County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2009 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. ${f 8}$

Resolution No. <u>66</u>-2009

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

A RESOLUTION pursuant to Section 16.301 of the Howard County Code, granting a variance from the height requirements at the Miller Branch Library located at 9421 Frederick Road in Ellicott City.

By order
Stephen LeGendre, Administrator
_, 2009.
By orderStephen LeGendre, Administrator
Stephen Levendre, Administrator
nendments, Failed, Withdrawn, by the County Council
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Certified By _______Stephen LeGendre, Administrator

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1	WHEREAS, Section 16.301 of the Howard County Code provides that variances for
2	governmental uses from the strict application of the zoning regulations are granted by the County
3	Council by Resolution following a public hearing; and
4	
5	WHEREAS, the County has proposed the construction of a new Miller Branch Library
6	to be constructed adjacent to the existing Miller Branch Library, and illustrations and elevations
7	are attached as Exhibits 1 through 6, respectively; and
8	
9	WHEREAS, the site is zoned R-20 (Residential: Single), a category that imposes a
10	height limitation of 34 feet for principal structures; and
11	
12	WHEREAS, after looking at the building program and site constraints that include
13	environmental features such as a floodplain and stream buffer, it was determined that the new
14	Miller Branch Library should be a multi-level structure in order to accommodate the land
15	development requirements and to maintain more of the property for landscaping, forest
16	conservation and open space; and
17	
18	WHEREAS, proposed plans currently call for that section of the building closest to
19	Frederick Road to be sunk up to 3 feet to reduce the perception of building height from Frederick
20	Road; and
21	
22	WHEREAS, even with a portion of the building sunk by 3 feet, the current height
23	limitations in the R-20 Zoning District interfere with the proposed Miller Branch Library
24	construction as a multi-level structure; and
25	
26	WHEREAS, the County requests a variance from the strict application of the 34-foot
27	height limitation to a 45-foot height limitation in order to accommodate the 45 foot stone bridge
28	wall and the 42 foot, 3 inch height of the second floor, as shown in the attached Exhibit 3; and
29	
30	WHEREAS, the "mechanical penthouse" portion of the building will still extend above
31	45 feet as shown in the attached Exhibit 3; and

1

1	WHEREAS, the "mechanical penthouse" only covers 17% of the total roof area, as
2	shown in the attached Exhibit 4, and, according to Section 128.A.3.b. of the Zoning Regulations,
3	is exempt from height limitations; and
4	
5	WHEREAS, the County Council finds that the proposed variance from the height
6	requirements of the R-20 district for this governmental purpose is within the spirit and intent of
7	the Zoning Regulations and is in the public interest.
8	
9	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County,
10	Maryland, this day of, 2009 that, for the construction of the new Miller
11	Branch Library, it grants a variance to increase the 34-foot height requirement to be 45 feet.

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