

CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS ZONING HEARING EXAMINER NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

DEBORRAH A. BALL request(s) a special exception to Section 14-16-2-25(B)(9)(b): a VARIANCE of 1 on-premise sign to the 2 on-premise signs requirement, for one business, to allow for a total of 3 proposed on-premise signs on all or a portion of Lot(s) 232B, MRGCD MAP 38 zoned H-1, located at 524 ROMERO ST NW (J-13)

Special Exception No:	. 09ZHE-80421	
Project No:	Project#	1008114
Hearing Date:	02-16-10	
Closing of Public Record:	02-16-10	
Date of Decision:	03-03-10	

STATEMENT OF FACTS: The applicant, Deborrah Ball, requests a variance of 1 on-premise sign to the 2 on-premise signs requirement, for one business, to allow for a total of 3 proposed on-premise signs. Ms. Ball testified that she has been in business for 28 years. She indicates that the sign that she's proposing is the sign which would allow street level traffic to see her business. She indicates that this is a corner property and there are existing signs on the property, but they are not visible and would need a third sign so as to generate more business.

For many years now, the Old Town Community has monitored, very carefully, the possibility of the proliferation of signage which would take away from the unique quality of the Old Town Community. Merchants are limited to the amount of signage they are allowed and they are limited in the signage they are allowed and they are limited in the overall square footage of signage which would be permissive. In this case, the applicant argues that she should be given a third sign. However, she does not provide any sufficient evidence to warrant the signs, as required by the standards for the granting of a variance. She did not offer any testimony to suggest that the parcel is exceptional as compared to other parcels. She argues that her business is located outside of the inner square of the Old Town Plaza. This is noted, however, there are many businesses in Old Town which do not enjoy the immediate Plaza presence and yet apparently have been able to maintain success over the years. There is fear that allowing this request would set a precedence in the Old Town Community for all properties that are not in the Plaza square to seek such variances. This would be inconsistent with the Old Town Sector Development Plan. Accordingly, in light of the fact that the applicant did not offer, nor is there any evidence, that there is exceptional parcel conditions sufficient to warrant a granting of the variance, I am COMPELLED to deny this request.

Based on all of the testimony and a review of the entire file, it is determined that there is substantial evidence to make the following findings and conclusions:

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS: I find that this parcel is not exceptional as compared to other parcels in the vicinity and, therefore, it does not meet the test for the

granting of a variance as provided for by Section 14. 16. 4. 2. I further find that the regulations do not produce an unnecessary hardship in that it will not limit the owner's reasonable use of the property and/or deprive the owner of a reasonable return on the property. Finally, the variance will significantly interfere with the enjoyment of other land in the vicinity and is inconsistent with the spirit of the Zoning Ordinance, substantial justice and the general public interest.

DECISION: Denied.

If you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so by 5:00 p.m., on March 18, 2010 in the manner described below:

Appeal is to the Board of Appeals within 15 days of the decision. A filing fee of \$105.00 shall accompany each appeal application, as well as a written explanation outlining the reason for appeal and a copy of the ZHE decision. Appeals are taken at 600 2nd Street, Plaza Del Sol Building, Ground Level, Planning Application Counter located on the west side of the lobby. **Please present this letter of notification when filing an appeal.** When an application is withdrawn, the fee shall not be refunded.

An appeal shall be heard by the Board of Appeals within 45 days of the appeal period and concluded within 75 days of the appeal period. The Planning Division shall give written notice of an appeal, together with a notice of the date, time and place of the hearing to the applicant, a representative of the opponents, if any are known, and the appellant.

Please note that pursuant to Section 14. 16. 4. 4. (B)., of the City of Albuquerque Comprehensive Zoning Code, you must demonstrate that you have legal standing to file an appeal as defined.

You will receive notice if any other person files an appeal. If there is no appeal, you can receive building permits any time after the appeal deadline quoted above, provided all conditions imposed at the time of approval have been met. However, the Zoning Hearing Examiner may allow issuance of building permits if the public hearing produces no objection of any kind to the approval of an application. To receive this approval, the applicant agrees in writing to return the building permit or occupation tax number.

Successful applicants are reminded that other regulations of the City must be complied with, even after approval of a special exception is secured. This decision does not constitute approval of plans for a building permit. If your application is approved, bring this decision with you when you apply for any related building permit or occupation tax number. Approval of a conditional use or a variance application is void after one year from date of approval if the rights and privileges are granted, thereby have not been executed or utilized.

Roberto Albertorio, Esq. Zoning Hearing Examiner

cc: Zoning Enforcement

ZHE File

Deborrah Ball, 524 Romero NW, 87104

Robert S. Simon, 1415 Park Avenue SW, 87104



CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS ZONING HEARING EXAMINER NOTIFICATION OF DECISION

DEBORRAH A. BALL request(s) a special exception to Section 14-16-2-25(B)(9)(c)2: a VARIANCE of 3 sq ft to the total allowed 3 sq ft to allow for a proposed 6 sq ft area non-wall sign on all or a portion of Lot(s) 232B, MRGCD MAP 38 zoned H-1, located at 524 ROMERO ST NW (J-13)

Special Exception No:	. 09ZHE-80422	
Project No:	Project#	1008114
Hearing Date:	02-16-10	
Closing of Public Record:	02-16-10	
Date of Decision:		

STATEMENT OF FACTS: The applicant, Deborrah Ball, requests a variance of 3 sq ft to the total allowed 3 sq ft to allow for a proposed 6 sq ft area non-wall sign. Ms. Ball testified that she has been in business for 28 years. She indicates that the sign that she's proposing is the sign which would allow street level traffic to see her business. She indicates that this is a corner property and there are existing signs on the property, but they are not visible and would need a third sign so as to generate more business.

For many years now, the Old Town Community has monitored, very carefully, the possibility of the proliferation of signage which would take away from the unique quality of the Old Town Community. Merchants are limited to the amount of signage they are allowed and they are limited in the signage they are allowed and they are limited in the overall square footage of signage which would be permissive. In this case, the applicant argues that she should be given a third sign. However, she does not provide any sufficient evidence to warrant the signs, as required by the standards for the granting of a variance. She did not offer any testimony to suggest that the parcel is exceptional as compared to other parcels. She argues that her business is located outside of the inner square of the Old Town Plaza. This is noted, however, there are many businesses in Old Town which do not enjoy the immediate Plaza presence and yet apparently have been able to maintain success over the years. There is fear that allowing this request would set a precedence in the Old Town Community for all properties that are not in the Plaza square to seek such variances. This would be inconsistent with the Old Town Sector Development Plan. Accordingly, in light of the fact that the applicant did not offer, nor is there any evidence, that there is exceptional parcel conditions sufficient to warrant a granting of the variance, I am COMPELLED to deny this request.

Based on all of the testimony and a review of the entire file, it is determined that there is substantial evidence to make the following findings and conclusions:

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS: I find that this parcel is not exceptional as compared to other parcels in the vicinity and, therefore, it does not meet the test for the granting of a variance as provided for by Section 14. 16. 4. 2. I further find that the regulations do not produce an unnecessary hardship in that it will not limit the owner's

reasonable use of the property and/or deprive the owner of a reasonable return on the property. Finally, the variance will significantly interfere with the enjoyment of other land in the vicinity and is inconsistent with the spirit of the Zoning Ordinance, substantial justice and the general public interest.

DECISION: Denied.

If you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so by 5:00 p.m., on March 18, 2010 in the manner described below:

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Roberto Albertorio, Esq.
Zoning Hearing Examiner

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ZHE File

Deborrah Ball, 524 Romero NW, 87104 Robert S. Simon, 1415 Park Avenue SW, 87104