



**Agenda Item # 13**  
**BOA-002605-2023**

View additional details on this proposal and all application materials using the following link:

[Applicant Materials for Consideration](#)

**DETAILS**

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**Location:**

3366 Cottage Hill Road

**Applicant / Agent:**

Byrd Surveying, Inc.

**Property Owner:**

Dennis J. Langan

**Current Zoning:**

B-3, Community Business Suburban District

**Future Land Use:**

District Center

**Case Number:**

6541

**Unified Development Code Requirement:**

- A 25-foot front yard setback in a B-3, Community Business Suburban District.

**Board Consideration:**

- To allow a 10-foot front yard setback in a B-3, Community Business Suburban District.

**Report Contents:**

	<b>Page</b>
Context Map .....	2
Site History .....	3
Staff Comments .....	3
Variance Considerations .....	4
Exhibits .....	5

# BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VICINITY MAP - EXISTING AERIAL



The site is surrounded by commercial units.

APPLICATION NUMBER	6541	DATE	September 11, 2023
APPLICANT	Byrd Surveying, Inc.		
REQUEST	Front Yard Setback Variance		



## SITE HISTORY

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The site is composed of Lot 1 of the Cottage Shops Subdivision, a two-lot subdivision approved by the Planning Commission at its June 15, 2000 meeting. At that time, as recorded in the meeting minutes, the applicant requested a 10-foot setback along Old Cottage Hill Road instead of the required 25-foot setback. The request was further discussed, and the applicant was informed that a variance would be required to allow the 10-foot setback. However, a 10-foot setback was erroneously recorded on the final subdivision plat without approval from the Board of Adjustment. The applicant is now proposing to develop the property, but associated permits have been denied by Planning and Zoning due to the reduced setback.

## STAFF COMMENTS

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### Engineering Comments:

No comments.

### Traffic Engineering Comments:

No comments.

### Urban Forestry Comments:

Property to be developed in compliance with state and local laws that pertain to tree preservation and protection on both city and private properties [Act 929 of the 1961 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature (Acts 1961, p. 1487), as amended, and City Code Chapters 57 and 65]. Private removal of trees in the right-of-way will require approval of the Mobile Tree Commission. Removal of heritage trees from undeveloped residential sites, developed residential sites in historic districts, and all commercial sites will require a tree removal permit.

### Fire Department Comments:

All projects within the City Limits of Mobile shall comply with the requirements of the City of Mobile Fire Code Ordinance (2021 International Fire Code). Fire apparatus access is required to be within 150' of all commercial and residential buildings. A fire hydrant is required to be within 400' of non-sprinkled commercial buildings and 600' of sprinkled commercial buildings.

### Planning Comments:

The applicant is requesting a 10-foot setback along Old Cottage Hill Road, as recorded in error on the subdivision plat associated with the site. Development of the property as an automated car wash is proposed, and the proposed building abuts the reduced setback.

The applicant's narrative can be viewed using the link on Page 1 of this report, but in summary they contend that requiring a 25-foot setback along Old Cottage Hill Road renders compliant development of the property impossible as it is surrounded by public rights-of-way, each with a 25-foot minimum setback requirement. In reviewing the site plan, placement of the building in compliance with these setback requirements leaves little, if any room for a compliant building with on-site traffic circulation.

The shape of the subject site is unique in that it does not meet the conventional geometry of a commercial lot within the city. Furthermore, as mentioned, the site is surrounded on all sides by public rights-of-way, thus requiring a 25-foot setback from each property line. As such, requiring full compliance with the setback requirements of the Unified Development Code may pose a hardship at this location.

The subject site is surrounded by properties also zoned B-3, Community Business Suburban District.

No similar requests appear to have been made for properties within the vicinity of the site.

## VARIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

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### Standards of Review:

Variances are not intended to be granted frequently. The applicant must clearly show the Board that the request is due to very unusual characteristics of the property and that it satisfies the variance standards. What constitutes unnecessary hardship and substantial justice is a matter to be determined from the facts and circumstances of each application.

Article 5 Section 10-E. 1. of the Unified Development Codes states that the Board of Adjustment may grant a variance if:

- The Applicant demonstrates that the variance shall not be contrary to the public interest;
- Where, owing to special conditions a literal enforcement of the provision of this Chapter will result in unnecessary hardship; and
- The spirit of this Chapter will be observed and substantial justice done.

Article 5 Section 10-E.2. states no variance shall be granted:

- (a) In order to relieve an owner of restrictive covenants that are recorded in Mobile County Probate Court and applicable to the property;
- (b) Where economic loss is the sole basis for the required variance; or
- (c) Where the variance is otherwise unlawful.

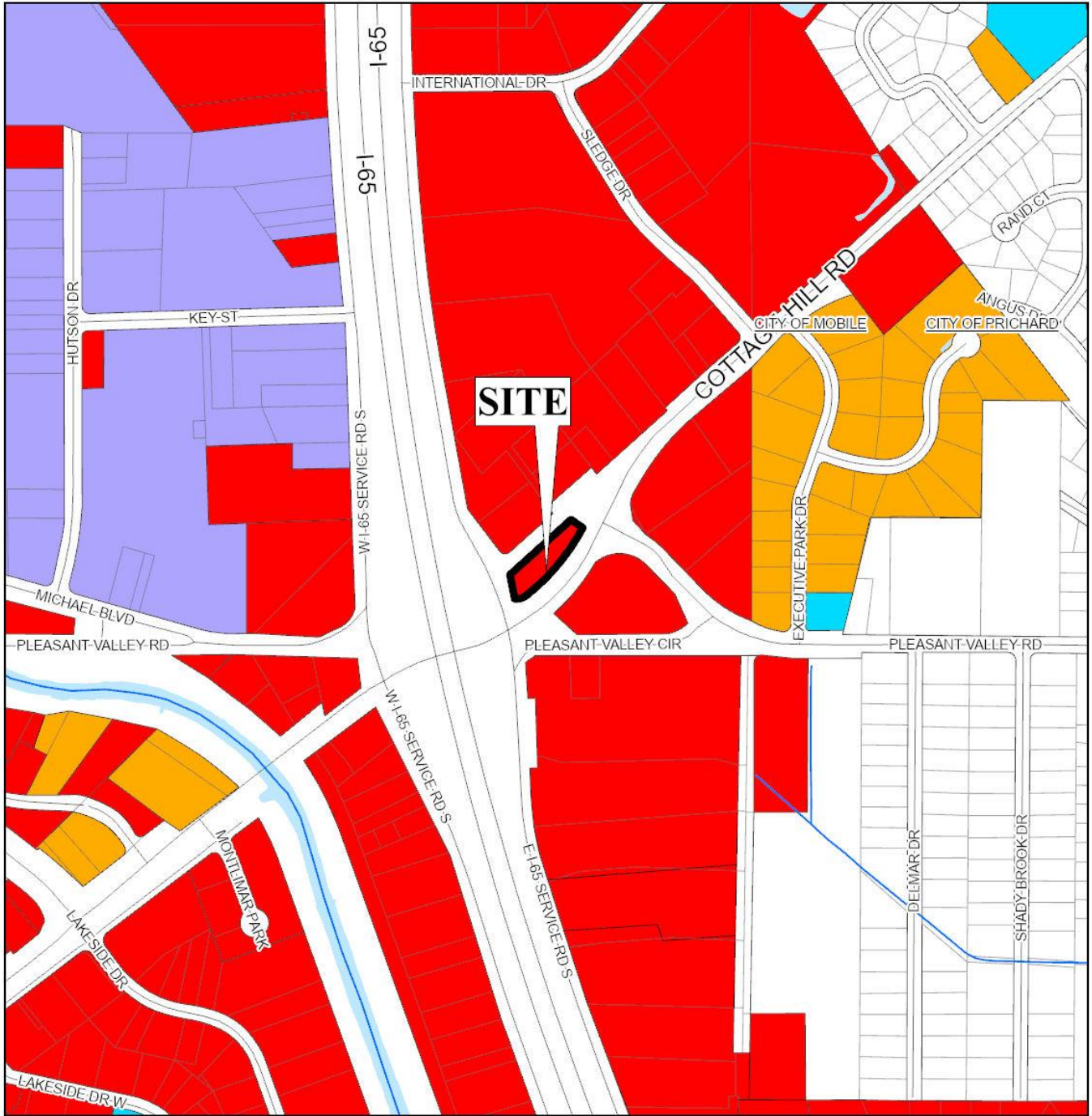
### Considerations:

Based on the requested Variance application and documentation submitted, if the Board considers approval of the request, the following findings of fact must be presented:

- 1) The variance **will not** be contrary to the public interest;
- 2) Special conditions exist such that a literal enforcement of the provisions of the chapter **will** result in unnecessary hardship; and
- 3) The spirit of the chapter **shall** be observed and substantial justice done to the applicant and the surrounding neighborhood by granting the variance.



# LOCATOR ZONING MAP



APPLICATION NUMBER 6541 DATE September 11, 2023

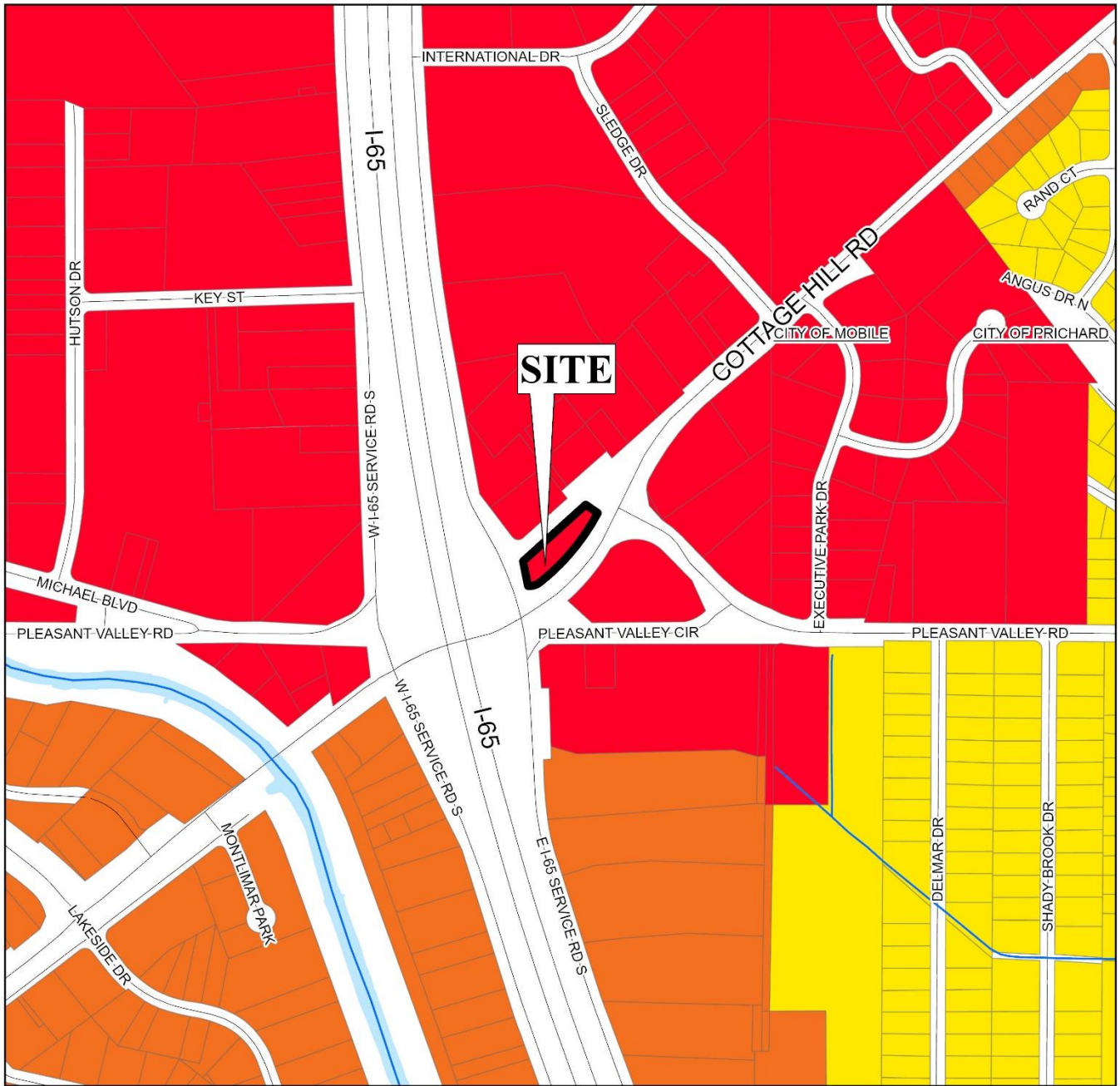
APPLICANT Byrd Surveying, Inc.

REQUEST Front Yard Setback Variance



NTS

# FLUM LOCATOR MAP



APPLICATION NUMBER 6541 DATE September 11, 2023

APPLICANT Byrd Surveying, Inc.

REQUEST Front Yard Setback Variance

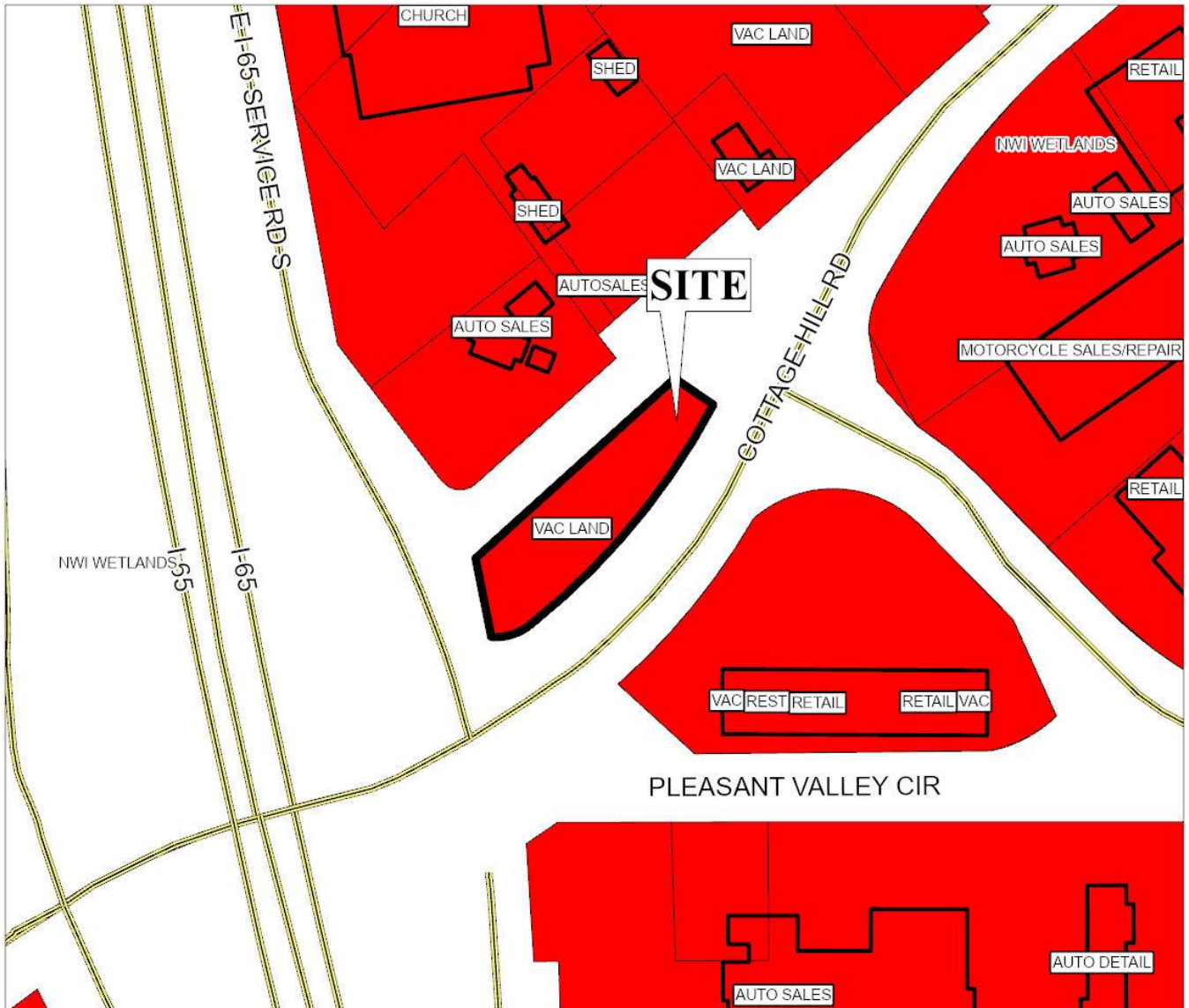
**Layer2**

- |                                   |                                |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Downtown                          | Traditional Corridor           | Heavy Industry     |
| District Center                   | Mixed Commercial Corridor      | Institutional      |
| Low Density Residential           | Downtown Waterfront            | Parks & Open Space |
| Mixed Density Residential         | Neighborhood Center - Suburban | Water Dependent    |
| Neighborhood Center - Traditional | Light Industry                 |                    |





# BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VICINITY MAP - EXISTING ZONING



The site is surrounded by commercial units.

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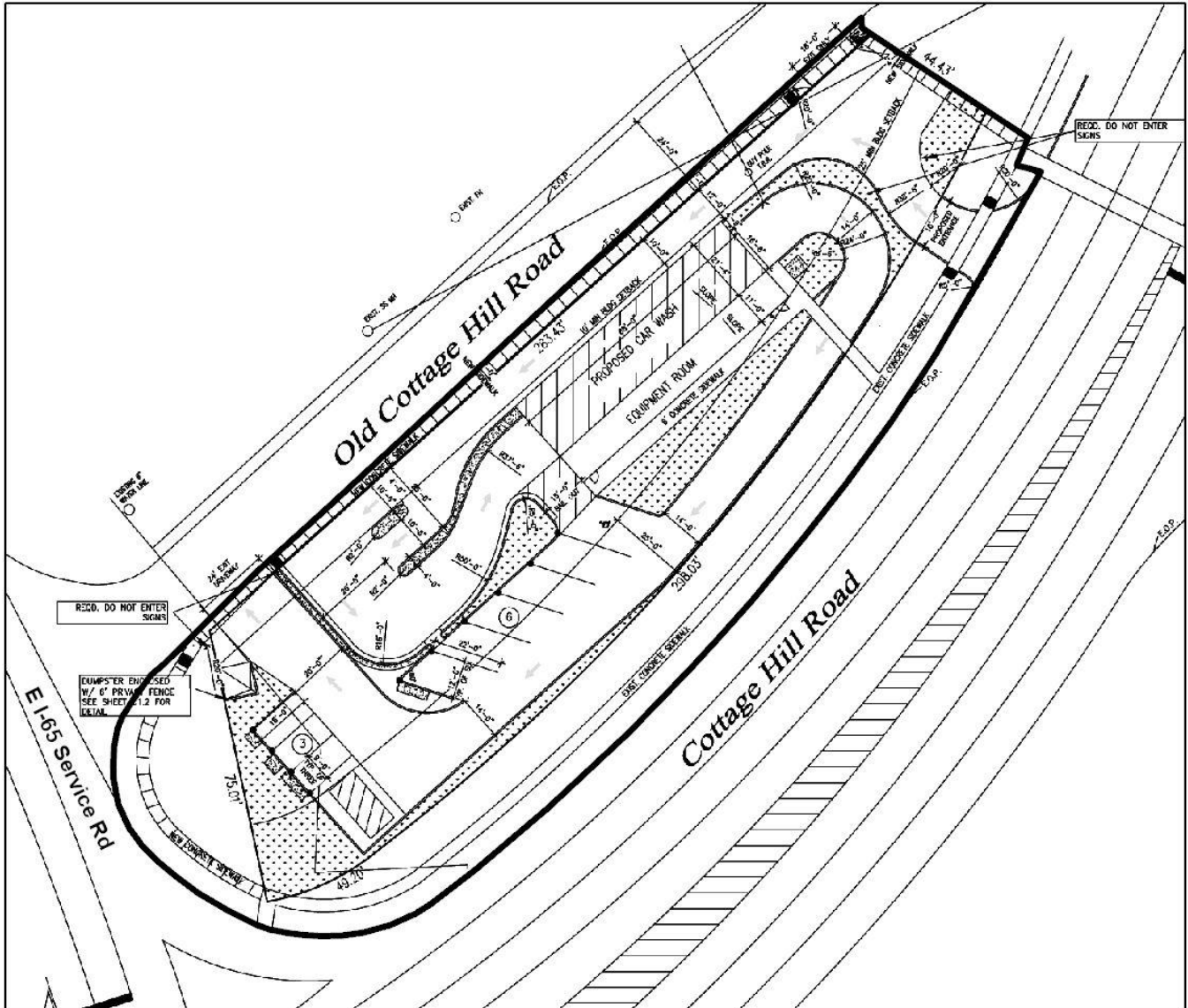
APPLICANT Byrd Surveying, Inc.

REQUEST Front Yard Setback Variance


<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #00FFFF; border: 1px solid black;"></span> R-A	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #00FF00; border: 1px solid black;"></span> R-3	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #00FFFF; border: 1px solid black;"></span> B-1	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFA500; border: 1px solid black;"></span> B-2	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #0000FF; border: 1px solid black;"></span> B-5	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> ML	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #D3D3D3; border: 1px solid black;"></span> I-2	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> OPEN	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFB6C1; border: 1px solid black;"></span> T-3	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #483D8B; border: 1px solid black;"></span> T-5.2
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFFFFF; border: 1px solid black;"></span> R-1	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FF00FF; border: 1px solid black;"></span> R-B	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #D2B48C; border: 1px solid black;"></span> T-B	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FF0000; border: 1px solid black;"></span> B-3	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black;"></span> CW	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #008080; border: 1px solid black;"></span> MH	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #32CD32; border: 1px solid black;"></span> PD	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFDAB9; border: 1px solid black;"></span> SD	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #9370DB; border: 1px solid black;"></span> T-4	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #4B0082; border: 1px solid black;"></span> T-6
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFFF00; border: 1px solid black;"></span> R-2	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFC0CB; border: 1px solid black;"></span> H-B	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #8A2BE2; border: 1px solid black;"></span> LB-2	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #8B4513; border: 1px solid black;"></span> B-4	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #87CEEB; border: 1px solid black;"></span> MM	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #9370DB; border: 1px solid black;"></span> I-1	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FFFFE0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> MUN	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #FF8C00; border: 1px solid black;"></span> SD-WH	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #6A5ACD; border: 1px solid black;"></span> T-5.1	



# SITE PLAN



The site plan illustrates the proposed car wash and parking area.

APPLICATION NUMBER <u>6541</u> DATE <u>September 11, 2023</u>	 NTS
APPLICANT <u>Byrd Surveying, Inc.</u>	
REQUEST <u>Front Yard Setback Variance</u>	



ZONING DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE MATRIX		LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (LDR)	MIXED DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MXDR)	DOWNTOWN (DT)	DISTRICT CENTER (DC)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - TRADITIONAL (NC-T)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - SUBURBAN (NC-S)	TRADITIONAL CORRIDOR (TC)	MIXED COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (MCC)	LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI)	HEAVY INDUSTRY (HI)	INSTITUTIONAL LAND USE (INS)	PARKS & OPEN SPACE (POS)	DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT (DW)	WATER DEPENDENT USES (WDWRU)
RESIDENTIAL - AG	R-A														
ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-1	■				■		■					□		
TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-2	■				■		■					□	○	
MULTIPLE-FAMILY	R-3	○	■			■	■						□	○	
RESIDENTIAL-BUSINESS	R-B		○			■		■					□	○	
TRANSITIONAL-BUSINESS	T-B		○		■	■	■	■					□		
HISTORIC BUSINESS	H-B			■		■		■					□		
VILLAGE CENTER	TCD					■	■						□		
NEIGH. CENTER	TCD					■	■						□		
NEIGH. GENERAL	TCD					■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-6			■									□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.1			■		■		□					□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.2			■		■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-4			■		■		□					□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-3			■		■							□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	SD-WH									○	○		□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DD	SD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○		○	○		□		
BUFFER BUSINESS	B-1		□			□	■	■	■				□	○	
NEIGH. BUSINESS	B-2		○			□	■	■	■				□	○	
LIMITED BUSINESS	LB-2		○			□	■	■	■				□	○	
COMMUNITY BUSINESS	B-3				■				■			○	□	○	
GEN. BUSINESS	B-4			■					■			○	□	○	
OFFICE-DISTRIBUTION	B-5								■	■			□	□	
LIGHT INDUSTRY	I-1									■			□	□	□
HEAVY INDUSTRY	I-2										■		□		□

**Zoning District Correspondence Matrix**

- Directly Related
- Elements of the zoning category are related to the future LU category, but with qualifications (such as a development plan with conditions)
- Land use category is appropriate, but the district does not directly implement the category (e.g., open space in an industrial district)



## DISTRICT CENTER (DC)

This designation applies across the city to larger areas of existing mixed-use character or where such character is encouraged. These areas will include moderate to high-density residential (minimum densities of 6 du/ac) in dynamic, horizontal or vertical mixed use environments, to provide a balance of housing and employment.

District Centers generally serve several surrounding neighborhoods and may even have a city-wide or region-wide reach. As such, they are often anchored by a major commercial or institutional employer such as a shopping mall or a medical center.

Depending on location and assigned zoning, residential areas in District Centers may incorporate a mix of housing types, ranging from mid-rise multifamily buildings containing apartments and lofts, to townhouses and detached single-family homes. Major civic cultural institutions and public spaces provide regional and neighborhood destinations.

District Centers should be designed to induce pedestrian activity, with high quality streetscapes connecting the different components of a center as well as the center to its surrounding area. DC districts may be served by transit and include development of an intensity and design that supports transit use.