

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING



PUBLIC SPACE APPLICATION REVIEW

DATE: September 13, 2010
FROM: Joshua Ghaffari, Citywide Planner
ADDRESS: 3007 Ordway Street NW
APPLICATION: Curb cut, driveway and parking

Site Information

Zone: R-2
Historic District: Cleveland Park Historic District
CFA: No
Neighborhood Character: Residential

Background:

The Office of Planning received the public space application for review on August 3, 2010. This site is located in a historic district and has been reviewed by the Historic Preservation Office. The Historic Preservation Office is not supportive of this application for a parking pad for parking in public space. This site is scheduled to go to HPRB after the Public Space Committee considers the application.

Relevant Policies of Planning Initiatives

Policy HP-2.5.4: Landscaped Yards in Public Space

Preserve the continuous and open green quality of landscaped front and side yards in public space. Take special care at historic landmarks and in historic districts to protect this public environment from intrusions, whether from excess paving, vehicular access and parking, high walls and fencing, or undue disruption of the natural contours or bermed terraces.

Policy UD-2.2.1 Neighborhood Character and Identity

Strengthen the defining visual qualities of Washington's neighborhoods. This should be achieved in part by relating the scale of infill development, alterations, renovations and additions to existing neighborhood context.

KEY ISSUES

The proposal is for a curb cut, driveway and parking in public space for a residence on Ordway Street, NW, between 30th Street and Reno Road. The width of the proposed driveway is 10'. The square footage of the driveway and parking pad is approximately 185. The proposed material for the driveway is flagstone pavers. The proposal does not provide parking on private property; rather, the vehicle will be parked in public space. District regulations do not allow parking in public space.

The block in which this property is located does have an internal alley, which is 15'. Most of the immediately surrounding blocks have alleys, the majority of properties do not have curb cuts to the street, and very few do have curb cuts. In addition, the applicant has applied for and received a designated handicapped parking space that reserves parking, immediately adjacent to the property on Ordway Street NW.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The Office of Planning does not support the parking of vehicles in public space, particularly in a Historic District of superb residential and landscaped character. District regulations do not permit vehicular parking in public space.

The Office of Planning recommends that this application be denied.