

D. The requested variance is consistent with the spirit, purpose and intent of the regulation, such that public safety is secured, and substantial justice is achieved.

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Appropriate conditions may be imposed on any variance, provided that the conditions are reasonably related to the variance. Any variance granted becomes null and void if not exercised within the time specified in such approvals, or if no date is specified, within one calendar year from the date of such approval. No change in permitted uses may be authorized by a variance. The Board of Adjustment is also not authorized to grant variances to any use approved in a Conditional Zoning district or to the specific conditions or other performance criteria imposed upon such use. If the board denies a variance request, the board shall enter the reason for its action in the minutes of the meeting at which the action is taken. In the event of a denial, the Board of Adjustment shall not consider resubmission of the application for the same variance request on the same property without a substantial material change concerning the property and the application.

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SECTION 1606. SPECIAL USE PERMITS.

The Board of Adjustment shall hear and decide applications for Special Use Permits. The various Special Uses set forth in the Use Matrix in Article IV, because of special site or design requirements, operating characteristics or potential adverse effects on surrounding property and neighborhoods, shall be permitted only upon approval by the Board of Adjustment in accordance with the standards and procedures specified in the ordinance. Reasonable and appropriate conditions may be imposed upon these permits.

A. Purpose. Permitting Special Uses adds flexibility to this ordinance. Subject to high standards of planning and design, certain property uses are allowed in the several districts where these uses would not otherwise be acceptable. By means of controls exercised through the Special Use Permit procedures, property uses that would otherwise be undesirable in certain districts can be developed to minimize any negative effects they might have on surrounding properties.

B. Procedure. Special Use Permits shall be granted by the Board of Adjustment as permitted for only those uses enumerated in Section 403, Use Matrix, as Special Uses. Uses specified as a Special Use in Section 403 shall be permitted only upon the issuance of a Special Use Permit by the Board of Adjustment.

The owner or owners of all property included in the petition for a Special Use Permit shall submit a complete application and a detailed site plan (drawn in accordance with the specifications listed in Section 1402) to the Planning and Inspections Staff. The Staff

will schedule the application to be heard by the Board of Adjustment in accordance with the adopted time schedule.

Developers are encouraged to discuss their Special Use plans with the Planning and Inspections Staff before submission. The staff shall assist the developer upon request by reviewing Special Use plans to ensure that the technical requirements of this ordinance are met before submission to the Board of Adjustment.

All applications and site plans shall provide information indicating compliance with the development standards for individual uses as listed in Article IX of this ordinance, as applicable, and the height and area regulations for the zoning district in which they are located, unless the provisions for the Special Use provide to the contrary.

C. Consideration of Application. The Board of Adjustment shall consider the application, site plan and any other evidence presented in accordance with this article and may grant or deny the Special Use Permit requested. In granting a Special Use Permit, the Board shall find that:

1. The use will not materially endanger the public health or safety if located according to the plan submitted and proposed;
2. The use meets all required conditions and specifications;
3. The use will maintain or enhance the value of adjoining or abutting properties, or that the use is a public necessity; and
4. The location and character of the use, if developed according to the plan as submitted and recommended, will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located and is in general conformity with Cumberland County's most recent Land Use Plan, either comprehensive or a detailed area plan.

D. Final Disposition. In granting approval of a Special Use Permit, the Board of Adjustment shall impose such reasonable terms and conditions as it may deem necessary for the protection of the public health, general welfare and public interest and as authorized under N.C. Gen. Stat. Chapter 160D. The applicant/landowner must give written consent to all imposed conditions. In granting a Special Use Permit, the Board of Adjustment may give due consideration to one or all of the following:

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1. The compatibility of the proposal, in terms of both use and appearance, with the surrounding neighborhood;

2. The comparative size, floor area and mass of the proposed structure in relationship to adjacent structures and buildings in the surrounding area and neighborhood;

3. The frequency and duration of various indoor and outdoor activities and special events, and the impact of these activities on the surrounding area;

4. The capacity of adjacent streets to handle increased traffic in terms of traffic volume, including hourly and daily levels and weight-bearing limitations;

5. The added noise level created by activities associated with the proposed use;

6. The requirements for public services where the demands of the proposed use are in excess of the individual demands of the adjacent land uses, in terms of police and fire protection, and the presence of any potential or real fire hazards created by the proposed use;

7. Whether the general appearance of the neighborhood will be adversely affected by the location of the proposed use on the parcel;

8. The impact of night lighting in terms of intensity, duration and frequency of use, as it impacts adjacent properties and in terms of presence in the neighborhood;

9. The impact of the landscaping of the proposed use, in terms of maintained landscaped areas, versus areas to remain in a natural state, as well as the openness of landscaped areas, versus the use of buffers and screens;

10. The impact of a significant amount of hard-surfaced areas for buildings, sidewalks, drives, parking areas and service areas, in terms of noise transfer, water runoff and heat generation;

11. The availability of public facilities and utilities;

12. The harmony in scale, bulk, coverage, function and density of the proposed development and compliance with the development standards of the individual uses; and

13. The reasonableness of the request as compared to the purpose and intent of the most recent Land Use Plan, this ordinance, and adopted policies, for the physical development of the district, and protection of the environment.

All such additional conditions imposed on the permit by the Board of Adjustment shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting at which the Special Use Permit is granted, on the Special Use Permit itself, and on the approved plans submitted therewith. The specific conditions shall run with the land and shall be binding on the original applicants for the Special Use Permit, their heirs, successors and assigns. The applicant for the Special Use Permit is responsible for the recordation of the "Notice of Special Use Permit" with the Cumberland County Register of Deeds prior to application for any zoning permit.

If the Board denies the Special Use Permit, it shall enter the reason for its action in the minutes of the meeting at which the action is taken. In the event of a denial, the Board of Adjustment shall not consider resubmission of the application for the same Special Use Permit on the same property without a substantial material change concerning the property and the application.

E. Expiration of Permits. Any Special Use granted becomes null and void if not exercised within the time specified in such approval, or if no date is specified, within one calendar year from the date of such approval if the permit has not been recorded with the County Register of Deeds. Furthermore, once the Certificate of Occupancy has been issued for a Special Use and then the Special Use ceases to exist for a time period of one calendar year or more, a re-submittal of the Special Use application for the same use may be required if there has been a material change in the ordinance standards.

F. Modifications to Plans. The Board of Adjustment shall review any change, enlargement or alteration in site plans submitted as a part of a Special Use application, and new conditions may be imposed where findings require. The Planning and Inspections Staff may approve minor modifications of the approved plans in the same manner as authorized in Section 506 for Conditional Zoning districts, provided that the changes do not materially alter the original plan as approved, and the intent and objectives of the original approval are not deviated from.

G. Noncompliance. If for any reason any condition imposed pursuant to this section is found to be illegal or invalid, the Special Use Permit shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Planning and Inspections Staff shall institute proceedings for the case to be reheard by the Board of Adjustment.

Compliance with all the conditions of a Special Use Permit is an essential element of the Special Use Permit's continued validity and effectiveness. If the Coordinator shall determine that a permittee has failed to comply with a condition of an approved Special Use Permit, he shall so notify the permittee or the permittee's successor in interest and shall place the matter on the Board of Adjustment's agenda for the Board's decision whether or not to revoke the Special Use Permit. Such hearing shall be on reasonable

written notice to the permittee or the permittee's successor in interest and shall be a quasi-judicial proceeding according to quasi-judicial procedures. The decision of the Board of Adjustment shall be a final decision, and a decision to revoke the Special Use Permit may be appealed to the Superior Court of Cumberland County within 30 days after the permittee or the permittee's successor in interest has been served with written notice of the Board of Adjustment's decision. Service by personal delivery, electronic mail or certified mail, return receipt requested, of a certified copy of the Board of Adjustment's approved minutes for its meeting at which such decision is made, may constitute written notice and service of the Board of Adjustment's decision hereunder.

H. Appeals of Special Use Permit Decisions. No appeal may be taken from the action of the Board of Adjustment in granting or denying a Special Use Permit except through the Cumberland County Superior Court in the same manner as set forth in this article for appeal of any Board of Adjustment decision.

SECTION 1607 HEARINGS

A. The applicant, the County, and any person who would have standing to appeal the decision under N.C. Gen. Stat. 160D-1402(d) shall have the right to participate as a party at the evidentiary hearing. Other witnesses may present competent, material, and substantial evidence that is not repetitive as allowed by the board. Objections regarding jurisdictional and evidentiary issues, including but not limited to, the timeliness of an appeal, the standing of a party, or the inclusion or exclusion of administrative material may be made to the board. The board chair shall rule on any objections and the chair's rulings may be appealed to the full board.

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B. The Board of Adjustment shall determine contested facts and make its decision within a reasonable time. Every quasi-judicial decision shall be based upon competent, material and substantial evidence in the record. Each quasi-judicial decision shall be reduced to writing and reflect the board's determination of contested facts and their application to the applicable standards. The written decision shall be signed by the Chair or other duly authorized member of the board. A quasi-judicial decision is effective upon filing the written decision with the Clerk to the board. The decision of the board shall be delivered by personal delivery, electronic mail, or by first-class mail to the applicant, property owner, and to any person who has submitted written request for a copy, prior to the date the decision becomes effective. The Clerk to the board shall certify that proper notice has been made and the certificate shall be deemed conclusive in the absence of fraud.

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C. The Secretary to the Board of Adjustment shall ensure the Commanders of Fort Bragg, Pope Army Airfield, and Simmons Army Airfield are notified of any application affecting the use of property located within five miles or less of the perimeter boundary of said bases in accordance with N.C. GEN. STAT. §160D-601.

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SECTION 1608. REQUIRED VOTE.

A. The concurring vote of four-fifths of the Board of Adjustment shall be necessary to grant a variance. A majority of the members shall be required to decide any other quasi-judicial matter or to determine an appeal made in the nature of certiorari. For the purposes of this sub-section, vacant positions on the board and members who are disqualified from voting on a quasi-judicial matter shall not be considered members of the board for calculation of the requisite majority if there are no qualified alternates available to take the place of such members.

B. A member of the Board of Adjustment exercising quasi-judicial functions pursuant to this ordinance shall not participate in or vote on any quasi-judicial matter in a manner that would violate affected person's constitutional rights to an impartial decision maker. Impermissible violations of due process include, but are not limited to, a member having a fixed opinion prior to hearing the matter that is not susceptible to change, undisclosed ex parte communications, a close familial, business or other associational relationship with an affected person, or a financial interest in the outcome of the matter. If an objection is raised to a member's participation at or prior to the hearing or vote on the matter and that member does not recuse himself or herself, the remaining members shall by majority vote rule on the objection.

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SECTION 1609. REVERSAL/REVOCATION OF DECISION.

After a hearing has been held and approval granted, the Board of Adjustment may reverse or revoke any decision in the same manner as was required for the approval upon finding that:

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A. The approval was obtained by fraud;

B. The use for which such approval was granted is not being executed;

C. The use for which such approval was granted has ceased to exist or has been suspended for one calendar year or more;

D. The permit granted is being, or recently has been, exercised contrary to the terms or conditions of such approval;

E. The permit granted is in violation of an ordinance or statute; or

F. The use for which the approval was granted was so exercised as to be detrimental to the public health or safety, or so as to constitute a nuisance.

SECTION 1610. APPEAL OF FINAL DECISION.

Every quasi-judicial decision shall be subject to review by the Superior Court by proceedings in the nature of certiorari pursuant to N.C. GEN. STAT. §160D-1402. A petition for review of a quasi-judicial decision shall be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court by the later of 30 days after the decision is effective or after a written copy thereof is given in accordance with G.S. 160D-406(j). When first-class mail is used to deliver notice, three days shall be added to the time to file the petition. The provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160D-1402 shall apply to the appeal.

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