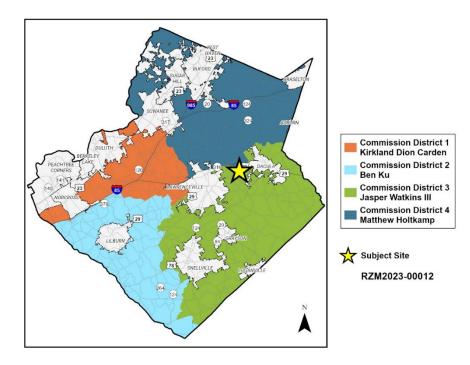


### GWINNETT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

446 West Crogan Street, Suite 300 | Lawrenceville, GA 30046-2440 678.518.6000 GwinnettCounty.com

### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CASE REPORT

Case Number:	RZM2023-00012
Current Zoning:	RM-13 (Multifamily Residence District)
Request:	Rezoning to RM-24 (Multifamily Residence District)
Additional Requests:	Variances
Address:	1385 Winder Highway and 1300 Block of Winder Highway
Map Number:	R5239 010 and 019
Site Area:	4.88 acres
Units:	72
Proposed Development:	Apartments
<b>Commission District:</b>	District 3 – Commissioner Watkins
Character Area:	Community Node
Staff Recommendation:	DENIAL
Planning Commission Recommendation:	DENIAL



Applicant:	Birge & Held c/o Brendan Majev				
	8902 N. Meridian Street, Suite 20				
	Indianapolis, IN 46260				

Owner: New Rivers Edge 2, LLC 8902 N. Meridian Street, Suite 205 Indianapolis, IN 46260

Contact: Baxter Russell

Contact Phone: 404.665.1224

#### Zoning History

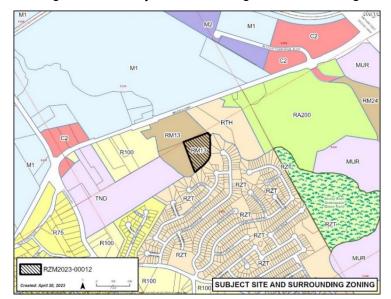
The subject property is zoned RM-13 (Multifamily Residence District). In 2021, the subject property was rezoned from RM-13 and RA-200 (Agriculture-Residence District) to RM-13 for apartments, pursuant to RZM2021-00026. The intent of the rezoning was for the subject property to be a second phase of a larger, previously approved multifamily development located on the adjacent parcels.

#### **Existing Site Condition**

The subject site is a 4.88-acre assemblage of two landlocked parcels south of a 15.09 acre parcel with frontage on Winder Highway. A single-family residence built in 1981 and two accessory buildings are located on the site. The site is accessed by a driveway from Winder Highway. Mature trees are present along the perimeter, but most of the site has been cleared of vegetation. The Alcovy River with associated stream buffers, forms the eastern and southern property lines of the subject site. Much of the site near the Alcovy River contains the 100-year flood plain. The site slopes down approximately 26 feet from west to east towards the river. The nearest Gwinnett County transit stop is 3.6 miles from the site.

#### Surrounding Use and Zoning

The subject property is surrounded by multi-family and single-family residential uses. Phase I of The Alcove at Rivers Edge multi-family development, which is a Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) development, is located to the north and west. Farther north, across Winder Highway is the Gwinnett County Water and Sewerage Authority. The Springs at Rockhouse, a single-family detached subdivision is located across the Alcovy River to the south and east. Also to the east, is a heavily wooded undeveloped lot. The following is a summary of surrounding uses and zoning:



Location	Land Use	Zoning	Density	
Proposed	Apartments	RM-24	16.9 units per acre	
North	Apartments (Phase I) (Under Construction)	RM-13	10.3 units per acre	
East	Undeveloped	R-TH	N/A	
	Single-Family Residential		5.42 units per acre	
South	Single-Family Residential	ngle-Family Residential R-ZT 5.42 units per		
West	Apartments (Phase I) (Under Construction)	RM-13	10.3 units per acre	

#### **Project Summary**

The applicant requests rezoning a 4.88-acre property from RM-13 to RM-24 for apartments, including:

- 72 market rate apartments located within two, 3-story buildings yielding a net density of 16.9 units per acre.
- 48 one-bedroom and 24 two-bedroom units with minimum heated floor areas of 750 and 800 square-feet, respectively.
- Exterior building materials of brick, stacked stone, and fiber cement lap siding.
- Access to Winder Highway through an internal private driveway through Phase I. A cross access easement is proposed by the owner for both phases.
- 100 surface parking spaces to the west and north of the apartment buildings and surrounding three bio-retention areas. Three electric vehicle charging stations are provided within the parking area.
- A mail kiosk adjacent to the parking lot and between the buildings.
- A 5-foot-wide sidewalk along the southern side of the driveway, extending around the southern side of the parking lot and along the front of all buildings.
- Amenities located in Phase I of the development to be shared with Phase II including an exercise facility, playground, swimming pool, and community garden.
- A public access greenway easement along the Alcovy River along the eastern and southern boundary for a future trail.
- Common area of 1.08 acres or 22% of the site.

#### **Zoning and Development Standards**

The applicant is requesting a rezoning to RM-24, Multifamily Residence District. The following is a summary of applicable development standards from the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO):

Standard	Required	Proposed	Meets Standard?
Building Height	Maximum 65'	3 stories/ 37' 8"	YES
Front Yard Setback	Minimum 15'	15'	YES
Side Yard Setback	Minimum 15'	15'	YES
Rear Yard Setback	Minimum 30'	30'	YES
Off-Street Parking	Minimum: 108 spaces	100 spaces	NO*
	Maximum: 216 spaces		
Zoning Buffer	20' adjacent to RZT	20'	YES
	20' adjacent to R-TH		
Common Area	20% or 0.98 acres	22% or 1.08 acres	YES
Road Frontage	Minimum 40'	0'	NO**
Minimum Heated	600 square feet (1 Bedroom)	750 square feet	YES
Floor Area	800 square feet (2 Bedroom)	800 square feet	
Density	24 units per acre	16.9 units per acre	YES

\*Applicant requests to reduce required minimum parking spaces from 108 spaces to 100 spaces. \*\*The applicant requests to reduce the minimum road frontage of the lot from 40' to 0'.

#### Variance Request

In addition to the rezoning request, the applicant is seeking a variance from the following provision of Title II of the UDO:

1. Section 230-7.1 Road Frontage

No lot shall be created that does not abut for at least 40 feet except as otherwise noted in Section 230-10, Chapters 210 or 220, upon an open street which shall be either a public street, a publicly approved street, publicly maintained street, or private street, and except for stormwater facility lots which shall abut for a minimum of 30 feet.

The applicant requests to eliminate the minimum road frontage required as the property is landlocked and does not have frontage on a public or private street.

2. Section 240-20. Parking Space Requirements

## The minimum parking space required for a multifamily residential development in RM-24 is 1.5 spaces per dwelling unit.

The applicant requests to reduce the minimum parking spaces required from 108 to 100 spaces or 1.39 spaces per dwelling unit.

#### Internal and External Agency Review

In addition to these Development Standards, the applicant must meet all other UDO requirements related to infrastructure improvements. Internal and External agency review comments are attached (Exhibit F). Standard site and infrastructure improvements will also be required related to

transportation, stormwater, water, and sewer utilities. Recommended improvements not already required by the UDO have been added as staff recommended conditions.

#### **Staff Analysis**

**Rezoning Request Analysis:** According to the UDO, if a proposed amendment is for the rezoning of property and involves a change in zoning classification the Department shall evaluate the request and make a recommendation with respect to the standards governing exercise of zoning power as defined in Section 270-20.5. After this evaluation, staff makes the following findings based on the standards from the UDO:

# A. Whether a proposed zoning will permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property.

A variety of zoning classifications exist in the area. While the proposed multifamily development will provide more housing options in the area, the present RM-13 zoning designation is more compatible with the surrounding area. A recent request for RM-24 zoning was approved as RM-13 as it was determined to be more compatible with adjacent developments.

## B. Whether a proposed rezoning will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property.

Apartments are currently a permitted use as it was recently rezoned to RM-13. The introduction of high-density multifamily zoning in this area could adversely affect nearby properties, introducing a density incompatible with the surrounding area adjacent to lower-density single-family subdivisions. The current zoning would allow for the construction of 55 units, which is a reduction of 17 units from what is requested with the current application.

## C. Whether the property to be affected by a proposed rezoning has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned.

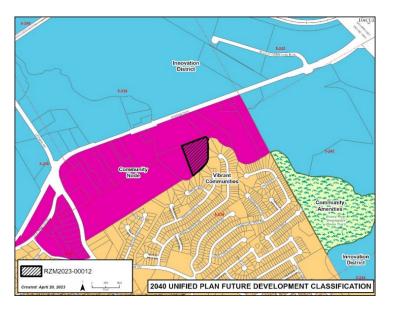
The property has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned. Apartments are currently allowed, but at a slightly lesser density.

# D. Whether the proposed rezoning will result in a use which will or could cause an excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities, or schools.

An increased impact on public facilities would be anticipated in the form of traffic, utility demand, and stormwater runoff; however, these impacts would be mitigated with appropriate conditions, site development regulations, and planning. Impact is anticipated on school enrollment. Agency review comments related to any potential improvements concerning this rezoning request is attached (Exhibit F).

# E. Whether the proposed rezoning is in conformity with the policy and intent of the Unified Plan and Future Development Map.

The 2040 Unified Plan Future Development Map indicates that the subject property lies within the Community Node Character Area. This area is characterized by high-density mixed-use developments incorporating commercial, office, live-work, and similar ground floor uses with high-density residential uses. Ground floor non-residential uses should be oriented toward the street with direct pedestrian access, outdoor patios, plazas, etc., to encourage pedestrian activity. The subject property was recently designated as a Community Node character area but was previously classified as an Emerging Suburban Character area. The subject site is Phase 2 of previously approved RM-13 rezoning to the north and west and is adjacent to an existing single-family neighborhood to the south and east. This portion of the site should serve as a transition between more denser developments along Winder Highway and the single-family subdivision to the east and south of the property. Therefore rezoning the site to RM-24 for a higher density than what is currently permitted would not meet the goals or intent of the 2040 Unified Plan.



# F. Whether there are other existing or changing conditions affecting the use and development of the property which give supporting grounds for either approval or disapproval of the proposed rezoning.

The multifamily development for Phase I and Phase 2 of The Alcovy at Rivers Edge was approved in July 2021. The applicant requested rezoning to RM-24 but was approved as RM-13 at a maximum density of 276 units. However, since Phase I and II are proposed to be under different ownership, the two phases will be separately calculated for density. When separately calculated, the proposed density for Phase II exceeds the permitted 13 units per acre. Although the requested rezoning aims to lower the approved overall site density of the entire development by 48 units, it will require a much higher zoning designation to accommodate a slight increase in the number of units. In addition, it is important to note that the site can still accommodate 55 units while adhering to the RM-13 zoning, which gives supporting grounds for denial of the proposed rezoning. **Variance Requests Analysis:** The standards for granting variances are outlined in Section 270-100.7 of the UDO. Staff makes the following findings related to the variance request:

The applicant requests to eliminate the minimum road frontage required for the parcel. This variance request is required since the site is an assemblage of two parcels that would be combined to create a new lot without road frontage. The site will be accessed by a driveway from Winder Highway through Phase I of the development. Combining these lots into a unified development would eliminate the need for this variance.

The applicant also requests a reduction in the minimum number of required parking spaces from 108 to 100. Reducing the number of required parking spaces may create a shortage of available parking spaces in phase 2 of the development, resulting in residents parking in phase 1.

#### **Staff Recommendation**

Based on the staff's evaluation of the request and the standards governing the exercise of zoning power, the Department of Planning and Development recommends **DENIAL** of the rezoning request.

In addition, staff recommends **DENIAL** of the following variance requests:

- 1. To eliminate the minimum road frontage request.
- 2. To reduce the minimum parking spaces required from 108 spaces to 100 spaces.

#### **Staff Recommended Conditions**

## NOTE: The following conditions are provided as a guide should the Board of Commissioners choose to approve this petition.

Approval as RM-24 (Multi-Family Residence District), subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The proposed development shall be constructed in general conformance with Exhibit B: Site Plan, dated April 11, 2023 and Exhibit C: Building Elevations dated received March 23, 2023, with revisions required by conditions and the Unified Development Ordinance, subject to the review and approval of the Department of Planning and Development.
- 2. Uses on the property shall be limited to multi-family residential apartments and accessory uses and structures, not to exceed 72 total units.
- 3. The minimum heated floor area per dwelling unit shall be 750 square feet. Buildings shall be limited to one and two-bedroom units.
- 4. All unit access shall be from interior corridors with mechanical ventilation. Breezeway and natural ventilation openings in the exterior facades shall be prohibited.
- 5. The architectural design of proposed buildings shall incorporate the requirements of the Gwinnett County Unified Development Ordinance, Architectural Design Standards, Design Category 3.

- 6. Internal soft-surface trails and sidewalk connections shall be provided from the buildings and parking lot to the greenway access area as reviewed and approved by the Department of Planning and Development.
- 7. A cross-access easement shall be provided by the owner for both phases to have access across one another.

#### Planning Commission Recommendation

Based on the staff's evaluation of the request, the information presented at the public hearing, and the Planning Commission's consideration of the standards governing the exercise of zoning power related to this application, the Planning Commission recommends **DENIAL** of the rezoning request.

In addition, the Planning Commission recommends **DENIAL** of the following variance requests:

- 1. To eliminate the minimum road frontage request.
- 2. To reduce the minimum parking spaces required from 108 spaces to 100 spaces.

#### Exhibits:

- A. Site Visit Photos
- B. Site Plan
- C. Building Elevations
- D. Letter of Intent and Applicant's Response to Standards
- E. Application and Disclosure of Campaign Contributions
- F. Internal and External Agency Review Comments
- G. Maps

### **Exhibit A: Site Visit Photos**



Main Drive into Subject Property from Winder Highway



View to the West of Winder Highway from Main Drive



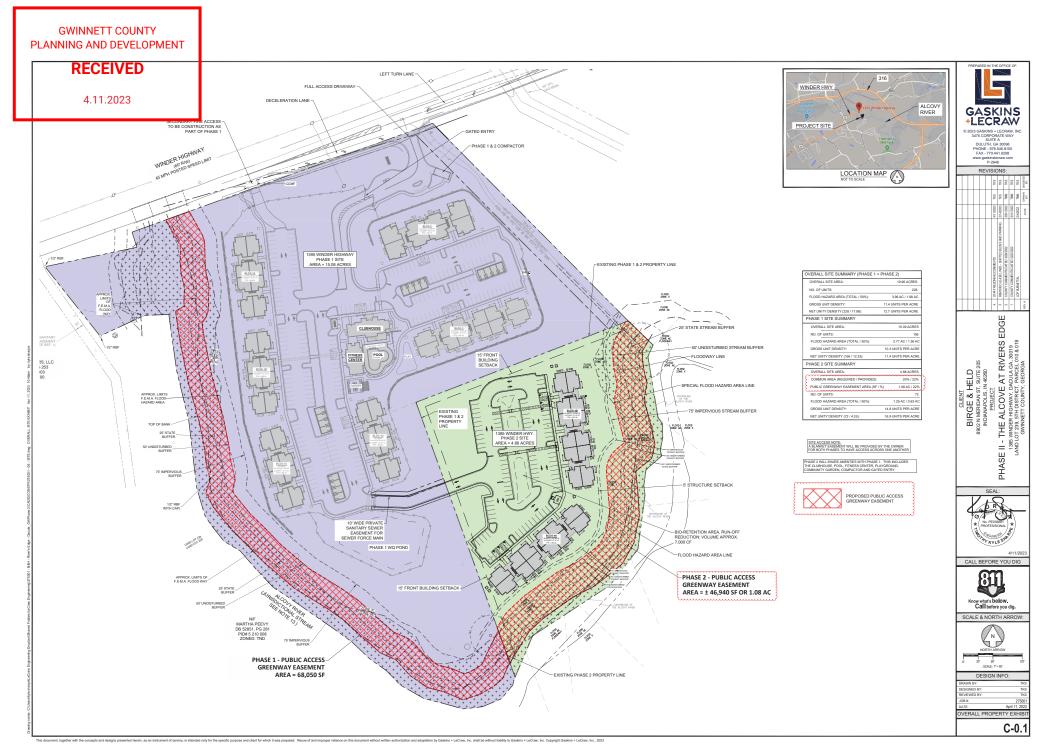
View to the East of Winder Highway from Main Drive

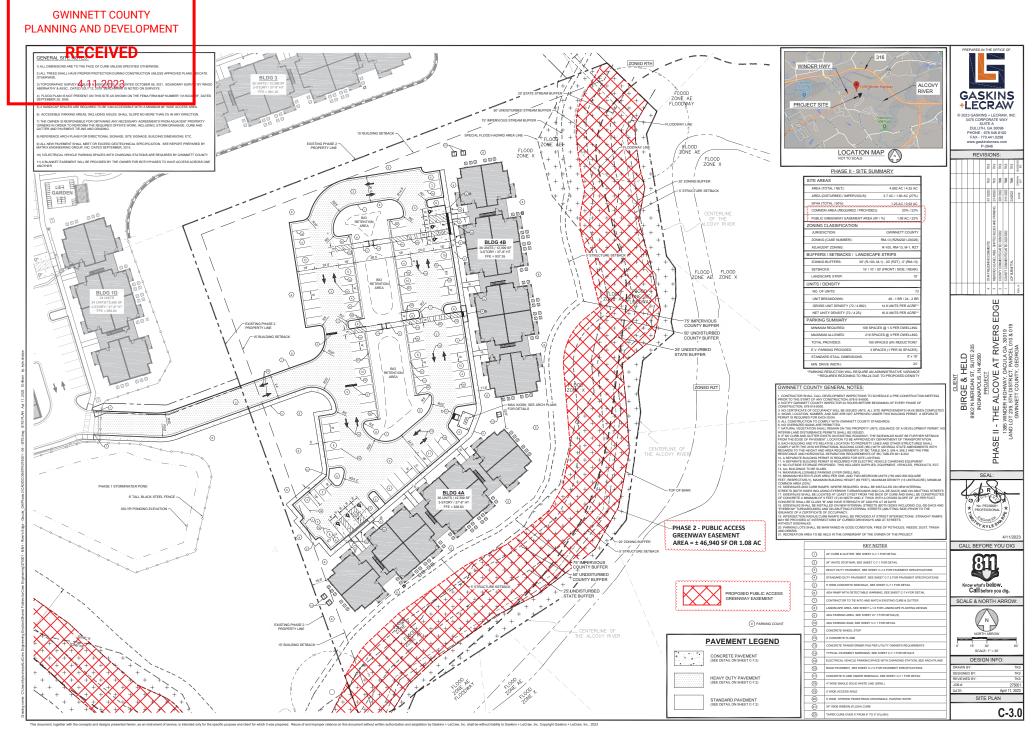


Property Directly North of Subject Property

Exhibit B: Site Plan

[attached]





RZM2023-00012

Exhibit C: Building Elevations

[attached]



### Exhibit D: Letter of Intent and Applicant's Response to Standards

[attached]

3/23/2023

#### **REZONING APPLICANT'S RESPONSE**

STANDARDS GOVERNING THE EXERCISE OF THE ZONING POWER

PURSUANT TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FINDS THAT THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS ARE RELEVANT IN BALANCING THE INTEREST IN PROMOTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, MORALITY OR GENERAL WELFARE AGAINST THE RIGHT TO THE UNRESTRICTED USE OF PROPERTY AND SHALL GOVERN THE EXERCISE OF THE ZONING POWER.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS IN THE SPACE PROVIDED OR USE AN ATTACHMENT AS NECESSARY:

- (A) WHETHER A PROPOSED REZONING WILL PERMIT A USE THAT IS SUITABLE IN VIEW OF THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ADJACENT AND NEARBY PROPERTY: Please see attached letter of intent.
- (B) WHETHER A PROPOSED REZONING WILL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE EXISTING USE OR USABILITY OF ADJACENT OR NEARBY PROPERTY: Please see attached letter of intent.
- (C) WHETHER THE PROPERTY TO BE AFFECTED BY A PROPOSED REZONING HAS REASONABLE ECONOMIC USE AS CURRENTLY ZONED: Please see attached letter of intent.

(D) WHETHER THE PROPOSED REZONING WILL RESULT IN A USE WHICH WILL OR COULD CAUSE AN EXCESSIVE OR BURDENSOME USE OF EXISTING STREETS, TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, UTILITIES, OR SCHOOLS: Please see attached letter of intent.

(E) WHETHER THE PROPOSED REZONING IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE POLICY AND INTENT OF THE LAND USE PLAN: Please see attached letter of intent.

(F) WHETHER THERE ARE OTHER EXISTING OR CHANGING CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPERTY WHICH GIVE SUPPORTING GROUNDS FOR EITHER APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED REZONING:

Please see attached letter of intent.

GWINNETT COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

RECEIVED

4.11.2023

First Amendment to <u>Letter of Intent and Impact Analysis</u>

**Gwinnett County** 

**Rezoning Application Concurrent Variances** 

### Applicant-Property Owner: Birge & Held c/o Brendan Majev

**Property:** 1385 Winder Highway

**Tax Parcel ID:** 5239-010 & 5239-019

### Submitted for Applicant by:

Brendan Majev 8902 North Meridian Street, Suite 205 Indianapolis, Indiana 46260 443-834-4502 bmajev@birgeandheld.com

with

R. Baxter Russell DILLARD SELLERS 1776 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 415S Atlanta, Georgia 30309 (404) 665-1224 brussell@dillardsellers.com 4.11.2023

#### INTRODUCTION

The subject property is approximately 4.88 acres of land located at 1385 Winder Highway between Cedars Road and Highway 316 in unincorporated Gwinnett County ("Property"). The Property consists of two (2) separate parcels, including Tax Parcels 5239-010 & 5239-019. In February 2020, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners ("Board") approved a rezoning application by BH Affordable, LLC (related entity to Birge & Held, the current "Applicant") for adjacent Tax Parcels 5239-002 and 5239-009 to RM-13 (Multifamily Residence). The February 2020 rezoning of these two parcels to RM-13 allowed the Applicant to begin development on River's Edge, a workforce multifamily community ("Phase I"). In July 2021, the Board approved a second rezoning application by BH Affordable to expand the River's Edge community. This July 2021 RM-13 rezoning allowed new market rate multifamily units on the Property ("Phase II") and provided revised zoning conditions across both Phase I and Phase II sites.<sup>1</sup>

Applicant now seeks clarification and confirmation of the density entitlements for the Property. This application requests a rezoning of the Property from RM-13 to RM-24, in order to allow the Applicant to develop the Property and the Phase II multifamily units within the density regulations designated in the July 2021 rezoning conditions. Applicant's request seeks to reduce the overall Phase I and Phase II density by 48 units and allow a total 72 market rate units in Phase II. Applicant's proposed gross density for the Property and Phase II is 14.8 units per acre. Additionally, Applicant requests two concurrent variances: (i) a minor parking variance for the Property and Phase II to reduce the minimum parking space requirement from 108 spaces to 100 spaces, and (ii) a minor variance to modify sidewalk requirement for the entrance driveway (*staff references UDO Section 900-90*) to only require a sidewalk along one side of the driveway not both sides of the driveway.

#### 2021 Rezoning and Current Request

As a result of the July 2021 rezoning, properties associated with both Phase I and Phase II of the River's Edge development (now named "The Alcove at River's Edge") are entitled with RM-13 zoning. Pursuant to the associated zoning conditions, the maximum multifamily density permitted across both phases is 276 units. BH Affordable received development permits for Phase I beginning in fall 2020 and commenced construction in 2021. Phase I construction is ongoing for its Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) apartment development containing 156 units.

Based upon the July 2021 rezoning, Applicant also pursued Phase II development and construction permits for 72 units on the Property. By constructing 72 units in Phase II together with the 156 units in Phase I, Applicant's total unit count across Phase I and Phase II is 48 units fewer than the total unit count entitled by the July 2021 rezoning conditions (276 units). However, Planning and Development Department staff have determined that Applicant is not entitled to develop 72 units on the Property. According to staff's interpretation, Phase II density must be calculated independently for a RM-13 property under separate ownership. By this calculation, the Applicant's requested 72 units exceeds RM-13's density allowance of 13 units per acre. Despite

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Exhibit "A", Rezoning Resolution by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners for Case Number RZM2021-00026, dated July 27, 2021. Resolution rezoned Tax Parcels 5239-002, 5239-009, 5239-010, and 5239-019 (Phase I and Phase II properties) to RM-13 with attached zoning conditions. As described in Condition #1, "[u]ses on the property should be limited to multi-family residential apartments and accessory uses and structures, not to exceed 276 total units."

conformance with the 2021 zoning conditions and an overall reduction in density, staff has advised that Applicant cannot pursue development of the Property and Phase II without an increase in allowable density through rezoning.

The Applicant now requests a rezoning of the Property and Phase II site to RM-24 in order to develop 72 multifamily units. Gross density of the Property as a standalone site is 14.8 units per acre. As described in the density chart, Applicant's requested rezoning and development decreases the total unit count permitted by the July 2021 rezoning by 48 units. The Applicant does not seek to maximize density under the requested RM-24 zoning district, and the development will not approach 24 units per acre.

The Alcove at River's Edge	2021 Rezoning, Approved	Current Request	
Phase I	Not Individually Designated	156 Units, Developed	
Phase II	Not Individually Designated	72 Units, Requested	
Total	276 Units	228 Units	
		(48 Units fewer than 2021 Rezoning)	

#### **Rezoning Rationale**

To accomplish the phased development as originally intended in 2021, Applicant requests a rezoning of the Property and Phase II site to RM-24 to permit a total unit count of 72 units. With a net density of 14.8 units per gross acre, Applicant's revised concept plan is consistent with the previously approved rezoning and density for Phase I & Phase II (RZM2021-00026). This proposal increases the Property density above a standalone RM-13 site density only 1.8 units per gross acre. The concept plan for the requested rezoning just crosses the density threshold of RM-13 so as to require RM-24. The Applicant's requested rezoning to RM-24 will maintain the spirit and intent of the Board's 2021 rezoning decision for 1385 and 1395 Winder Highway. As discussed, the Property's requested unit count is consistent with and reduces the approved 2021 unit count.

#### **Community Features and Design**

The Applicant requests the Property be rezoned RM-24 (Multifamily Residence) to develop Phase II of the Alcove at River's Edge. Additionally, Application seeks a rezoning to achieve the vision of the 2021 rezoning for a complete and cohesive multifamily community. Density of Phase II will be 14.8 units per gross acre, with the entire community containing a density of 11.4 units per gross acre.

This rezoning application does not alter the proposal of Applicant's multifamily community from the 2021 rezoning approval. As previously discussed, the Alcove at River's Edge development consists of two phases. Phase I includes 156 units and is designed as affordable housing community. Phase I was originally approved by the Board in 2020, reapproved in 2021,

and construction is ongoing. The Phase I development and operation of income-restricted housing is not included in this application and will not be altered by this rezoning application. Applicant's intent for Phase II also remains unchanged. Phase II includes 72 units and is designed as market rate housing, incorporated into Phase I to create a high-quality multifamily community serving a variety of income levels.

The Alcove at River's Edge community is designed as a cohesive development in both form and function, incorporating a market rate multifamily community into a workforce multifamily community. The entire development consists of eight (8), three-story residential buildings across both phases in addition to a community clubhouse and amenity center building. As described in attached elevations, the residential buildings in both phases will feature an attractive brick and stacked stone design. The apartment unit mix for Phase II will include 1-bedroom and 2-bedroom units with a minimum heated floor area of 750 and 800 square-feet, respectively. Amenities will be shared by community residents of Phase I and Phase II and will include an exercise facility, playground, swimming pool, and community garden. The residential community will also feature ample greenspace and highlight natural features of the Property, including preserving greenspace along the Alcovy River on western and southern boundary.

Applicant's requested rezoning of the Property should be approved as the complete multifamily development will greatly benefit and promote the public health and general welfare by providing both high-quality workforce housing and complementary affordable, market rate housing integrated into one attractive community. Applicant's rezoning and development is consistent with 2040 Unified Plan Amendment adopted in September 2022, as the Property is now designated for increased residential density up to 34 units per acre.<sup>2</sup> Applicant's rezoning and cohesive multifamily community is also consistent with the vision for the County's future development and stated goals in the County's Unified Plan to provide more high-quality affordable housing and to support construction of new housing at a variety of prices.<sup>3</sup> Phase II, together with Phase I, will also contribute to the variety of uses and zoning classifications in the area and enhance the adjacent highway corridor. For all of these reasons and satisfaction of the zoning criteria below, Applicant respectfully requests that a rezoning of the Property to RM-24 be approved by the Board.

#### **Concurrent Variances—Parking Space & Driveway Sidewalk Modifications**

Applicant requests a concurrent variance to reduce the minimum parking space requirement from 108 spaces to 100 spaces. Applicant also requests a concurrent variance to modify the driveway sidewalk requirement to only provide a sidewalk along one side of the driveway. Applicant seeks relief from the strict application of the County's parking space and driveway requirements to overcome the hardship presented by these regulations. Applicant has extensive experience developing multifamily communities with less restrictive parking ratios. Given current development trends and resident patterns, the County's requirements will result in an overparking of the site and excess of available parking spaces if not reduced by variance. Applicant's requested variance to remove 8 parking spaces will not unduly burden the Property or

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Gwinnett 2040 Unified Plan, Appendix F: "High-Density Mixed-Use" land use recommends residential density for 14-34 units per acre. Applicant's Phase II density of 14.8 units per acre is consistent with this recommendation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Gwinnett County 2040 Unified Plan, pg. 220. "There is significant need for newer affordable housing units, and for affordable housing built with quality construction and amenities."

surrounding properties. The Phase II market rate apartments provide sufficient parking for both residents and visitors with the requested 100 spaces. Additionally, Applicant's single sidewalk along the driveway connecting Phase I and Phase II provides sufficient connection and access for this development. Furthermore, Applicant maintains that sidewalks are not required on both sides of the driveway. Driveway connecting development phases is not a private subdivision street, internal street, or external street, and development provides sufficient private sidewalk on one side of the driveway.

#### II. IMPACT ANALYSIS

The Applicant satisfies the standards for rezoning together with the concurrent variances as set forth in the Unified Development Ordinance of Gwinnett County ("UDO"), Section 270-20.5. For this reason, these requests should be granted as requested by the Applicant.

# A. Whether a proposed rezoning will permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property;

The proposed rezoning to RM-24 and multifamily use are compatible with (i) the Board's July 2021 rezoning decision and conditioned density maximum, (ii) the mixture of zoning districts in the area, and (iii) the variety of uses on surrounding properties. Applicant's requested rezoning to RM-24 and proposal to include 72 units is consistent with July 2021 rezoning and density maximum of 276 units. Applicant's current proposal reduces the total unit count across the entire development by 48 units. Additionally, surrounding properties are zoned M1, R100, TND, RZT, and RTH, and uses on the nearby properties include industrial uses, small and medium capacity commercial centers, dense single-family residential neighborhoods, single-family residences with highway frontage, and vacant parcels. The proposed multifamily development will provide a much-needed housing option for the area, and the addition of attractive, high-quality residential development will enhance surrounding properties. The Property's proximity to downtown Dacula, downtown Lawrenceville, and Highway 316 make it ideally situated for the proposed multifamily development.

## B. Whether a proposed rezoning will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property;

The proposed rezoning to RM-24 will have no adverse impact on the use or value of surrounding properties. On the contrary, the proposal for high-quality, multifamily residential use will complement and enhance the value of surrounding uses on nearby properties. The rezoning will also fulfill the intent and vision of the Board's 2021 rezoning of the Property, decreasing the allowable number of units across the entire multifamily community in the process.

## C. Whether the property to be affected by a proposed rezoning has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned;

The Property comprising Phase II has no reasonable economic use as currently zoned. The current RM-13 zoning and staff's interpretation of the Property's density entitlements

4.11.2023 severely impair development on the Property. The existing RM-13 zoning and density limitation are consistent with neither the multifamily development on the adjacent Phase I parcels nor the Board's 2021 rezoning of the Property.

# D. Whether the proposed rezoning will result in a use which will or could cause an excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities, or schools;

As satisfied in the 2021 rezoning by the Board, the proposed Alcove at River's Edge development will have a nominal impact upon the population, traffic, and schools in the area. Additionally, Applicant's current rezoning request will have even less impact on County infrastructure than the development approved by the July 2021 rezoning, as this request reduces the total development density by 48 units.

Applicant's two-phased development is primarily focused on providing high-quality, affordable and market rate housing options to persons and families currently living in the County and using County services. The proposed apartments will not significantly increase the County's population; rather, Applicant's development will provide a more affordable housing or a newly developed option for current County residents. Any increase in population as a result of the apartments is consistent with residential development in the surrounding area or previously approved development for the Property.

The County's current infrastructure is equipped to provide adequate access and handle any traffic associated with the proposed apartment development. Public services and public facilities, including water and sewer, are currently available for the Property and are sufficient to accommodate the proposed development. The Applicant will work with the County if infrastructure or public service upgrades are determined to be necessary.

# E. Whether the proposed rezoning is in conformity with the policy and intent of the Unified Plan and Future Development Map; and

The Gwinnett County 2040 Unified Plan Amendment designates the Property as Community Node Character Area. The proposed RM-24 zoning classification is consistent with this character area designation's residential density recommendations for 14-34 units per acre. Additionally, the proposed rezoning complies with the policy and intent of the Unified Plan by providing new, high-quality market rate multifamily housing with access to major roadways and in close-proximity to commercial and service centers.

# F. Whether there are other existing or changing conditions affecting the use and development of the property which give supporting grounds for either approval or disapproval of the proposed rezoning.

Changed and changing conditions in the area support the proposed rezoning to RM-24 for Phase II of the Alcove at River's Edge development. Most importantly, the Board approved multifamily development and the requested density for the Property in July 2021. At that time, the Board considered and approved a maximum density of 276 units across

4.11.2023 the development. Applicant now requests a rezoning to RM-24 to allow 72 units on Phase II and to decrease the total approved site density by 48 units. This proposed rezoning is also consistent with the Board's amendments to the 2040 Unified Plan, including increased intensities for the Property's character area and residential density designations. This request continues to fulfill the land use policies and housing goals established in the Unified Plan. Finally, Applicant's proposed rezoning is consistent with recently approved rezonings. In August 2022, the Board approved the RM-24 rezoning of a +/- 58-acre parcel located off Winder Highway and Highway 316 (RZM2022-00030). This RM-24 rezoning occurred within approximately a half-mile of Applicant's Property. Based upon this recent rezoning, Applicant's requested RM-24 rezoning of the Property is not inconsistent with zoning on surrounding properties nor incompatible with the area.

#### **III. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that this application be granted. If there are any questions about this rezoning or concurrent variances, you may contact me at 404-665-1224 or brussell@dillardsellers.com.

Sincerely,

DILLARD SELLERS, LLC

/s/ R. Baxter Russell R. Baxter Russell Attorney for the Applicant

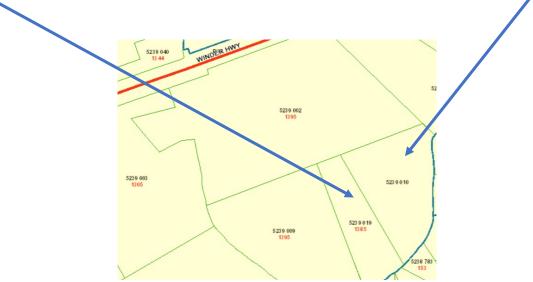
7

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This Second Amendment is submitted to add an additional variance request regarding the road frontage. All remaining requests and information contained in the First Amended Letter of Intent remain and incorporated herein by reference.

#### **Concurrent Variance— Road Frontage**

Applicant requests a concurrent variance to reduce the minimum road frontage set forth in Section 230-70. This application will combine two existing parcels that are landlocked (parcel 5239 010 and 5239 019.



In the event this lot consolidation is interpretated as creating a new lot, Applicant requests a variance to eliminate the 40-foot road frontage requirement of Section 230-70. As set forth in the Application materials, this request is Phase II of River's Edge development (now named "The Alcove at River's Edge) previously approved by the Board of Commissioners. The Property is accessed from Winder Highway. As set forth in the letter of intent, this application satisfies the County's criteria and the variance regarding the road frontage is appropriate given the existing conditions regarding the two lots.

#### **II. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that this application be granted. If there are any questions about this rezoning or concurrent variances, please feel free to contact 404-665-1224 or brussell@dillardsellers.com.

Sincerely,

DILLARD SELLERS, LLC

Julie L. Sellers Baxter Russell *Attorney for the Applicant* 

### Exhibit E: Application and Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

[attached]

#### **REZONING APPLICATION**

AN APPLICATION TO AMEND THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF GWINNETT COUNTY, GA.

APPLICANT INFORMATION	PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION*			
NAME:Birge & Held c/o Brendan Majev	NAME: New Rivers Edge 2 LLC			
ADDRESS: 8902 N. Meridian Street, Ste. 205	ADDRESS:(see Applicant info)			
CITY: Indianapolis	CITY:			
STATE:ZIP:46260	STATE:ZIP:			
PHONE:	PHONE:			
EMAIL:	EMAIL:			
CONTACT PERSON:       PHONE:         Brendan Majev, bmajev@birgeandheld.com, 443.834.4502         CONTACT'S E-MAIL:       Baxter Russell, brussell@dillardsellers.com, 404.665.1224				
APPLICANT IS THE:         X       OWNER'S AGENT       X       PROPERTY OWNER       CONTRACT PURCHASER				
PRESENT ZONING DISTRICTS(S): <u>RM-13</u> REQUESTED ZONING DISTRICT: <u>RM-24</u> PARCEL NUMBER(S): <u>5239-010 &amp; 5239-019</u> ACREAGE: <u>4.88 acres</u>				
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1385 Winder High				
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: The Alcove at River's EdgePhase II (72 units, as permitted in 2021 rezoning (see RZM 2021-00026)				

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	NON-RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
No. of Lots/Dwelling Units72	No. of Buildings/Lots:
Dwelling Unit Size (Sq. Ft.): min. 750 sq. ft	Total Building Sq. Ft
Gross Density: <sup>14.8 upa</sup> (complies with 2021 density	<sup>r)</sup> Density:
Net Density: <u>16.9 upa</u>	

PLEASE ATTACH A LETTER OF INTENT EXPLAINING WHAT IS PROPOSED

3/23/2023

Gwinnett County Planning Division Rezoning Application Last Updated 10/2021

#### **REZONING APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATION**

THE UNDERSIGNED BELOW IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THIS APPLICATION. THE UNDERSIGNED IS AWARE THAT NO APPLICATION OR REAPPLICATION AFFECTING THE SAME LAND SHALL BE ACTED UPON WITHIN 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF LAST ACTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS UNLESS WAIVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. IN NO CASE SHALL AN APPLICATION OR REAPPLICATION BE ACTED UPON IN LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF LAST ACTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Signature of Applicant

Andrew J. Held, Manager

Type or Print Name and Title

3/20/2023

Signature of Notary Public

Date

**Notary Seal** 



3/23/2023

Gwinnett County Planning Division Rezoning Application Last Updated 10/2021

#### **REZONING PROPERTY OWNER'S CERTIFICATION**

THE UNDERSIGNED BELOW, OR AS ATTACHED, IS THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY CONSIDERED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE UNDERSIGNED IS AWARE THAT NO APPLICATION OR REAPPLICATION AFFECTING THE SAME LAND SHALL BE ACTED UPON WITHIN 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF LAST ACTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS UNLESS WAIVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. IN NO CASE SHALL AN APPLICATION OR REAPPLICATION BE ACTED UPON IN LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF LAST ACTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

Signature of Property Owner

2023

Date

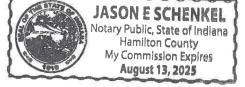
Andrew J. Held, Manager

Type or Print Name and Title

3/20/2013

Signature of Notary Public

Date



**Notary Seal** 

GWINNETT COUNTY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

3/23/2023

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST CERTIFICATION FOR REZONING

The undersigned below, making application for a Rezoning, has complied with the Official Code of Georgia Section 36-67A-1, et. seq, <u>Conflict of Interest in Zoning Actions</u>, and has submitted or attached the required information on the forms provided.

10/2023 Andrew J. Held, Manager

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

TYPE OR PRINT NAME AND TITLE

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT'S DATE TYPE OR PRINT NAME AND TITLE ATTORNEY OR REPRESENTATIVE JASON E SCHENKEL Notary Public, State of Indiana Hamilton County NOTATURE OF NOTARY PUBLIC DATE JASON E SCHENKEL Notary Public, State of Indiana Hamilton County NOTATURE OF NOTARY PUBLIC DATE

#### DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Have you, within the two years immediately preceding the filing of this application, made campaign contributions aggregating \$250.00 or more to a member of the Board of Commissioners or a member of the Gwinnett County Planning Commission?

YES NO

YOUR NAME

If the answer is yes, please complete the following section:

NAME AND OFFICAL	CONTRIBUTIONS	DATE CONTRIBUTION	
POSITION OF	(List all which aggregate to	WAS MADE	
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL	\$250 or More)	(Within last two years)	

Attach additional sheets if necessary to disclose or describe all contributions.

3/23/2023

Gwinnett County Planning Division Rezoning Application Last Updated 10/2021

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST CERTIFICATION FOR REZONING**

The undersigned below, making application for a Rezoning, has complied with the Official Code of Georgia Section 36-67A-1, et. seq, <u>Conflict of Interest in Zoning Actions</u>, and has submitted or attached the required information on the forms provided.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

TYPE OR PRINT NAME AND TITLE

DATE

TYPE OR PRINT NAME AND TITLE

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY OR REPRESENTATIVE

NO

3/21

SIGNATURE OF NOTARY PUBLIC DATE

Jeffrey S. Haymore NOTARY PUBLIC Cobb County State of Georgia My Comm. Expires 07/26/2025 NOTARY SEAL

R. Baxter Russell, Attorney with Dillard Sellers

#### DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Have you, within the two years immediately preceding the filing of this application, made campaign contributions aggregating \$250.00 or more to a member of the Board of Commissioners or a member of the Gwinnett County Planning Commission?

XYES

R. Baxter Russell, Attorney with Dillard Sellers

YOUR NAME

If the answer is yes, please complete the following section:

NAME AND OFFICAL POSITION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL	CONTRIBUTIONS (List all which aggregate to \$250 or More)	DATE CONTRIBUTION WAS MADE (Within last two years)
Comm. Ben Ku	\$400	March 22, 2022
Ku for You Campaign 2022		

Attach additional sheets if necessary to disclose or describe all contributions.

GWINNETT COUNTY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

3/23/2023

Gwinnett County Planning Division Rezoning Application Last Updated 10/2021

#### VERIFICATION OF CURRENT PAID PROPERTY TAXES FOR REZONING

THE UNDERSIGNED BELOW IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THIS APPLICATION. THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT ALL GWINNETT COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES BILLED TO DATE FOR THE PARCEL LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL TO THE TAX COMMISSIONER OF GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA. IN NO CASE SHALL AN APPLICATION OR REAPPLICATION FOR REZONING BE PROCESSED WITHOUT SUCH PROPERTY VERIFICATION.

#### \*<u>Note</u>: A SEPARATE VERIFICATION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH TAX PARCEL INCLUDED IN THE REZONING REQUEST.

PARCEL I.D. NUMBER:	- 5	239 - 0	010	
(Map Reference Number)	District	Land Lot	Parcel	
R. BA nel			3/21/2023	
Signature of Applicant			Date	
R. Baxter Russell w	Dillard Sellos	For New 7.	Rivers Edge 2,	in
Turne or Drivet Manage and Title				

Type or Print Name and Title

\*\*\*PLEASE TAKE THIS FORM TO THE TAX COMMISSIONERS OFFICE AT THE GWINNETT JUSTICE AND ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 75 LANGLEY DRIVE, FOR THEIR APPROVAL BELOW.\*\*\*

#### TAX COMMISSIONERS USE ONLY

(PAYMENT OF ALL PROPERTY TAXES BILLED TO DATE FOR THE ABOVE REFERENCED PARCEL HAVE BEEN VERIFIED AS PAID CURRENT AND CONFIRMED BY THE SIGNATURE BELOW)

Just Justifie	TSA
NAME	TITLE
323/23	
DÁTE	

3
GWINNETT COUNTY
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

3/23/2023

#### VERIFICATION OF CURRENT PAID PROPERTY TAXES FOR REZONING

THE UNDERSIGNED BELOW IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THIS APPLICATION. THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT ALL GWINNETT COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES BILLED TO DATE FOR THE PARCEL LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN PAID IN FULL TO THE TAX COMMISSIONER OF GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA. IN NO CASE SHALL AN APPLICATION OR REAPPLICATION FOR REZONING BE PROCESSED WITHOUT SUCH PROPERTY VERIFICATION.

\*<u>Note</u>: A SEPARATE VERIFICATION FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH TAX PARCEL INCLUDED IN THE REZONING REQUEST.

PARCEL I.D. NUMBER:	- 5239 - 019					
(Map Reference Number)	District	Land Lot	Parcel			
1			12			
R. R.K.	nel		03/21/2023			
Signature of Applicant			Date			
R. Baxter Rissell	w/ Pillal Serle	is For New	Rivers Elic 2	UC		

Type or Print Name and Title

\*\*\*PLEASE TAKE THIS FORM TO THE TAX COMMISSIONERS OFFICE AT THE GWINNETT JUSTICE AND ADMINISTRATION CENTER, 75 LANGLEY DRIVE, FOR THEIR APPROVAL BELOW.\*\*\*

#### TAX COMMISSIONERS USE ONLY

(PAYMENT OF ALL PROPERTY TAXES BILLED TO DATE FOR THE ABOVE REFERENCED PARCEL HAVE BEEN VERIFIED AS PAID CURRENT AND CONFIRMED BY THE SIGNATURE BELOW)

In SMSDuffie	TSA
NAME	TITLE
3/23/23	
DATE	

### Exhibit F: Internal and External Agency Review Comments

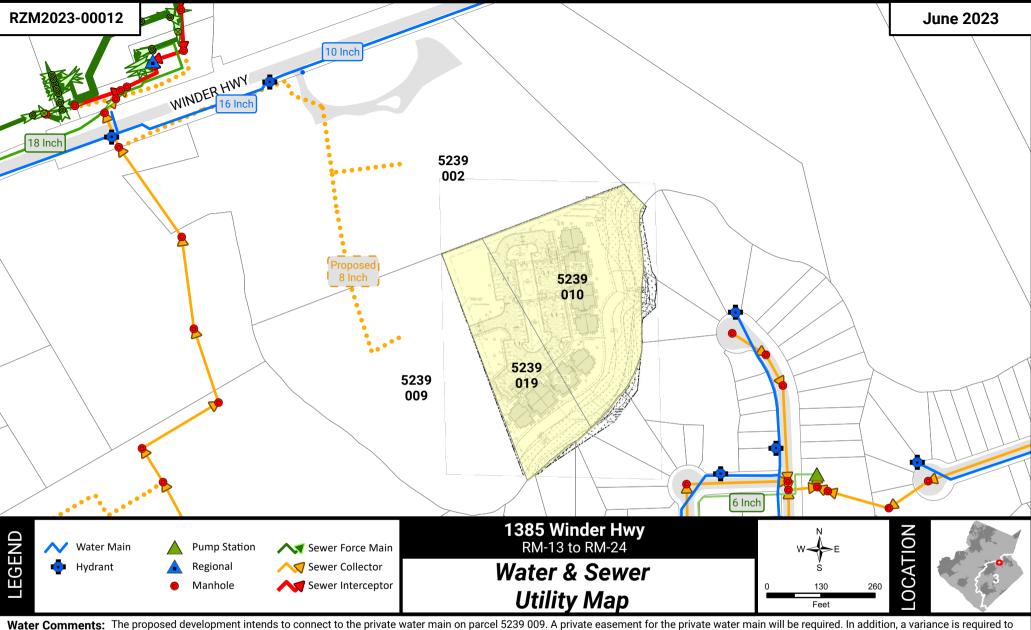
[attached]



TRC	Meeting Date:	05.03.2023
Department/Agency Name: Transportatior		Transportation
Reviewer Name: Brent Hodges		Brent Hodges
Revie	ewer Title:	Construction Manager 1
Revie	ewer Email Address:	Brent.Hodges@gwinnettcounty.com
Case	Number:	RZM2023-00012
Case	Address:	1385 Winder Highway
	Comments:	X YES NO
1	Winder Highway is a major arterial. A	DT = 9,820.
2	3.6 miles to the nearest transit facility Square Plaza.	y (#2334968) Grayson Highway and Lawrenceville
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
	Recommended Zoning Conditions:	YES X NO
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		



	Meeting Date:					
Depa	rtment/Agency Name:	DWR				
Revie	wer Name:	Mike Pappas				
Revie	Reviewer Title: GIS Planning Manager					
Revie	iewer Email Address: <u>Michael.pappas@gwinnettcounty.com</u>					
Case	Number:	RZM2023-00012				
Case	Address:	1385 Winder Hwy				
	Comments:	X YES NO				
1	private easement for the private water main v	o connect to the private water main on parcel 5239 009. A will be required. In addition, a variance is required to connect nection to the existing public 16-inch water main along the				
2	public sewer was conditionally approved for t	2-025-02) has expired for this development. Connection to the 72 apartment units contingent upon the installation of a infrastructure connecting to the 8-inch proposed sewer on required for the private force main.				
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
	Recommended Zoning Conditions:	YES X NO				
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						



Water Comments: The proposed development intends to connect to the private water main on parcel 5239 009. A private easement for the private water main will be required. In addition, a variance is required to connect to a private water system in lieu of direct connection to the existing public 16-inch water main along the southern right-of-way of Winder Hwy.

Sewer Comments: A Sewer Capacity Certification (C2022-025-02) has expired for this development. Connection to public sewer was conditionally approved for the 72 apartment units contingent upon the installation of a private pump station and associated private infrastructure connecting to the 8-inch proposed sewer from Phase 1 (RZM2021-00026) of the development on parcel 5239 009. A private easement for the private force main will be required.

Water Availability: Water demands imposed by the proposed development may require upsizing or extensions of existing water mains in order to meet Gwinnett County Standards and fire flow demands. Any cost associated with such required improvements will be the responsibility of the development. Current Gwinnett County Standards require a minimum of 12" and 8" mains are required for commercial developments and a minimum of 8" pipe size for commercial development. Additionally, connection to a minimum of 12" and 8" mains are required for commercial and residential development. Additionally, connection to a minimum of 12" and 8" mains are required for commercial development.

Sever Availability: A Sever Capacity Certification must be obtained from Gwinnett County to confirm the existing system can serve the development. Sever demands imposed by the proposed development may require upsizing and/or extensions of existing sever mains, and/or upsizing of an existing pump station, and/or installation of a new pump station. Any cost associated with such required improvements will be the responsibility of the development. The development. The development for future sever connection to all locations designated by Gwinnett County during plan review.

Water and Sewer Design and Sever Design and Construction Requirements: Extensions of the water and/or sanitary sewer systems within the subject development must conform to this department's policies, Gwinnett County's ordinances, and the Water Main and Samiary Sewer Design and Construction Standards and Specifications, dated April 5th, 2016. Subsequent to design, construction, inspection, and final acceptance of the required utilities, service would then become available under the applicable utility permit rate schedules. Private Road Developments: Any developments with private roads must comply with the Standard Policy Requirement for the Installation of Water and Sanitary Sewer Mains within Private Developments. This policy stipulates minimum easement requirements and location of public mains and appurtenances, among other requirements.

Residential Rezoning Impact on Local Schools Prepared for Gwinnett County BOC, June, 2023											
									Proposed Zoning		
			2023-24 2024-25 2025-26 A						Approximate Student Projections		
	School	Forecast	Capacity	+/- Cap.	Forecast	Capacity	+/- Cap.	Forecast	Capacity	+/- Cap.	from Proposed Developments
	Peachtree Ridge HS	3,319	3,050	269	3,263	3,050	213	3,246	3,050	196	0
CIC2023-00012	Hull MS	1,320	1,750	-430	1,353	1,750	-397	1,399	1,750	-351	0
(now a senior development)	Mason ES	955	1,150	-195	960	1,150	-190	991	1,150	-159	0
	Seckinger HS	2,004	2,800	-796	2,226	2,800	-574	2,330	2,800	-470	5
RZR2023-00012	Jones MS	1,699	1,575	124	1,767	1,575	192	1,870	1,575	295	4
	Patrick ES	923	1,025	-102	960	1,025	-65	989	1,025	-36	8
RZC2022-00045											(Both Phases Combined below)
(Same property, Both											
cases combined)	Seckinger HS	2,004	2,800	-796	2,226	2,800	-574	2,330	2,800	-470	46
RZM2022-00047	Jones MS	1,699	1,575	124	1,767	1,575	192	1,870	1,575	295	34
	Ivy Creek ES	1,649	1,275	374	1,739	1,275	464	1,795	1,275	520	60
	Dacula HS	2,550	2,550	0	2,641	2,550	91	2,755	2,550	205	17
RZM2023-00012	Dacula MS	1,892	1,900	-8	1,959	1,900	59	2,042	1,900	142	14
	Alcova ES	1,478	1,150	328	1,545	1,150	395	1,612	1,150	462	26
	Peachtree Ridge HS	3,319	3,050	269	3,263	3,050	213	3,246	3,050	196	4
RZM2023-00005	Northbrook MS	918	1,025	-107	948	1,025	-77	979	1,025	-46	4
	Jackson ES	1,504	1,475	29	1,483	1,475	8	1,487	1,475	12	7

Exhibit G: Maps

[attached]



