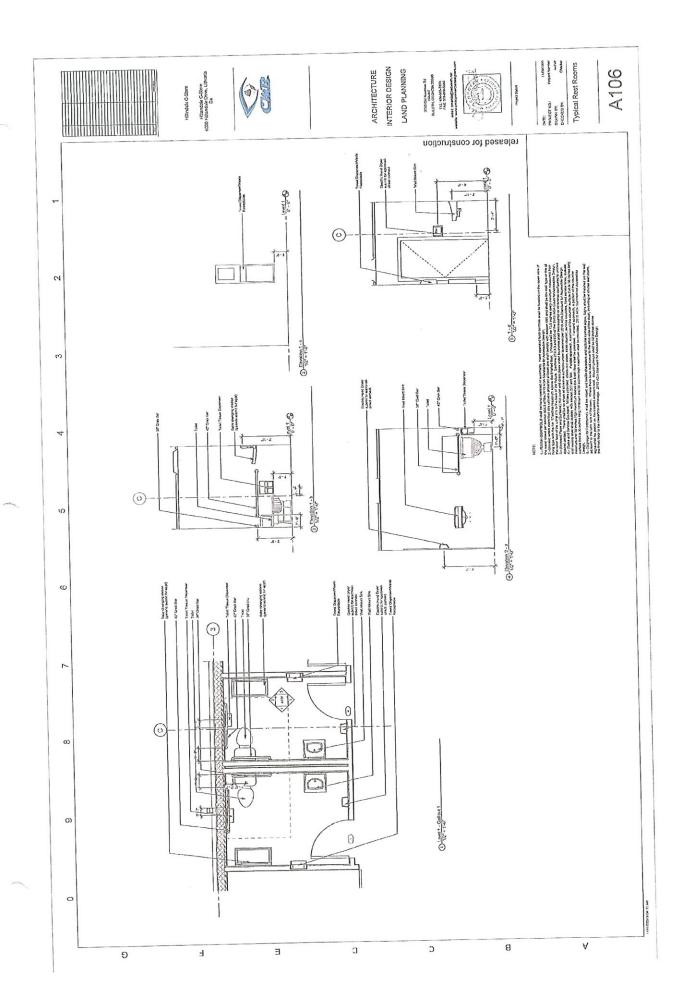


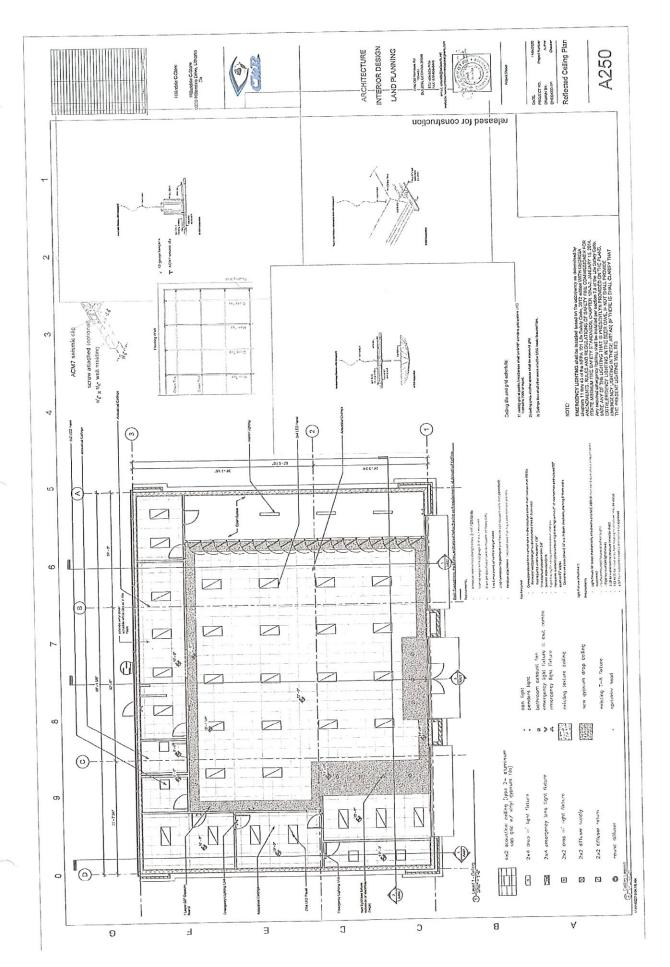




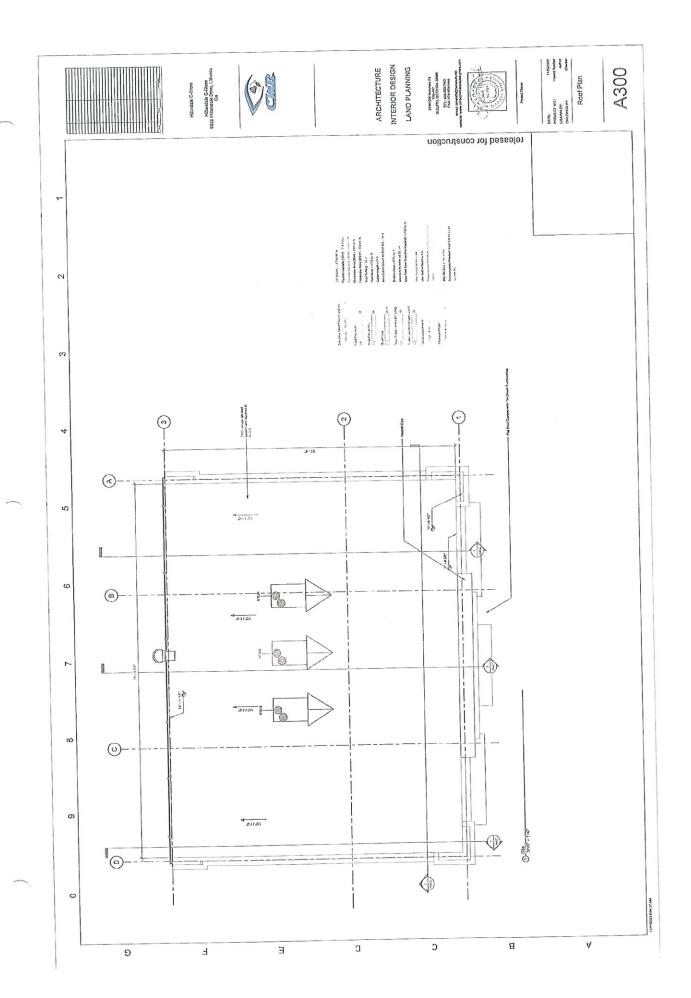


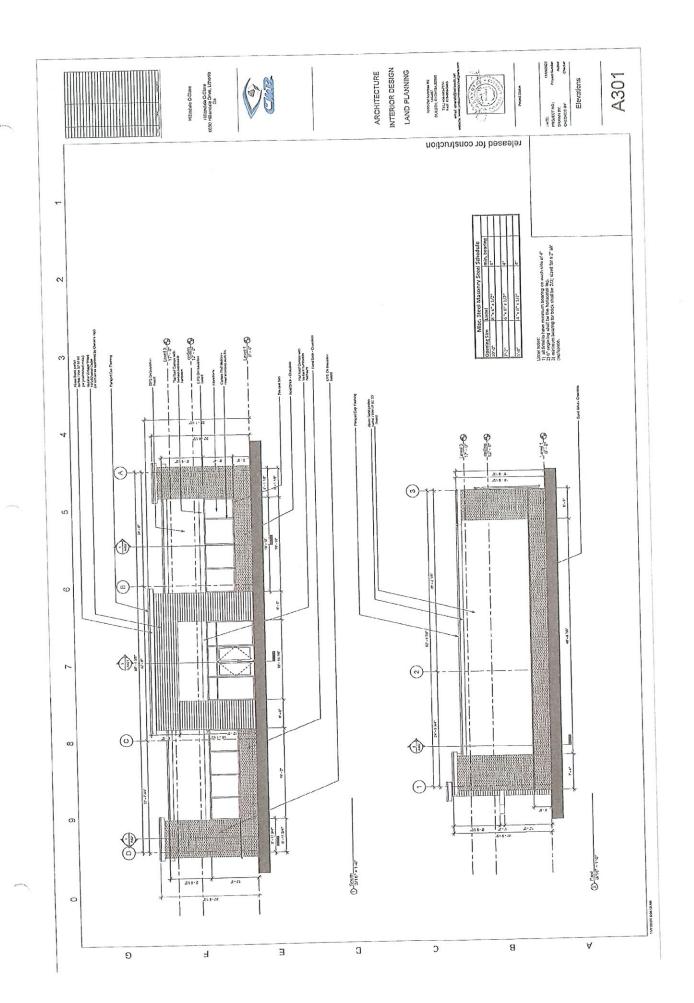


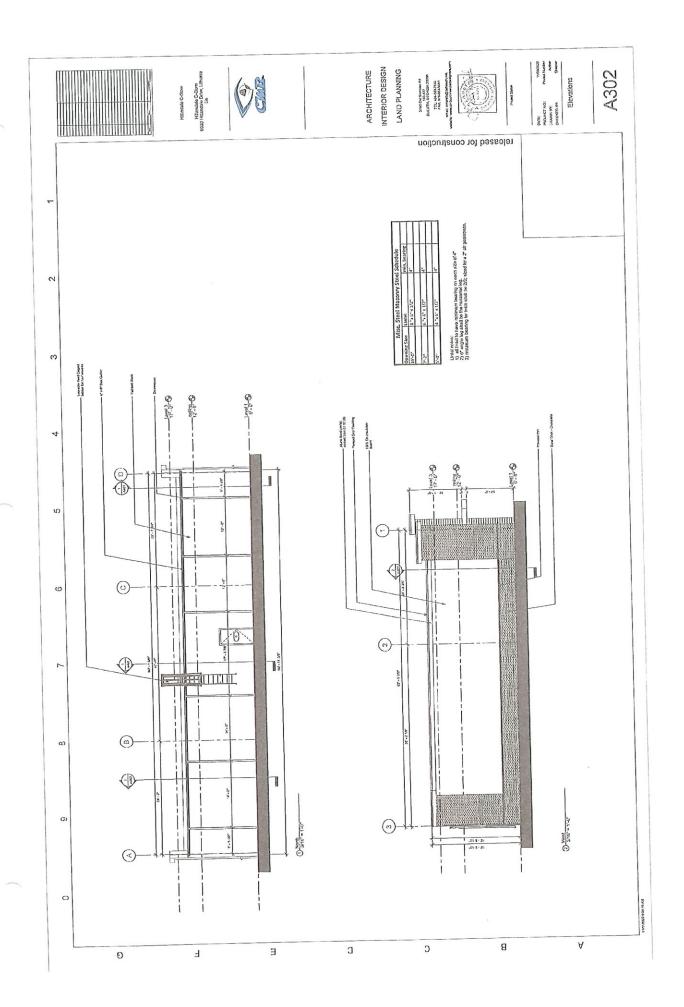


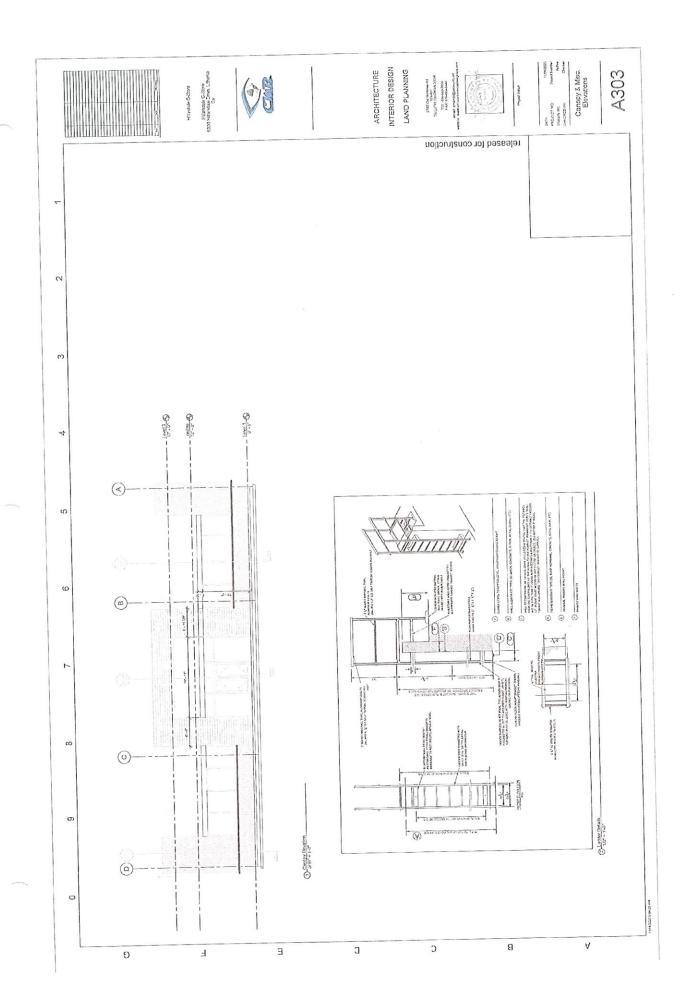


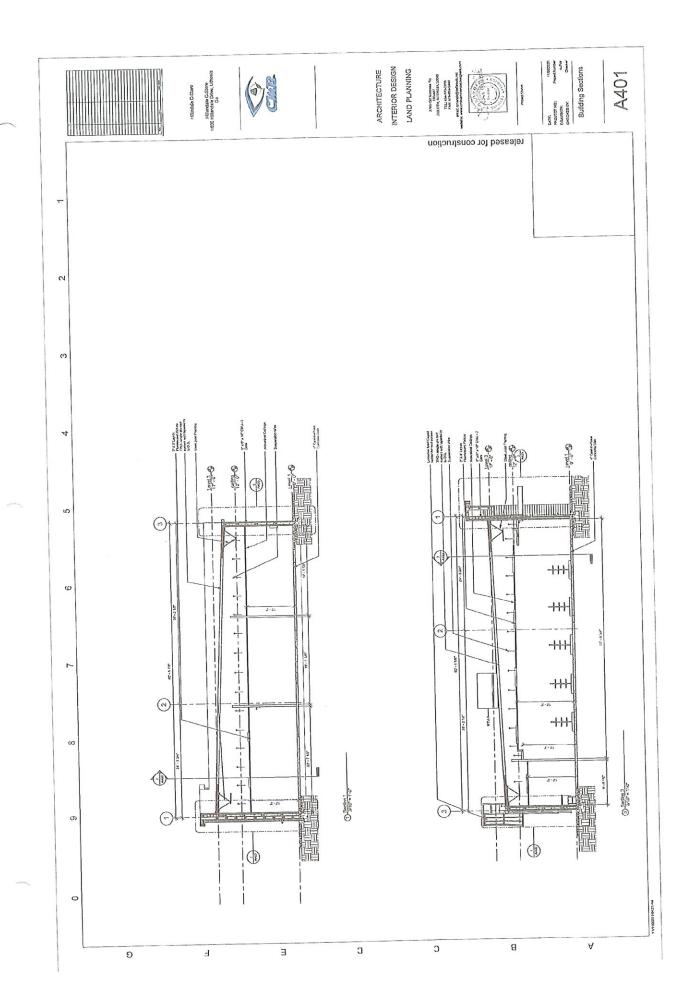
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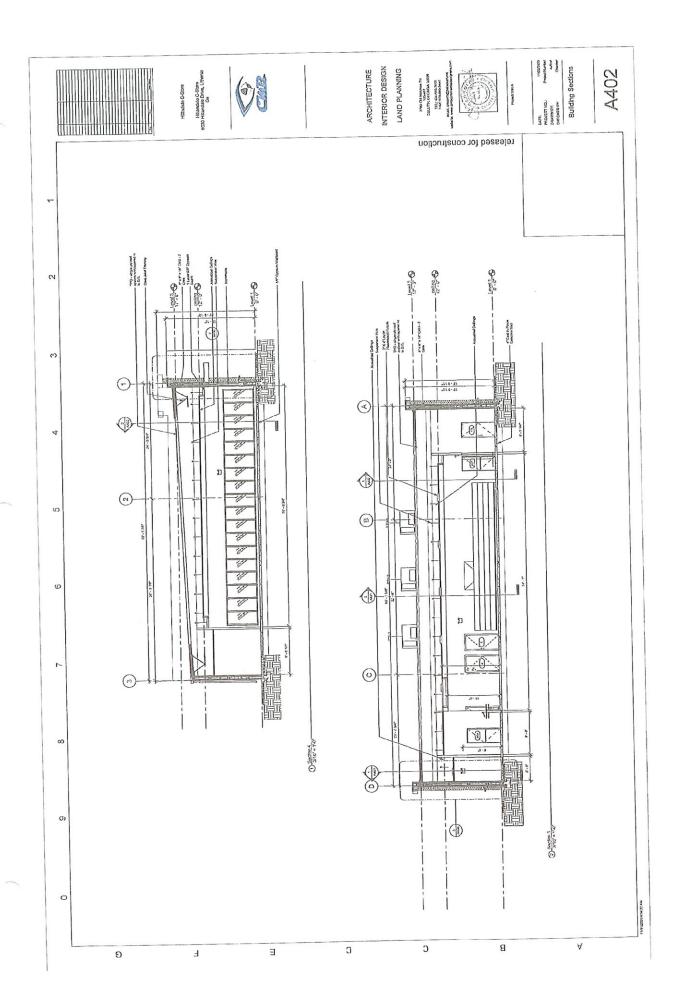


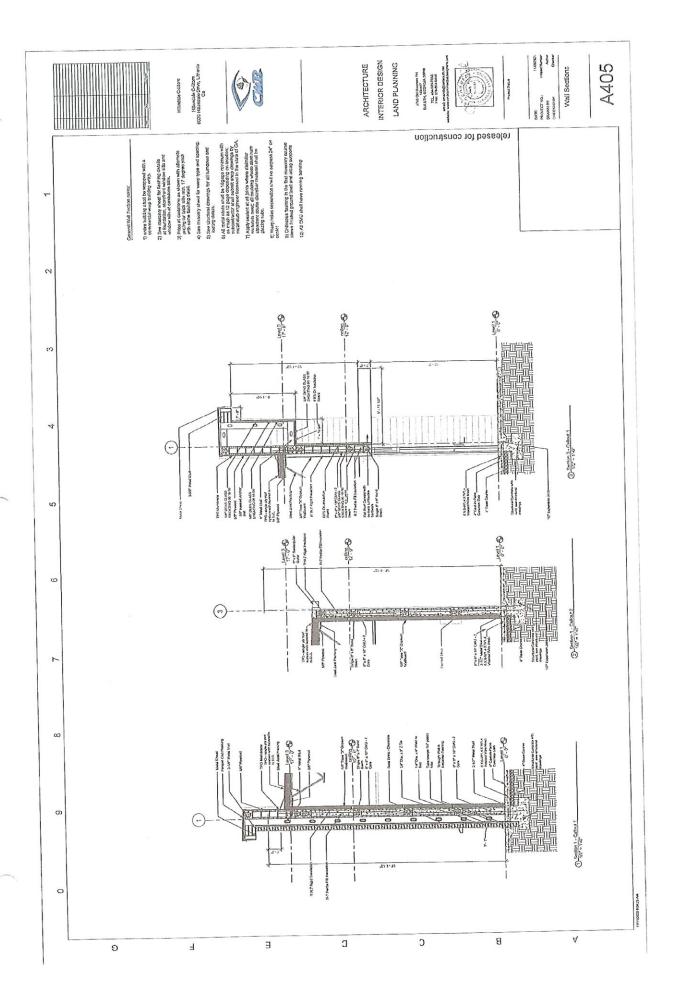


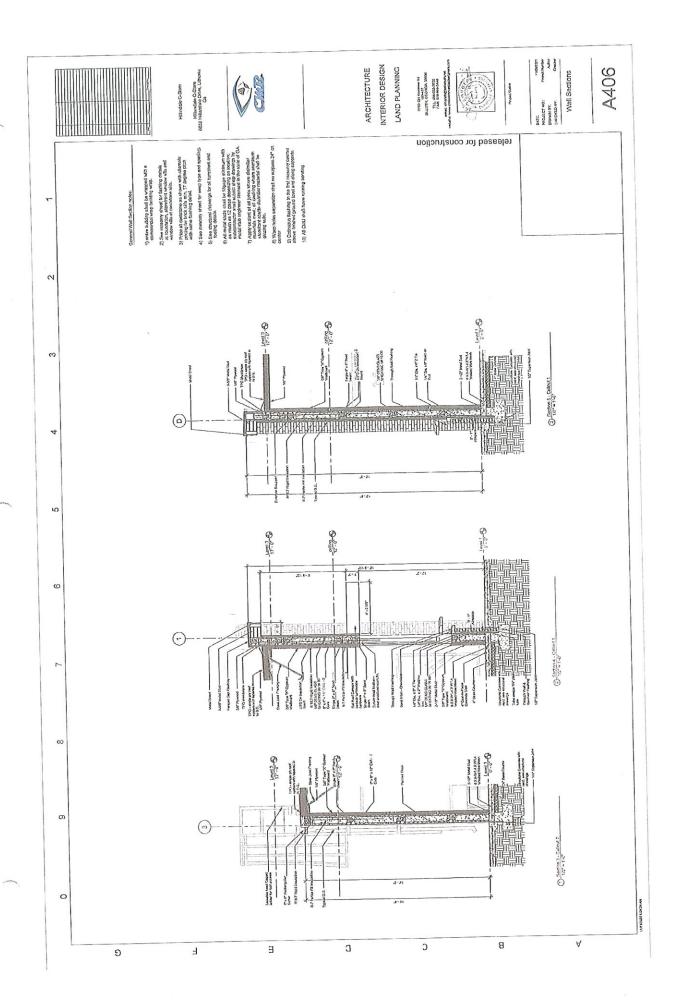


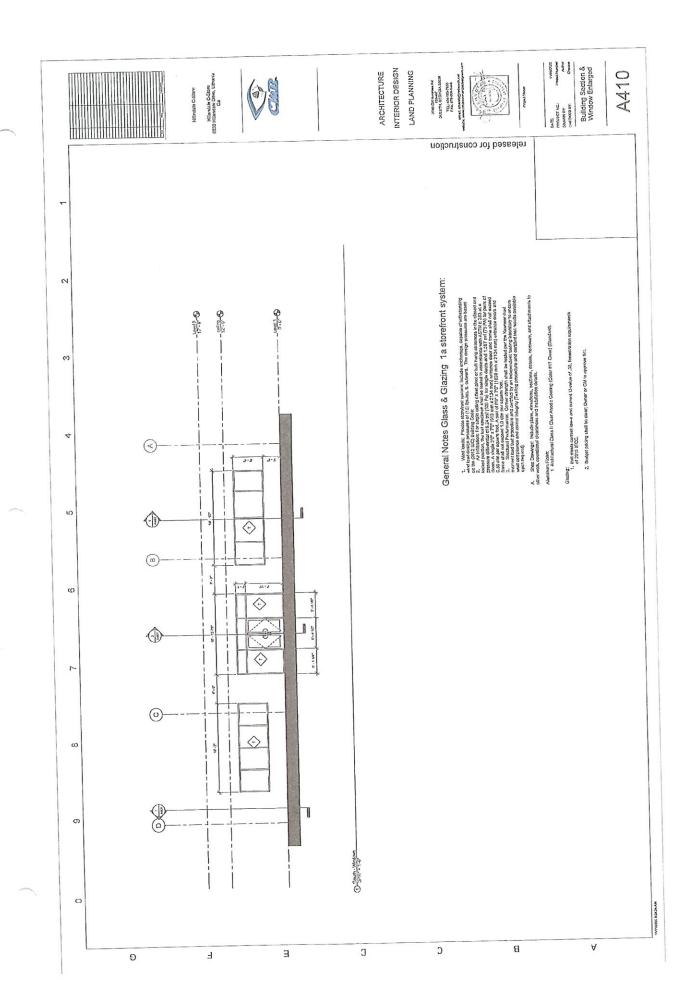


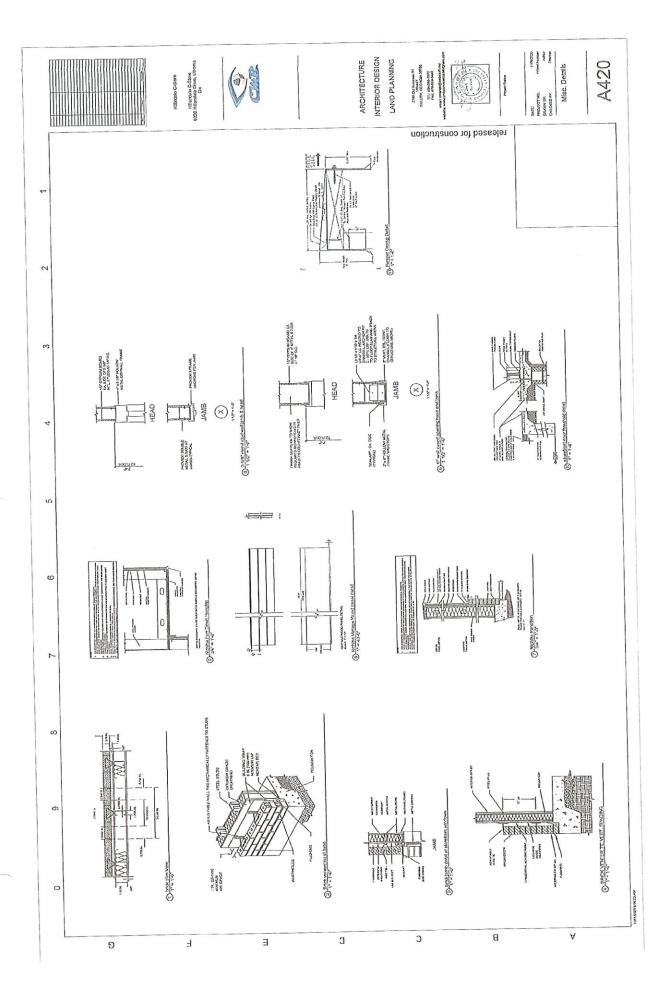






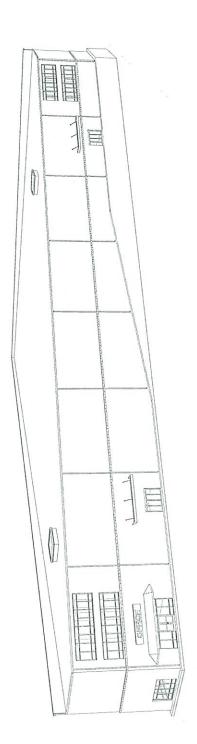






Hillandale Self Storage

6257 Hillandale Dr; Lithonia, GA





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Name

1st Floor 2nd Floor 3nd Floor Basement Grand total: 4

Unit Mix Schedule - Total
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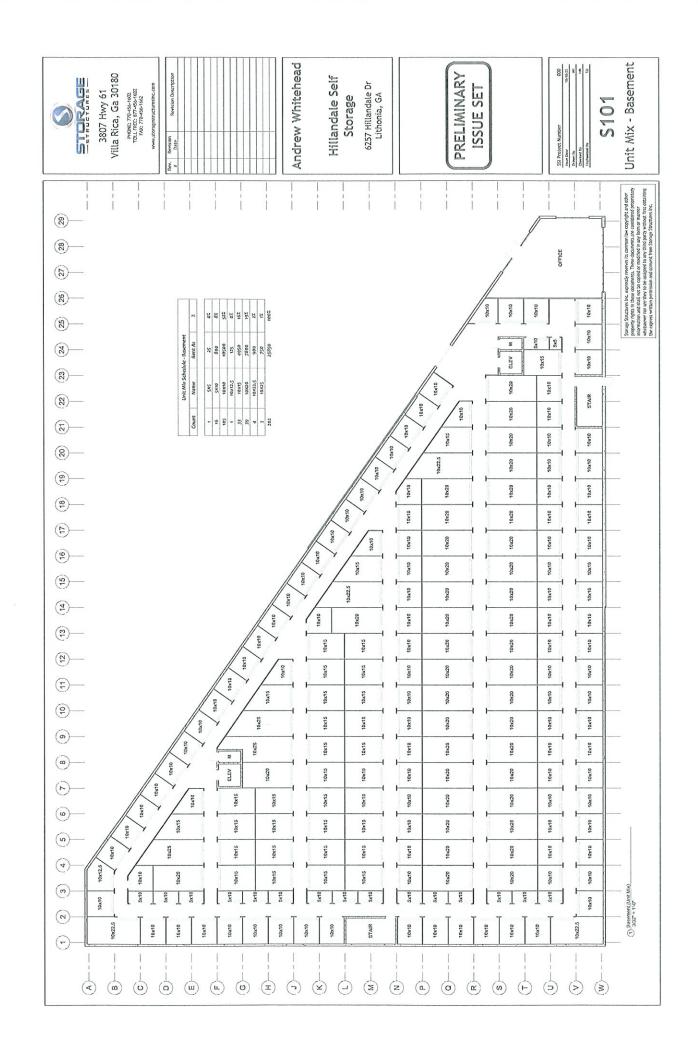
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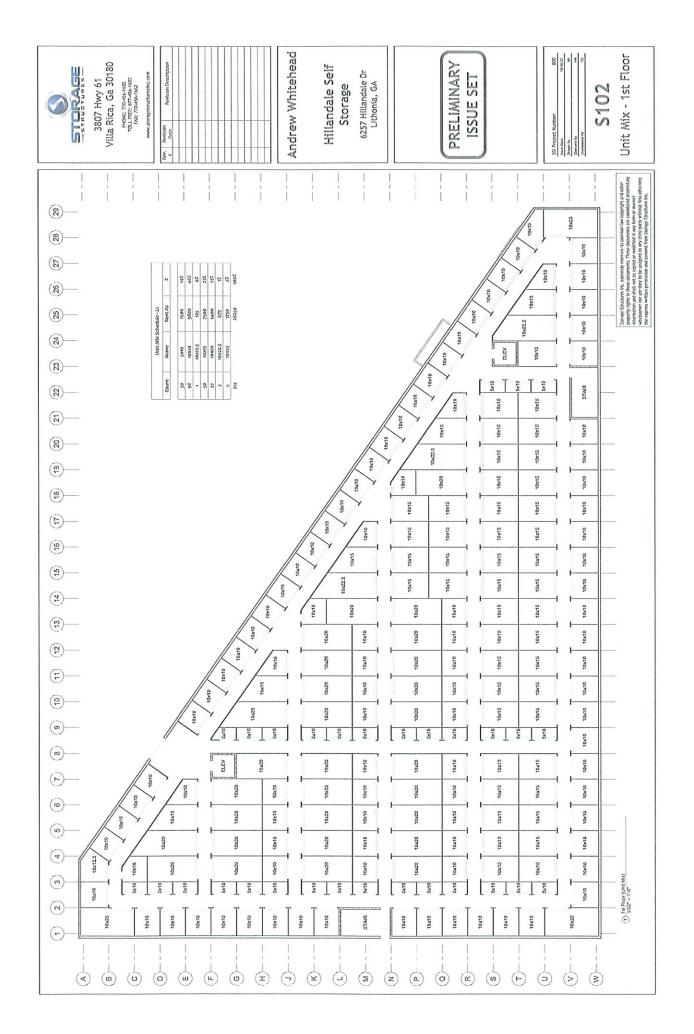
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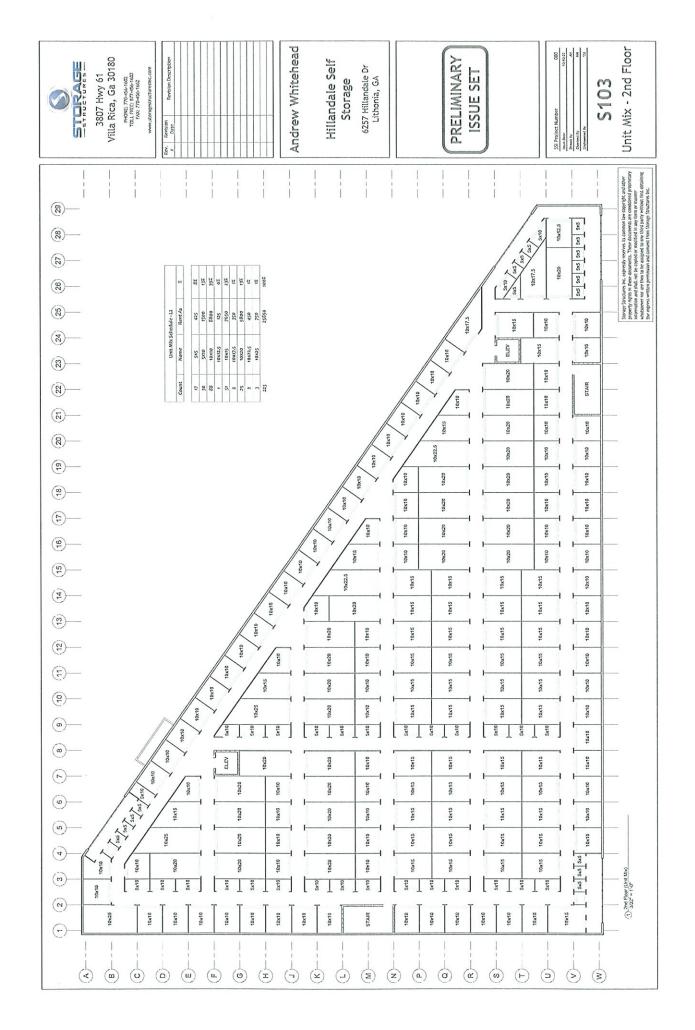
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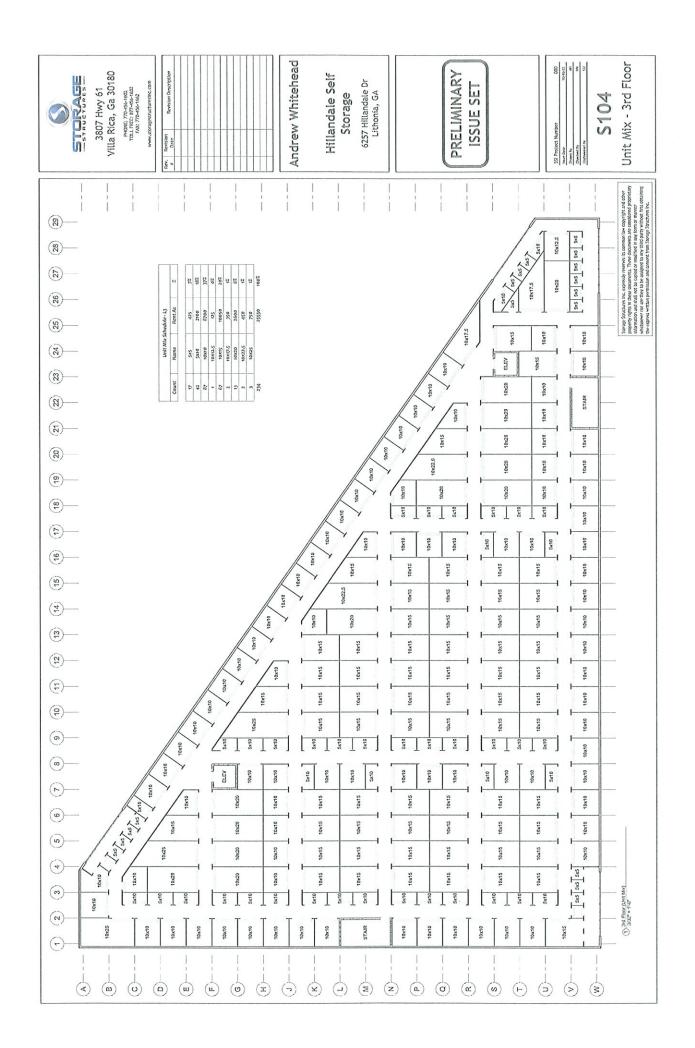
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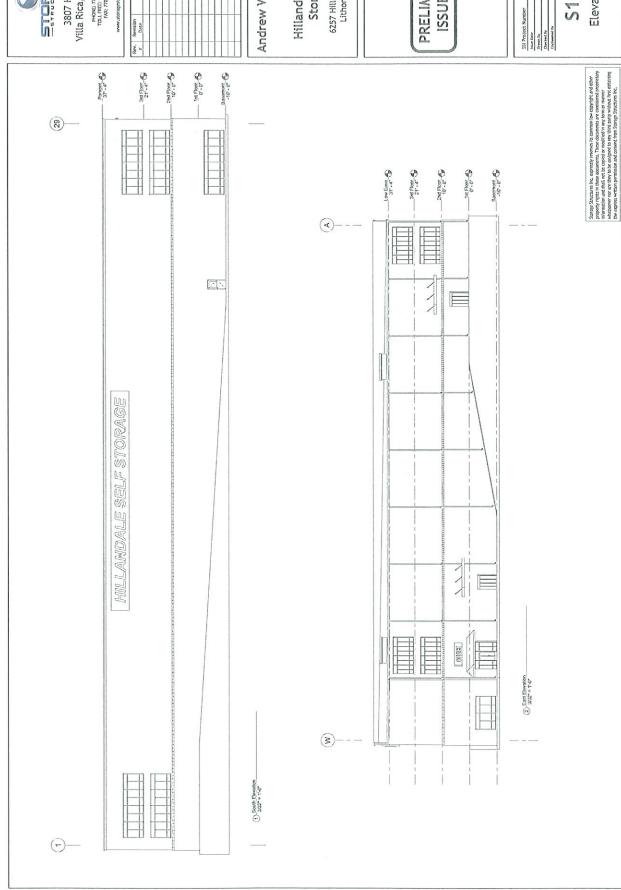
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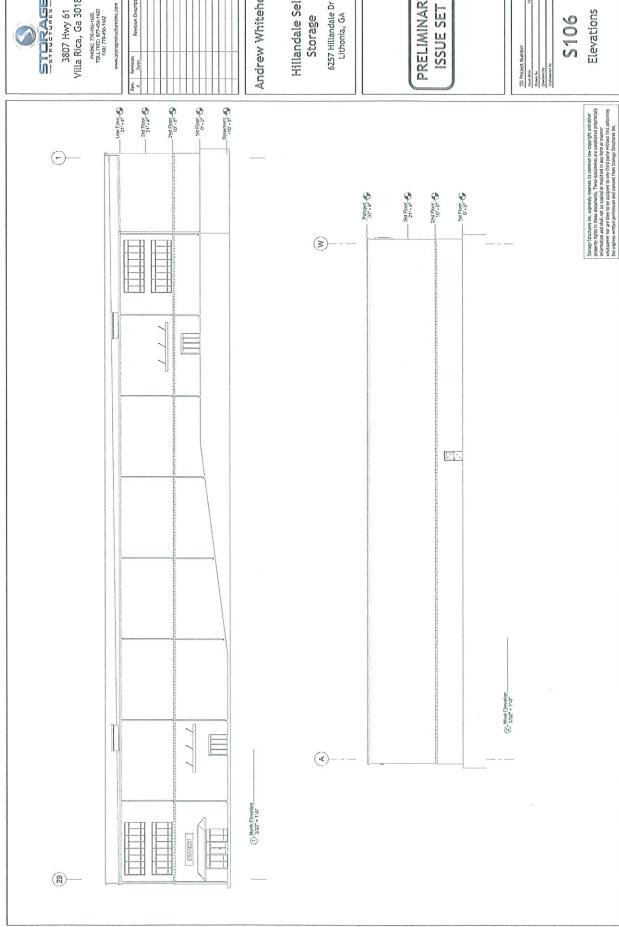
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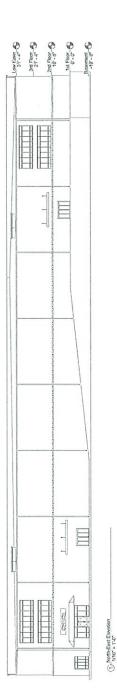
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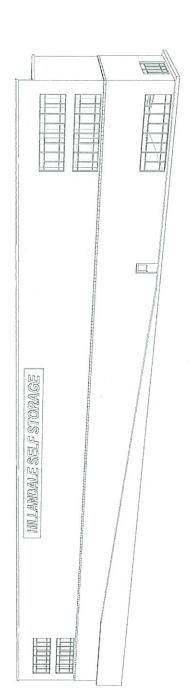
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6257 Hillandale Dr Lithonia, GA

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