



AGENDA MEMO

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATE: AUGUST 23, 2007
DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ITEM DESCRIPTION: VAR-23109 - APPLICANT: DRAKE REAL ESTATE SERVICES
- OWNER: CAP II-FARM/DURANGO, LLC

**** CONDITIONS ****

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: DENIAL. If Approved, subject to:

Planning and Development

1. Conformance to the conditions for Special Use Permit (SUP-23111), Site Development Plan Review (SDR-23107), and Variance (VAR-23108) if approved.
2. This approval shall be void two years from the date of final approval, unless a certificate of occupancy has been issued or upon approval of a final inspection. An Extension of Time may be filed for consideration by the City of Las Vegas.

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**** STAFF REPORT ****

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is a request for a Variance to allow 71 Parking spaces where 81 spaces are the minimum required for a proposed 14,028 square-foot General Retail store on 3.21 acres adjacent to the east side of El Capitan Way, 260 feet north of Durango Drive.

No topographical constraints exist on the site that precludes the project from adhering to Title 19.10 Parking requirements. Staff recommendation is denial.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Related Relevant City Actions by P&D, Fire, Bldg., etc.</i>	
12/07/98	The City Council approved the rezoning of the Town Center plan area (Z007698) including this parcel. The Planning Commission recommended approval.
11/07/01	The City Council approved the current version Town Center Development Standards (TCDS) Manual through Bill No. 2001-100. The TCDS details the uses permitted within Town Center and the development standards that will accomplish the vision of Town Center.
10/23/03	The Planning Commission abeyed, SDR #3191, the original site plan to its 12/04/03 meeting in order to include the full commercial development site in the application. This request was noticed to include the full site in the application.
01/07/04	The City Council approved Site Development Plan Review (SDR-3191) and a Waiver of Town Center Build-to-Line standards for a 29,120 square feet of retail space on five pad sites. Planning Commission and Staff recommended denial on 12/04/03.
01/22/04	The Planning Commission approved a Tentative Map (TMP-3272) for a two-lot commercial subdivision on 4.91 acres. Staff recommended approval.
12/03/04	Planning Staff administratively approved a Minor Amendment to an approved Site Development Plan Review (SDR-3191) to allow minor changes of building footprints and to allow 29,315 square feet of retail space on four pad sites.
01/13/05	The Planning Commission denied a Special Use Permit (SUP-5684) and a Site Development Plan Review (SDR-5681) for a proposed Restaurant with Drive-through. Staff had recommended approval.
01/27/05	The Planning Commission accepted the applicants request to Withdraw Without Prejudice Special Use Permit (SUP-5740) for a proposed Liquor Establishment (Tavern). Staff had recommended denial.

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03/21/05	Planning Staff administratively approved a minor amendment to an approved Site Development Plan Review (SDR-3191) to allow minor changes of building footprints and to allow 28,315 square feet of retail space on three pad sites.
Related Building Permits/Business Licenses	
NA	
Pre-Application Meeting	
05/31/07	A Pre-Application meeting was held where Planning staff advised the applicant of Town Center Development Standards and Title 19.08 Commercial Development standards, landscape and parking requirements, and residential adjacency requirements.
Neighborhood Meeting	
07/31/07	<p>A Neighborhood Meeting was held and was attended by eight members of the public, two city staff representatives from Planning and Development and Council Ward 6, and two representatives of the applicant. Community members voiced the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hours of operation • Delivery schedule • Project lighting, landscaping, building height, and traffic circulation • Building setback from the residential property line • Signage • Building materials • Fencing • Liquor sales • Requested Variances and Waivers • Number of employees
Field Check	
07/16/07	A site visit was conducted and the project location is a partially developed lot located adjacent to existing commercial and residential development with access from El Capitan Way.

Details of Application Request	
Site Area	
Gross Acres	3.21 acres
Net Acres	1.72 acres

Surrounding Property	Existing Land Use	Planned Land Use	Existing Zoning
Subject Property	Partially developed with asphalt driveway and Commercial Retail Building	SC- TC (Service Commercial Town Center) Special Land Use Designation	T-C (Town Center)

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North	Single-family Residential	R-CL (Single Family Residential Compact Lot)	PCD (Planned Community Development)
South	Vacant land	SC- TC (Service Commercial Town Center) Special Land Use Designation	T-C (Town Center)
East	Existing Commercial Building	SC- TC (Service Commercial Town Center) Special Land Use Designation	T-C (Town Center)
West	Vacant land	SC- TC (Service Commercial Town Center) Special Land Use Designation	T-C (Town Center)

<i>Special Districts/Zones</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Compliance</i>
Special Area Plan			
T-C Town Center District	X		Y
<i>Special Districts/Zones</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Compliance</i>
Special Purpose and Overlay Districts			
T-C Town Center District	X		Y
Trails		X	NA
Rural Preservation Overlay District		X	NA
Development Impact Notification Assessment		X	NA
Project of Regional Significance		X	NA

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The following Title 19.04 Parking requirements for a General Retail use apply:

Parking Requirement							
<i>Use</i>	<i>Gross Floor Area or Number of Units</i>	<i>Required</i>			<i>Provided</i>		<i>Compliance</i>
		<i>Parking Ratio</i>	<i>Parking</i>		<i>Parking</i>		
			Regular	Handi-capped	Regular	Handi-capped	
General Retail less than 3,500 square feet	14,028	1/175	80	4	71	4	N
SubTotal			80		71		
TOTAL			80		71		N

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Loading Spaces			2		4		Y
Percent Deviation						13%	

ANALYSIS

The proposed General Retail use is subject to the parking standards of Title 19.04 and Title 19.10. The project as designed will provide 71 parking spaces where 81 is the minimum required which represents a 13 percent deviation from standard. No physical site constraints exist on the subject parcel that prevents the project from adequately addressing the parking standard of 1 space for every 175 square feet of gross floor area.

FINDINGS

In accordance with the provisions of Title 19.18.070(B), Planning Commission and City Council, in considering the merits of a Variance request, shall not grant a Variance in order to:

1. Permit a use in a zoning district in which the use is not allowed;
2. Vary any minimum spacing requirement between uses;
3. Relieve a hardship which is solely personal, self-created or financial in nature.

Additionally, Title 19.18.070L states:

Where by reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness, or shape of a specific piece of property at the time of enactment of the regulation, or by reason of exceptional topographic conditions or other extraordinary and exceptional situation or condition of the piece of property, the strict application of any zoning regulation would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties to, or exceptional and undue hardships upon, the owner of the property, a variance from that strict application may be granted so as to relieve the difficulties or hardship, if the relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good, without substantial impairment of affected natural resources and without substantially impairing the intent and purpose of any ordinance or resolution.

No evidence of a unique or extraordinary circumstance has been presented in that the applicant has created a self-imposed hardship by designing a project that will result in a parking impaired commercial development. An alternative that reduces the floor area of the proposed structure would allow conformance to the Title 19 requirements. In view of the absence of any hardships imposed by the sites physical characteristics, it is concluded that the applicants hardship is preferential in nature, and it is thereby outside the realm of NRS Chapter 278 for granting of Variances.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS NOTIFIED 10

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 13

SENATE DISTRICT 9

NOTICES MAILED 716

APPROVALS 4

PROTESTS 11