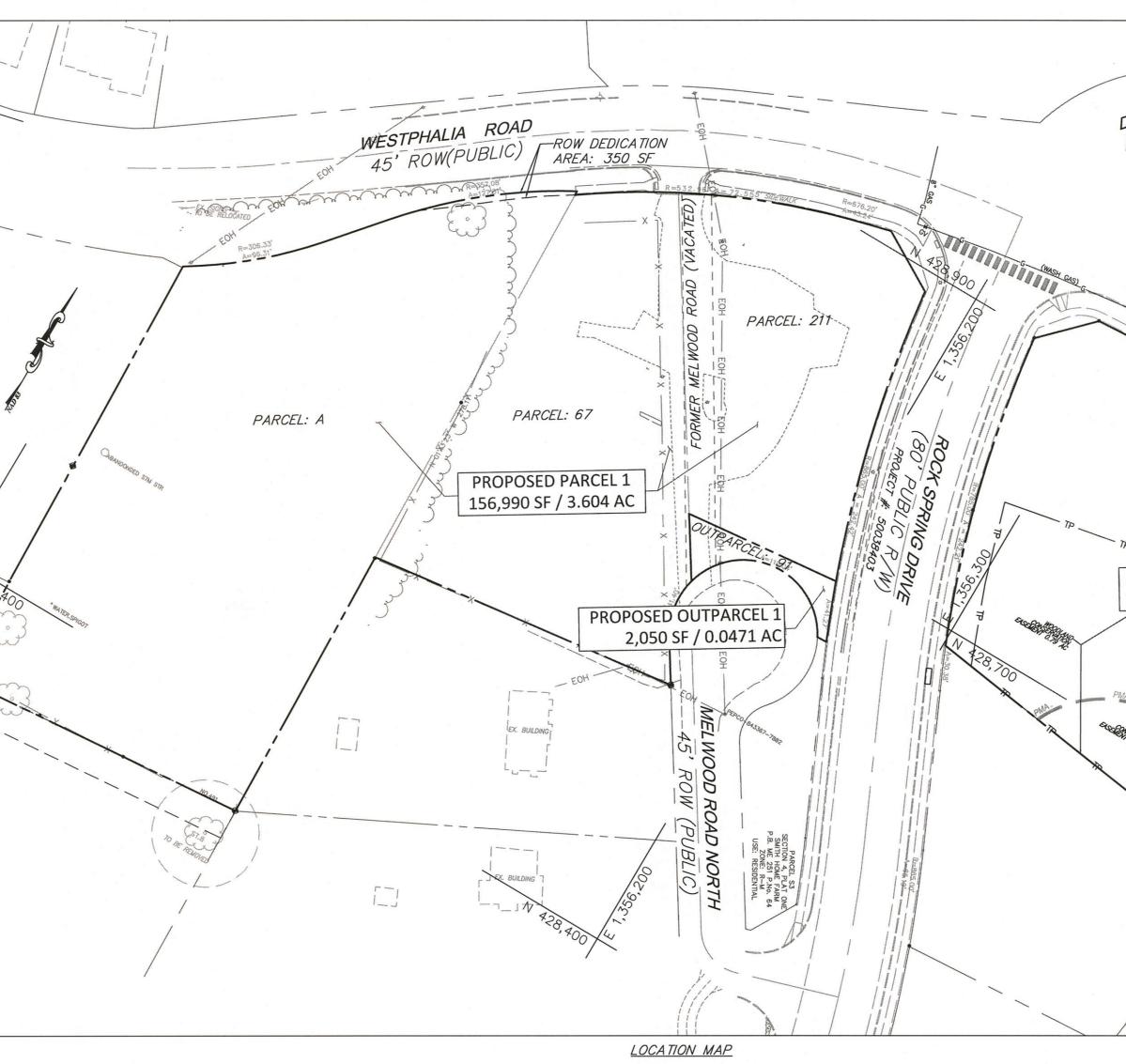
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ADA PARKING REQUIRED/PROVIDED (INCLUDED IN TOTAL) TOTAL PARKING PROVIDED	) 5	4 CAR SPACES, 1 VAN SPACE			

# PRELIMINARY PLAN PPS-4-23027 PIRIT OF GOD VERANCE CHURCH



30 60 120 SCALE:1"=60'

OWNER: SPIRIT OF GOD DELIVERANCE CHURCH 9207 WESTPHALIA RD., UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772

APPLICANT: ANNETTE DREHER 601 KAWA CT., FT WASHINGTON, MD 20774

SURVEYOR: MICHAEL B. DAVIS, PLS DEWBERRY ENGINEERING INC. 4601 FORBES BOULEVARD, SUITE 300 LANHAM, MD 20706

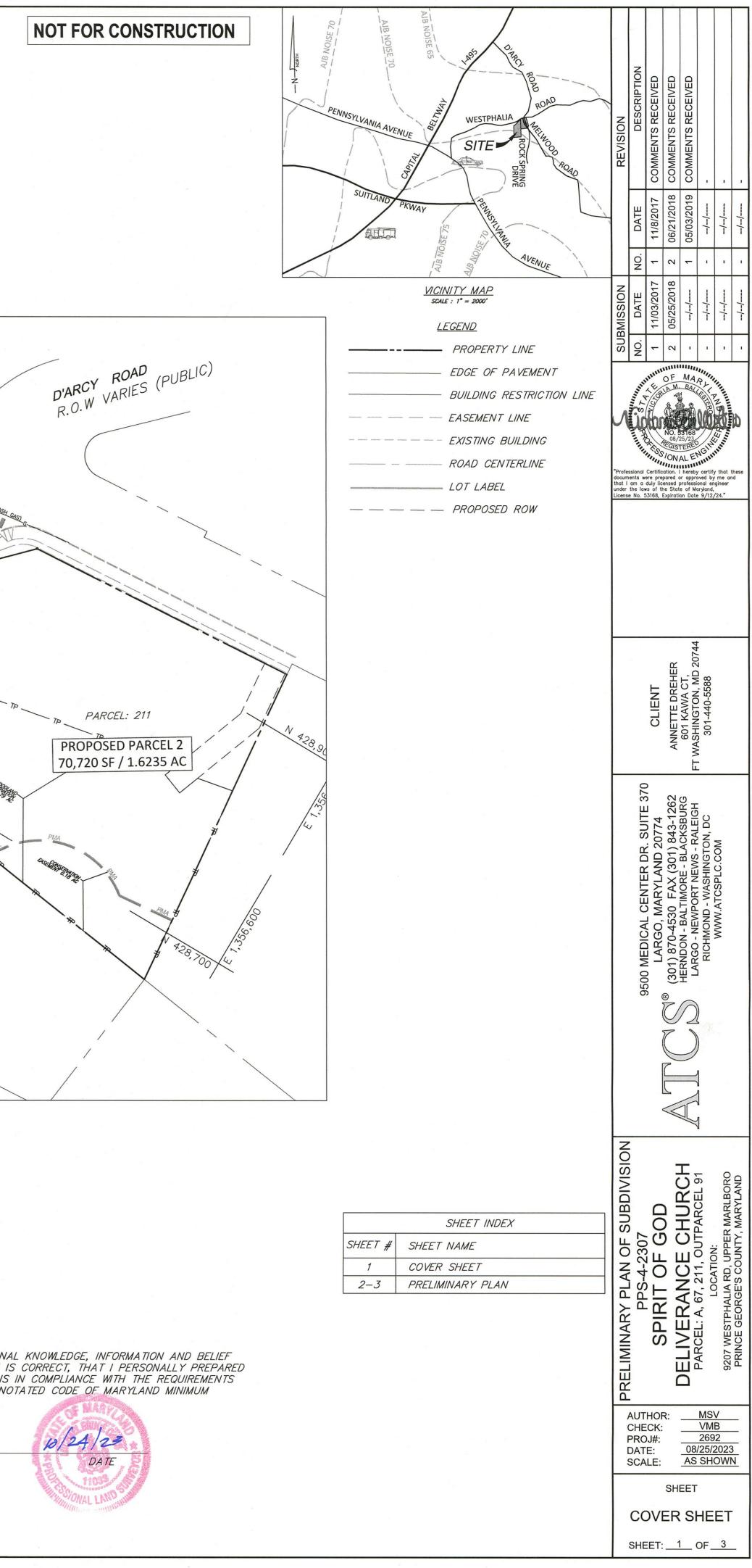
ENGINEER: VICTORIA BALLESTERO, PE ATCS, P.L.C. 9500 MEDICAL CENTER DR. SUITE 370 LARGO, MD 20774

## SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE BEST OF MY PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF THAT THE BOUNDARY INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON IS CORRECT, THAT I PERSONALLY PREPARED IT AND THAT THE SURVEY WORK REFLECTED IN IT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN REGULATION 09.13.06.12 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND MINIMUM STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR LAND SURVEYORS.

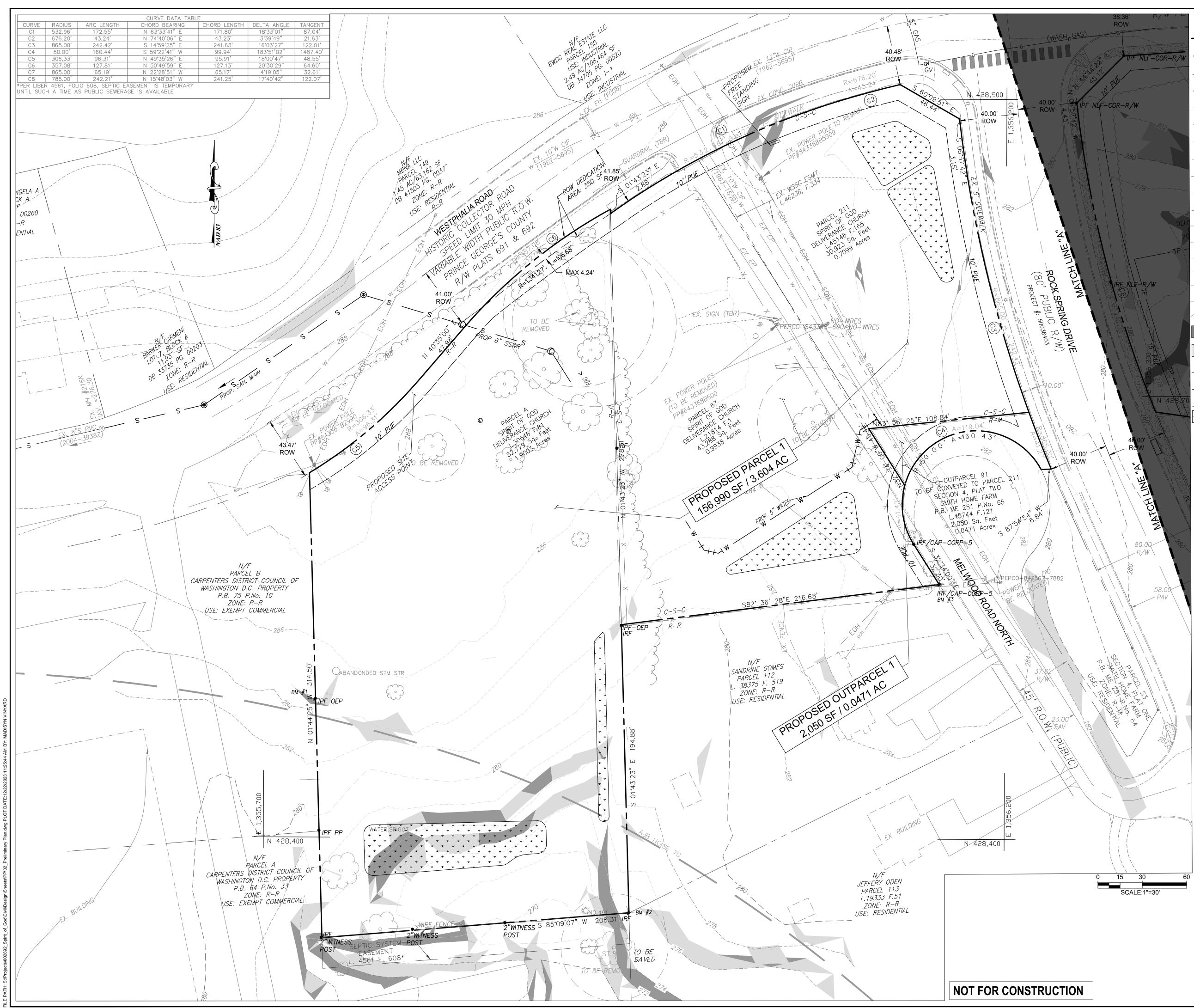
DEWBERRY ENGINEERING INC. MICHAEL B. DAVIS MIGHALL D. DAVIS PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR MD REG. NO. (1033) LICENSE RENEWAL DATE: 9/10/24





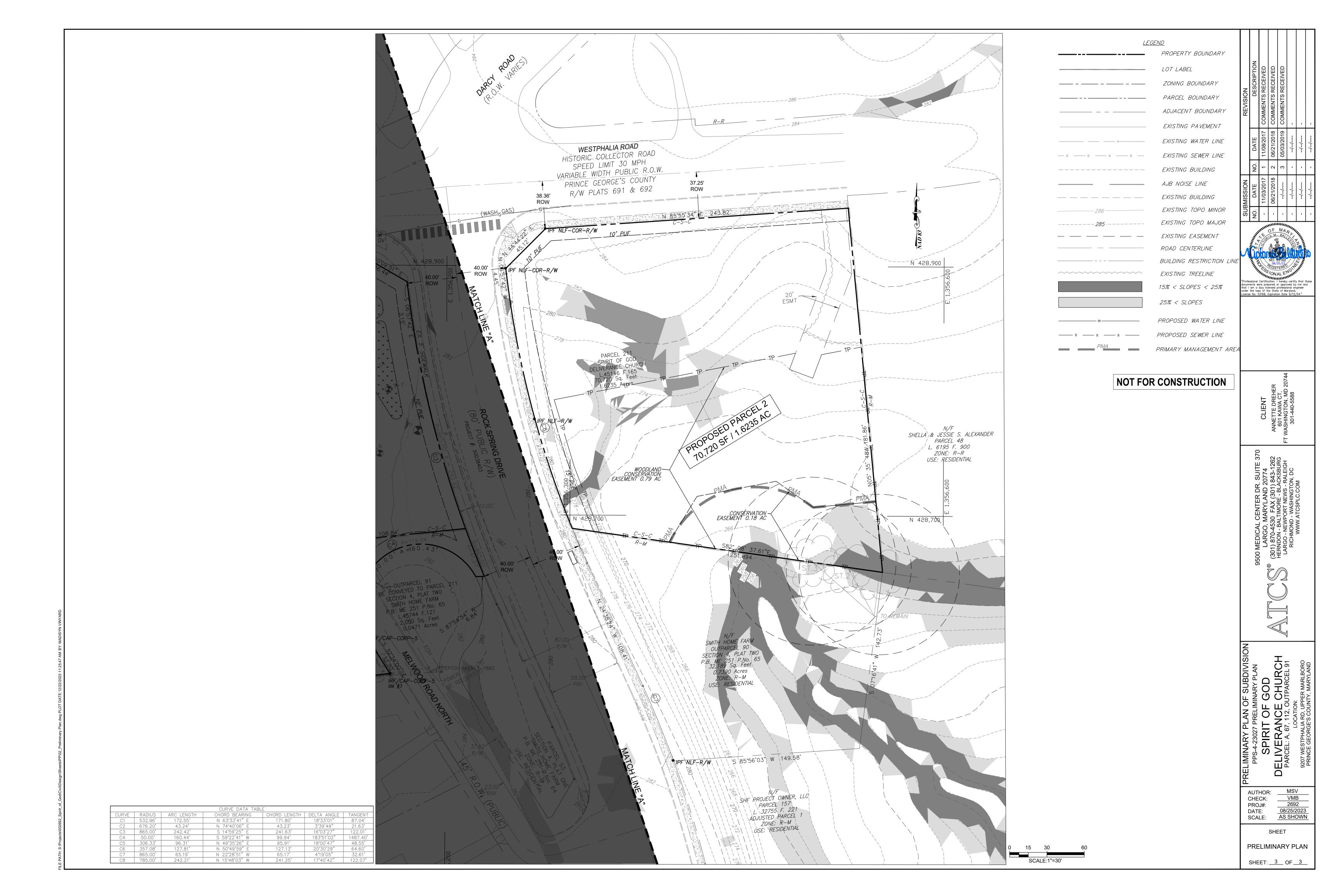
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IN RE:	PRELIMINARY PLAN OF SUBDIVISION (4-23027)
APPLICANT:	SPIRIT OF GOD DELIVERANCE CHURCH
ENGINEER:	Lanna Clement ATCS, PLC 9500 Medical Center, Dr., Suite 370 Largo, MD 20774

#### STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION IN SUPPORT OF A VARIANCE FOR THE REMOVAL OF SPECIMEN TREES

#### I. VARIANCE REQUEST

The Applicant hereby requests a variance from Subtitle 25 of the Prince George's County Code (Woodland Conservation Ordinance) to permit the removal of four (4) specimen trees on approximately 5.27 acres of land on the south side of Westphalia Road and on the east and west corners of the intersection of Westphalia Road and Rock Spring Drive ("Subject Property" or "Property"). The Property is located in an unincorporated area of the County, and shown as Parcels A, 67, 211 and outparcel 91 on Prince George's County Tax Map 90, Grid D1 subject to Site Development Concept Plan No. SDCP-2314-2017-00 ("SDCP"). This request is being filed in conjunction with Preliminary Plan of Subdivision PPS-4-23027 ("PPS") for the proposed use as a place of worship. The previously approved PPS-4-17022 and TCP 1 for this property were approved in 2021 and are now being refiled due to expiration. The Subject Property is proposed to be improved with a single church building. The existing Property is largely undeveloped. Woodland Conservation area is proposed on the portion of Parcel 211 that is located to the east of Rock Spring Drive.

In accordance with the Woodland Conservation Ordinance, the Type 1 Tree Conservation Plan ("TCP 1") submitted in conjunction with the PPS denotes four (4) onsite specimen trees as necessary for removal. Specimen trees are defined in § 25-118 of the Woodland Conservation Ordinance as trees having a diameter of 30-inches or more at breast height. § 25-122(b)(1)(G), generally provides that specimen trees shall be preserved unless a variance is approved in accordance with § 25-119(d).

The four (4) specimen trees were approved for removal with the previously approved and certified PPS-4-17022 and associated approved and certified TCP1-019-2020. The previously approved PPS and variance request have since expired, and this application is being filed to once again allow for the removal of these four (4) specimen trees. All four (4) are proposed for removal due to their central location on the subject property and the resulting impacts from required grading, roadway construction, utility construction, and building footprint conflicts.

Three (3) out of the four (4) specimen trees to be removed were deemed to be in good condition. Those three (3) trees are identified as ST#4, ST#6, and ST#7. They consist of one (1) pin oak, and two (2) white oaks. The remaining specimen tree proposed for removal was deemed to be in poor condition. This specimen tree is identified as ST#5 and is a post oak.

One (1) specimen tree identified as ST#8 is located offsite. The percentage of critical rootzone impacted by disturbance and stormwater outfall is 35%. In subsequent reviews of TCPII-043-2021, removal of ST#8 was recommended by the M-NCPPC Environmental Planning Section due to the tree's condition. This is noted for informational purposed, but removal of ST#8 is outside the scope of this variance request.

The other three (3) specimen trees, identified as ST#1, ST#2, and ST#3, are located in the Woodland Preservation Area and the critical rootzones have no disturbance. Priority was given to the preservation of these three (3) specimen trees due to the connection to the larger woodland conservation area and buffer area to the 1<sup>st</sup> order stream located on the adjacent property to the south.

### **II. TREES SUBJECT TO REMOVAL**

No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	DBH (Inches)	Condition Rating	Reason for Removal	Critical Rootzone Impact (%)
ST#4	Pin oak	Quercus palustris	48	Good	Tree/CRZ within proposed building footprint and utility conflict.	100%
ST#5	Post oak	Quercus stellata	38	Poor	Tree/CRZ within proposed roadway and grading, and utility conflict.	100%
ST#6	White oak	Quercus alba	36	Good	Tree/CRZ within proposed roadway and grading, and utility conflict.	100%
ST#7	White oak	Quercus alba	33	Good	Tree/CRZ within proposed roadway and grading, and utility conflict.	100%

The four (4) specimen trees subject to this request are as follows:

For purposes of this application, the required findings for a variance are set forth in Section III below.

#### **III. CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE CODE: § 25-119(d)**

Pursuant to § 25-119(d), the Prince George's County Planning Board may approve a variance for the removal of specimen trees subject to findings in accordance with specific enumerated criteria. As analyzed below, the subject application satisfies the required findings under § 25-119(d).

- (1) An Applicant may request a variance from this Division as part of the review of a TCP where owning to special features of the site or other circumstances, implementation of this subtitle would result in unwarranted hardship to an applicant. To approve a variance, the approving authority shall find that:
- (A) Special conditions peculiar to the property have caused the unwarranted hardship;

The specimen trees that are proposed for removal are located near Westphalia Road and are centrally located on the parcels to the west of Rock Spring Drive, where the church is proposed. The shape of the lots, site topography, vehicular access requirements, parking requirements, and stormwater management requirements for the site made it impractical to develop around the specimen trees. The site topography falls away from Westphalia Road, resulting in the only feasible locations for stormwater management practices to be located toward the southern and eastern perimeter of the property. The woodlands located on the portion of Parcel 211 located to the east of Rock Spring Drive (Forest Stand #1) were listed as high priority for preservation on NRI-197-2016. The Applicant has given priority to preserving woodlands adjacent to existing offsite conservation areas and also within and adjacent to the stream buffer associated with the 1<sup>st</sup> order stream located offsite to the south. The preservation of Forest Stand #1 provides for the preservation of three specimen trees (ST#1, ST#2, and ST#3) located near the property line.

ST#4 is proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed building location and the water line through the site. The location of the building is limited based on the existing site topography, lot shape, and access locations. The viable locations for access and parking, and the stormwater management locations at the southern and eastern perimeter of the property have also limited the building location to the central area of the site. The building location was selected in order to provide ADA compliant parking and pathways along the building, meet parking design requirements, and meet stormwater management requirements. As a result, the location of the proposed building footprint was limited to the central portion of the site due to the exiting site topography and the resulting design requirements mentioned above, thus rendering the preservation of the centrally located tree infeasible.

ST#5 and ST#6 are both proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed driveway for access to the eastern portion of the site and parking and for the proposed sanitary connection to the building. The critical rootzone of both trees is impacted by the public utility easement along the right-of-way and the sewer line. Providing access and ADA compliant parking requires that the site be graded to meet standards for parking dimensions, drive aisle widths, and grade slopes. The location of the building and parking

areas are limited based on the existing site topography, lot shape, and access locations. The existing site topography results in stormwater management being located at the southern and eastern perimeter of the site. This combined with slopes coming down from Westphalia Road limits the viable locations for the building and parking. The access points are limited to avoid conflict with the intersection of Westphalia Road and Rock Spring Drive. This limits the ability to shift access and drive aisles. As a result, grading will be required throughout the site to meet required standards, rendering the preservation of centrally located trees infeasible.

ST#7 is proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed driveway needed for site access. The critical rootzone is impacted by the public utility easement along the right-of-way. The location of site access is limited by the site's proximity to the nearby intersection of Westphalia Road and Rock Spring Drive, and the resulting drive aisle will be required to provide access to facilities and parking. The viable building, parking, and stormwater management locations limit the ability to shift the access location. The critical root one of ST#7 will be heavily impacted by any access location to the west of the proposed building location. As a result, the preservation of the centrally located tree is infeasible.

Without the granting of this variance, which is the minimal necessary, the Applicant would be denied reasonable and significant use of the Property given the location of each of the specimen trees and the basis for removal of each, which would amount to an unwarranted hardship. Only specimen trees necessary to provide stormwater management and comply with the development standards for proposed access, driveways, and building are proposed to be removed.

(B) Enforcement of these rules will deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by others in similar areas;

The site layout was designed to prioritize minimize impacts to specimen trees located within forest conservation areas. Priority was given to the preservation of ST#1, ST#2, and ST#3, located on the portion of Parcel 211 located to the east of Rock Spring Drive, due to the connection to the larger woodland conservation area and buffer area to the 1st order stream located on the adjacent property to the south.

As previously described, ST#4 is proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed building location and the water line through the site. The location of the building is limited based on the existing site topography, lot shape, and access locations. The viable locations for access and parking, and the stormwater management locations at the southern and eastern perimeter of the property have also limited the building location to the central area of the site. The building location was selected in order to provide ADA compliant parking and pathways along the building, meet parking design requirements, and meet stormwater management requirements. As a result, the location of the proposed building footprint was limited to the central portion of the site due to the exiting site topography and the resulting design requirements mentioned above, thus rendering the preservation of the centrally located tree infeasible.

ST#5 and ST#6 are both proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed driveway for access to the eastern portion of the site and parking. Providing access and ADA compliant parking requires that the site be graded to meet standards for parking dimensions, drive aisle widths, and grade slopes. The location of the building and parking areas are limited based on the existing site topography, lot shape, and access locations. The existing site topography results in stormwater management being located at the southern and eastern perimeter of the site. This combined with slopes coming down from Westphalia Road limits the viable locations for the building and parking. The access points are limited to avoid conflict with the intersection of Westphalia Road and Rock Spring Drive. This limits the ability to shift access and drive aisles. As a result, grading will be required throughout the site to meet required standards, rendering the preservation of centrally located trees infeasible.

ST#7 is proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed driveway needed for site access. The location of site access is limited by the site's proximity to the nearby intersection of Westphalia Road and Rock Spring Drive, and the resulting drive aisle will be required to provide access to facilities and parking. The viable building, parking, and stormwater management locations limit the ability to shift the access location. The critical root one of ST#7 will be heavily impacted by any access location to the west of the proposed building location. As a result, the preservation of the centrally located tree is infeasible.

This variance is necessary because the tree critical root zones are located in the proposed building footprints, proposed streets, proposed stormwater management facilities, and other areas in which their removal is necessary to grade the Subject Property or any combination thereof. Should the preservation of these specimen trees be required, the Applicant would be denied reasonable and significant use of the parcel, and the Subject Property would be largely undevelopable. Reasonable and significant use of the entire lot or parcel, such as the ability to perform grading and installation of required stormwater facilities and roadways, is a right commonly enjoyed by others.

(C) Granting the variance will not confer on the applicant a special privilege that would be denied to other applicants;

The unique locations of environmental and topographic features present on the Subject Property and the location of the specimen trees make the removal of specimen trees necessary for construction and grading would be encountered by any applicant seeking to make reasonable and significant use of the entire parcel.

As previously described, ST#4 is proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed building location and the water line through the site. The location of the building is limited based on the existing site topography, lot shape, and access locations. The viable locations for access and parking, and the stormwater management locations at the southern and eastern perimeter of the property have also limited the building location to the central area of the site. The building location was selected in order to provide ADA compliant parking and pathways along the building, meet parking design requirements, and meet stormwater management requirements. As a result, the location of the proposed building

footprint was limited to the central portion of the site due to the exiting site topography and the resulting design requirements mentioned above, thus rendering the preservation of the centrally located tree infeasible.

ST#5 and ST#6 are both proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed driveway for access to the eastern portion of the site and parking. Providing access and ADA compliant parking requires that the site be graded to meet standards for parking dimensions, drive aisle widths, and grade slopes. The location of the building and parking areas are limited based on the existing site topography, lot shape, and access locations. The existing site topography results in stormwater management being located at the southern and eastern perimeter of the site. This combined with slopes coming down from Westphalia Road limits the viable locations for the building and parking. The access points are limited to avoid conflict with the intersection of Westphalia Road and Rock Spring Drive. This limits the ability to shift access and drive aisles. As a result, grading will be required throughout the site to meet required standards, rendering the preservation of centrally located trees infeasible.

ST#7 is proposed for removal due to the impacts resulting from the proposed driveway needed for site access. The location of site access is limited by the site's proximity to the nearby intersection of Westphalia Road and Rock Spring Drive, and the resulting drive aisle will be required to provide access to facilities and parking. The viable building, parking, and stormwater management locations limit the ability to shift the access location. The critical root one of ST#7 will be heavily impacted by any access location to the west of the proposed building location. As a result, the preservation of the centrally located tree is infeasible.

The right to reasonable and significant use of the entire lot or parcel is not a special privilege unique to the Applicant. Therefore, the granting of this variance request will not confer on the Applicant a special privilege that would be denied to other applicants.

(D) The request is not based on conditions or circumstances which are the result of actions by the applicant;

The request is not based on conditions or circumstances which are the result of actions by the Applicant. As previously stated, the unique environmental and topographic features present on the Subject Property and the location of the specimen trees make the removal of specimen trees necessary for construction and grading would be encountered by any applicant seeking to make reasonable and significant use of the entire parcel. The existing conditions of Subject Property are not a result of actions by the Applicant.

(E) The request does not arise from a condition relating to land or building use, either permitted or nonconforming, on a neighboring property; and

This request does not arise from any condition relating to the land or building use on neighboring properties. While consideration was given to the forested areas present on adjacent property, the need for this variance is not related to that consideration. Three (3) specimen trees that are to be preserved are located on Parcel 211, east of Rock Spring Drive,

in the woodland conservation area that is adjacent to the conservation area on the neighboring property. This variance request for the removal of four (4) specimen trees is a result of the unique features of the Subject Property, and the specimen trees proposed to be removed are based only on the reasonable and significant use of the Subject Property. The uses of the surrounding properties have no bearing on the need for Specimen Tree removal.

(F) Granting the variance will not adversely affect water quality.

The proposed development will comply with County and State requirements for stormwater management, and compliance with those requirements will prevent negative impacts to the water quality in the downstream tributary. Additionally, the site layout prioritizes the preservation of contiguous wooded areas in accordance with the priorities for woodland conservation identified in § 25-121(b) on the east side of Parcel 211. Moreover, the TCP1 contemplates the retention of three (3) specimen trees located within this contiguous wooded area.

The granting of this variance will make it possible for the site to comply with County and State requirements for stormwater management. Granting this variance will not adversely affect water quality, but instead improve quality by allowing for conformance with the applicable requirements for water quality and quantity treatment.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

For all of the above-stated reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests approval of this variance for the removal of the four (4) specimen trees as denoted above.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

Lanna Clement

Lanna Clement ATCS, PLC 9500 Medical Center, Dr., Suite 370 Largo, MD 20774