800 E JEFFERSON CHARLOTTESVILLE VA 22902

434 293 3719 PH 434 293 3719 FX

www.collins-engineering.com

November 7, 2023

Mariah Gleason Senior Planner II – Urban Designer Department of Community Development 401 McIntire Road, Room 227 Charlottesville, VA 22902

RE: Glenbrook at Foothills, Phase 4 – REQUEST FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION *Minimum Rear Yard Setback Exception Request for R-6 Non-Infill Zoning*

Dear Mariah Gleason:

Please allow this letter to serve as our official request for a special exception for the minimum rear yard setback within the R-6 zoning for the Glenbrook at Foothills Phase 4 project. The following information and attached exhibits describe why the special exception is being sought and the reason for the special exception. Also included with this information is the proposed modification to the rear yard setback that would be part of the approval if the special exception is accepted.

A special exception is being proposed for the Glenbrook at Foothills Phase 4 portion of the residential development, specifically the (14) lots, (Lot 118 & Lots 121 – 133), located along Park Ridge Drive with a rear private alley. These lots were created under the R6 zoning for the development and are located within the Phase 4 portion of the Glenbrook at Foothills development. All the proposed lots within Phase 4 have frontage on public streets, either proposed with this section of development or previously approved and constructed with Phase III development. This project utilizes the non-infill setbacks for residential lots within a development area, which includes a 10' side yard building separation, a 5' minimum and 25' maximum front yard setback, and a 20' rear yard setback. Based on the definition of a setback, the setback is defined by the Albemarle County Zoning Ordinance as the distance by which any building or structure is separated from any street, road access easement, or lot line. Even though the rear lot lines for these 14 lots along Park Ridge Drive extend past the alley, the alley is an access easement, so minimum rear yard is applied from the access easement. The building structures on these lots will all comply with the county requirement of providing a minimum 18' driveway from the access easement for parking outside of the garages. However, the design of these buildings and structures includes decks on the second floors that extend over the driveways and into this rear yard setback. Decks and porches can extend 4' into a rear yard setback, but these proposed decks and porches are 12' to 14' wide and will extend much further into the rear yard setback than currently allowed by the zoning code. Therefore, the applicant is requesting a special exception request to allow for the reduction of the rear yard setback for these 14 lots adjacent to Park Ridge Drive from 20 feet to 10 feet. All garages for these lots adjacent to the private alley shall still be minimum of 18 feet from the alley access easement, to allow for a driveway parking space. As shown in the attached exhibit, the red dashed line illustrates the 20' rear yard setback and the purple hatched line shows the proposed 10 foot rear setback from the alley access easement, represented by the blue continuous line. This exhibit shows how the structures will be a minimum of 18' from the alley and a parking space off the alley will be provided, with a minimum depth of 18 feet.

The comprehensive plan for this development area indicates a density of 3 to 6 residential units on the property. This portion of the Glenbrook Development is proposed to be developed at a density of 45 units/acre. The project was also developed with a minimum of 25% open space on the property.

Under the Non-infill Setback requirements within section 4.19 of the Albemarle County Zoning document, a special exception may be granted for the modification of the rear yard setback for a lot within the R-6 district. With this proposed exception request, the development is meeting the design principles of the Comprehensive Plan by providing relegated parking with driveways and garages at the rear of the proposed residential structures, and restricting driveways along Park Ridge Drive.

Thank you again for the consideration of this special exception request, and please contact me if you have any questions or require any further information.

Sincerely,

Scott Collins

