

# MIAMI BEACH

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

### Staff Report & Recommendation

### Historic Preservation Board

TO: Chairperson and Members  
Historic Preservation Board

DATE: November 10, 2020

FROM: Thomas R. Mooney, AICP  
Planning Director

SUBJECT: HPB20-0433, **700 Lincoln Road.**

An application has been filed requesting a variance from the required interior distance from the storefront to install a television displaying images in a commercial retail store.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Denial of the variance.

#### **EXISTING STRUCTURE**

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Local Historic District: | Flamingo Park   |
| Classification:          | Contributing    |
| Construction Date:       | 1937            |
| Architect:               | L. Murray Dixon |

#### **ZONING / SITE DATA**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Legal Description: | Lots 1 & 2, Block 50, of the Alton Beach Realty Company Commercial Subdivision, Second Addition, according to the Plat Thereof, as Recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 33, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida. |
|--------------------|---|

|                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Zoning:                      | CD-3, Commercial, high intensity |
| Future Land Use Designation: | CD-3, Commercial, high intensity |

#### **THE PROJECT**

The applicant has submitted plans entitled "Variance Request", prepared by Amazon, dated September 4, 2020.

The applicant is requesting the following variance:

1. A variance to reduce by 8'-10" the required 10'-0" separation from a storefront in order to install a television display with 10.3 sf (2'-7 x 4'-0") at 1'-2" from the storefront facing Lincoln Road.
  - Variance requested from:

**Sec. 138-5. General advertising, prohibited signs and sign devices.**

*(m) Televisions or similar devices, displaying images of any kind are not permitted to be located within the first ten feet of a storefront.*

The renovation of this commercial space has been reviewed and approved previously by the Board (HPB20-0417). The applicant is proposing to locate a television monitor less than the code required 10'-0" from the storefront. Staff finds that the variance request is not consistent with several aspects of the practical difficulties and hardship criteria of section 118-353(d) of the City Code. In this regard there are no special conditions and circumstances peculiar to the land or structure that would not be applicable to other similar properties. In fact, in this case, the corner location provides more visibility to the building and exposure to potential customers compared to non-corner properties along Lincoln Road.

There is already two (2) signs proposed for the retail store - one at the corner and one along the Euclid Avenue side street. This corner condition provides higher exposure when compared to most of the commercial stores along Lincoln Road. Multiple signs are allowed fronting Lincoln Road, and compliance with the Code does not negatively affect the reasonable marketing and exposure of the retail establishment. The variance request and the proposed location of a television display, instead of one of the multiple types of signs allowed, is the applicant's choice, and not associated with a special condition. The location of code allowed signs would not negatively impact the existing structure or the surrounding historic district.

The granting of the variance would also confer a special benefit to the applicant since the site has more exposure than other properties that comply with the Code. The requirements of the ordinance do not deprive the applicant of having a television display at the code required 10'-0" setback from the storefront, including both street fronts. This same requirement applies to all other properties in the same area.

The size and length of the building with a lot line on Euclid Avenue and on Lincoln Road allow signage area significantly larger than most of other surrounding properties. The variance, if granted, is not the minimum variance that will make a reasonable use of the land, building or structure. Multiple signs including a wall sign, building identification sign, window sign, and awning signs are all allowed on both frontages of the building, which provides a more than reasonable exposure for the commercial space.

The granting of the variance would not be injurious to the public but may set a negative precedent for other commercial properties along Lincoln Road and negatively impact the character of the Historic District in the area. As such, staff recommends that the variance request be denied.

**PRACTICAL DIFFICULTY AND HARDSHIP CRITERIA**

The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that DO NOT satisfy Article 1, Section 2 of the Related Special Acts, allowing the granting of a variance if the Board finds that practical difficulties exist with respect to implementing the proposed project at the subject property.

The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that also DO NOT indicate the following, as they relate to the requirements of Section 118-353(d), Miami Beach City Code:

- That special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land, structure, or building involved and which are not applicable to other lands, structures, or buildings in the same zoning district;

- That the special conditions and circumstances do not result from the action of the applicant;
- That granting the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied by this Ordinance to other lands, buildings, or structures in the same zoning district;
- That literal interpretation of the provisions of this Ordinance would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same zoning district under the terms of this Ordinance and would work unnecessary and undue hardship on the applicant;
- That the variance granted is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure;
- That the granting of the variance will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of this Ordinance and that such variance will not be injurious to the area involved or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare; and
- That the granting of this request is consistent with the comprehensive plan and does not reduce the levels of service as set forth in the plan.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING CODE**

The application appears consistent with the requirements of the City Code with the exception of the variances requested herein; this shall not be considered final zoning review or approval.

These and all zoning matters shall require final review and verification by the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

#### **CONSISTENCY WITH 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

A preliminary review of the project indicates that the existing **commercial** use is **consistent** with the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **COMPLIANCE WITH SEA LEVEL RISE AND RESILIENCY REVIEW CRITERIA**

Section 133-50(a) of the Land Development establishes review criteria for sea level rise and resiliency that must be considered as part of the review process for board orders. The following is an analysis of the request based upon these criteria:

- (1) A recycling or salvage plan for partial or total demolition shall be provided.  
**Not Applicable**
- (2) Windows that are proposed to be replaced shall be hurricane proof impact windows.  
**Not Applicable**
- (3) Where feasible and appropriate, passive cooling systems, such as operable windows, shall be provided.  
**Not Satisfied**
- (4) Resilient landscaping (salt tolerant, highly water-absorbent, native or Florida friendly plants) shall be provided, in accordance with Chapter 126 of the City Code.

**Not Applicable**

- (5) The project applicant shall consider the adopted sea level rise projections in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Action Plan, as may be revised from time-to-time by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The applicant shall also specifically study the land elevation of the subject property and the elevation of surrounding properties.

**Not Applicable**

- (6) The ground floor, driveways, and garage ramping for new construction shall be adaptable to the raising of public rights-of-ways and adjacent land and shall provide sufficient height and space to ensure that the entry ways and exits can be modified to accommodate a higher street height of up to three (3) additional feet in height.

**Not Applicable**

- (7) In all new projects, all critical mechanical and electrical systems shall be located above base flood elevation. Due to flooding concerns, all redevelopment projects shall, whenever practicable, and economically reasonable, move all critical mechanical and electrical systems to a location above base flood elevation.

**Not Applicable**

- (8) Existing buildings shall be, where reasonably feasible and economically appropriate, elevated up to base flood elevation, plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard.

**Not Applicable**

- (9) When habitable space is located below the base flood elevation plus City of Miami Beach Freeboard, wet or dry flood proofing systems will be provided in accordance with Chapter of 54 of the City Code.

**Not Applicable**

- (10) In all new projects, water retention systems shall be provided.

**Not Applicable**

- (11) Cool pavement materials or porous pavement materials shall be utilized.

**Not Applicable**

- (12) The project design shall minimize the potential for a project causing a heat island effect on site.

**Not Applicable**

**VARIANCE ANALYSIS**

The renovation of this commercial space has been reviewed and approved previously by the Board (HPB20-0417). As part of the new retail operation signs are proposed on both frontages, including a television monitor that is otherwise not considered as part of the allowed signs fronting on Lincoln Road. The Code requires that this type of device be setback 10'-0" from the storefront, in which case it is not treated as signage.

The applicant is proposing a separation of 1'-2" from the storefront and has requested a variance. The sign regulations for the CD-3 district allow multiple signs on both frontages. As the building is in a corner location, the overall sign area allowed is larger than other non-corner properties on Lincoln Road. There are two signs already proposed for the building, which provide substantial

visibility and exposure of the retail space. As noted in the project portion of this report, other types of signs would also be allowed on both frontages including the proposed device at the required 10 foot separation from the storefront glass. As such, staff finds that the variance requires does not satisfy the practical difficulties or hardship criteria for approval. Staff recommends compliance with the required 10'-0" distance separation from the storefront, as this proposal may have a negative impact on the Historic District and would not set a good precedent for the area.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

In view of the foregoing analysis, staff recommends that variance requests be **denied**. However, should the Board find that the variance(s) requested satisfy Article 1, Section 2 of the Related Special Acts, allowing the granting of a variance if the Board finds that practical difficulties exist with respect to implementing the proposed project at the subject property, staff recommends that any approval be subject to the conditions enumerated in the attached Draft Order which address the inconsistencies with the aforementioned Practical Difficulty and Hardship criteria.

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**  
**City of Miami Beach, Florida**

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2020

PROPERTY/FOLIO: 700 Lincoln Road / 02-3234-003-0010

FILE NO: HPB20-0433

IN RE: An application by Seven Hundred Realty Corp. for a variance from the required interior distance from the storefront to install a television displaying images in a commercial retail store.

LEGAL: Lots 1 & 2, Block 50, of the Alton Beach Realty Company Commercial Subdivision, Second Addition, according to the Plat Thereof, as Recorded in Plat Book 6, Page 33, of the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

**ORDER**

The City of Miami Beach Historic Preservation Board makes the following FINDINGS OF FACT, based upon the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing and which are part of the record for this matter:

**I. Certificate of Appropriateness**

A. Certificate of Appropriateness has not been requested as part of this application.

**II. Variance(s)**

A. The applicant filed an application with the Planning Department for the following variance(s), which were either approved by the Board with modifications, or denied:

The following variance was denied by the Board:

1. A variance to reduce by 8'-10" the required 10'-0" separation from a storefront in order to install a television display with 10.3 sf (2'-7 x 4'-0") at 1'-2" from the storefront facing Lincoln Road.

B. The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that DO NOT satisfy Article 1, Section 2 of the Related Special Acts allowing the granting of a variance if the Board finds that practical difficulties exist with respect to implementing the proposed project at the subject property.

The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that DO NOT indicate the following, as they relate to the requirements of Section 118-353(d), Miami Beach City Code:

That special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land, structure, or building involved and which are not applicable to other lands, structures, or buildings in the same zoning district;

That the special conditions and circumstances do not result from the action of the applicant;

That granting the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied by this Ordinance to other lands, buildings, or structures in the same zoning district;

That literal interpretation of the provisions of this Ordinance would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same zoning district under the terms of this Ordinance and would work unnecessary and undue hardship on the applicant;

That the variance granted is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure;

That the granting of the variance will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of this Ordinance and that such variance will not be injurious to the area involved or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare; and

That the granting of this request is consistent with the comprehensive plan and does not reduce the levels of service as set forth in the plan.

The granting of the variance will result in a structure and site that complies with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in chapter 133, article II, as applicable.

- C. The Board hereby **Denies** the requested variance and imposes the following conditions based on its authority in Section 118-354 of the Miami Beach City Code:
1. Substantial modifications to the plans submitted and approved as part of the application, as determined by the Planning Director or designee, may require the applicant to return to the Board for approval of the modified plans, even if the modifications do not affect variances approved by the Board.
  2. The television display shall be installed at 10'-0" from the storefront.

**The decision of the Board regarding variances shall be final and there shall be no further review thereof except by resort to a court of competent jurisdiction by petition for writ of certiorari.**

**III. General Terms and Conditions applying to both 'I. Certificate of Appropriateness' and 'II. Variances' noted above.**

- A. Where one or more parcels are unified for a single development, the property owner shall execute and record a unity of title or a covenant in lieu of unity of title, as may be applicable, in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.

- B. A copy of all pages of the recorded Final Order shall be scanned into the plans submitted for building permit and shall be located immediately after the front cover page of the permit plans.
- C. The Final Order shall be recorded in the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- D. Satisfaction of all conditions is required for the Planning Department to give its approval on a Certificate of Occupancy; a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or Partial Certificate of Occupancy may also be conditionally granted Planning Departmental approval.
- E. The Final Order is not severable, and if any provision or condition hereof is held void or unconstitutional in a final decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, the order shall be returned to the Board for reconsideration as to whether the order meets the criteria for approval absent the stricken provision or condition, and/or it is appropriate to modify the remaining conditions or impose new conditions.
- F. The conditions of approval herein are binding on the applicant, the property's owners, operators, and all successors in interest and assigns.
- G. Nothing in this order authorizes a violation of the City Code or other applicable law, nor allows a relaxation of any requirement or standard set forth in the City Code.
- H. Upon the issuance of a final Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion, as applicable, the project approved herein shall be maintained in accordance with the plans approved by the board and shall be subject to all conditions of approval herein, unless otherwise modified by the Board. Failure to maintain shall result in the issuance of a Code Compliance citation, and continued failure to comply may result in revocation of the Certificate of Occupancy, Completion and Business Tax Receipt.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing, which are part of the record for this matter, and the staff report and analysis, which are adopted herein, including the staff recommendations, which were amended and adopted by the Board, that the application is **DENIED** for the above-referenced project subject to those certain conditions specified in Paragraph I, II, III of the Findings of Fact, to which the applicant has agreed.

PROVIDED, the applicant shall build substantially in accordance with the plans entitled "**Variance Request**", as prepared by Amazon, dated September 4, 2020, as approved by the Historic Preservation Board, as determined by staff.

When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order. No building permit may be issued unless and until all conditions of approval that must be satisfied prior to permit issuance, as set forth in this Order, have been met.

The issuance of the approval does not relieve the applicant from obtaining all other required Municipal, County and/or State reviews and permits, including final zoning approval. If adequate

handicapped access is not provided on the Board-approved plans, this approval does not mean that such handicapped access is not required. When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order.

If the Full Building Permit for the project is not issued within eighteen (18) months of the meeting date at which the original approval was granted, the application will expire and become null and void, unless the applicant makes an application to the Board for an extension of time, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Chapter 118 of the City Code; the granting of any such extension of time shall be at the discretion of the Board. If the Full Building Permit for the project should expire for any reason (including but not limited to construction not commencing and continuing, with required inspections, in accordance with the applicable Building Code), the application will expire and become null and void.

In accordance with Chapter 118 of the City Code, the violation of any conditions and safeguards that are a part of this Order shall be deemed a violation of the land development regulations of the City Code. Failure to comply with this **Order** shall subject the application to Chapter 118 of the City Code, for revocation or modification of the application.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD  
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBORAH TACKETT  
CHIEF OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
FOR THE CHAIR

STATE OF FLORIDA            )  
  )SS  
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE    )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ by Deborah Tackett, Chief of Historic Preservation, Planning Department, City of Miami Beach, Florida, a Florida Municipal Corporation, on behalf of the corporation. She is personally known to me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
Miami-Dade County, Florida  
My commission expires:\_\_\_\_\_

Page 5 of 5  
HPB20-0433  
Meeting Date: November 10, 2020

Approved As To Form:  
City Attorney's Office: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Filed with the Clerk of the Historic Preservation Board on \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

DRAFT

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD**  
**City of Miami Beach, Florida**

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2020

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**ORDER**

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**II. Variance(s)**

A. The applicant filed an application with the Planning Department for the following variance(s), which were either approved by the Board with modifications, or denied:

The following variance was approved by the Board:

1. A variance to reduce by 8'-10" the required 10'-0" separation from a storefront in order to install a television display with 10.3 sf (2'-7 x 4'-0") at 1'-2" from the storefront facing Lincoln Road.

B. The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that satisfy Article 1, Section 2 of the Related Special Acts allowing the granting of a variance if the Board finds that practical difficulties exist with respect to implementing the proposed project at the subject property.

The applicant has submitted plans and documents with the application that indicate the following, as they relate to the requirements of Section 118-353(d), Miami Beach City Code:

That special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land, structure, or building involved and which are not applicable to other lands, structures, or buildings in the same zoning district;

That the special conditions and circumstances do not result from the action of the applicant;

That granting the variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied by this Ordinance to other lands, buildings, or structures in the same zoning district;

That literal interpretation of the provisions of this Ordinance would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same zoning district under the terms of this Ordinance and would work unnecessary and undue hardship on the applicant;

That the variance granted is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building or structure;

That the granting of the variance will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of this Ordinance and that such variance will not be injurious to the area involved or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare; and

That the granting of this request is consistent with the comprehensive plan and does not reduce the levels of service as set forth in the plan.

The granting of the variance will result in a structure and site that complies with the sea level rise and resiliency review criteria in chapter 133, article II, as applicable.

- C. The Board hereby **Approves** the requested variance and imposes the following conditions based on its authority in Section 118-354 of the Miami Beach City Code:
1. Substantial modifications to the plans submitted and approved as part of the application, as determined by the Planning Director or designee, may require the applicant to return to the Board for approval of the modified plans, even if the modifications do not affect variances approved by the Board.

**The decision of the Board regarding variances shall be final and there shall be no further review thereof except by resort to a court of competent jurisdiction by petition for writ of certiorari.**

**III. General Terms and Conditions applying to both 'I. Certificate of Appropriateness' and 'II. Variances' noted above.**

- A. Where one or more parcels are unified for a single development, the property owner shall execute and record a unity of title or a covenant in lieu of unity of title, as may be applicable, in a form acceptable to the City Attorney.
- B. A copy of all pages of the recorded Final Order shall be scanned into the plans submitted for building permit and shall be located immediately after the front cover page of the permit plans.

- C. The Final Order shall be recorded in the Public Records of Miami-Dade County, prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
- D. Satisfaction of all conditions is required for the Planning Department to give its approval on a Certificate of Occupancy; a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy or Partial Certificate of Occupancy may also be conditionally granted Planning Departmental approval.
- E. The Final Order is not severable, and if any provision or condition hereof is held void or unconstitutional in a final decision by a court of competent jurisdiction, the order shall be returned to the Board for reconsideration as to whether the order meets the criteria for approval absent the stricken provision or condition, and/or it is appropriate to modify the remaining conditions or impose new conditions.
- F. The conditions of approval herein are binding on the applicant, the property's owners, operators, and all successors in interest and assigns.
- G. Nothing in this order authorizes a violation of the City Code or other applicable law, nor allows a relaxation of any requirement or standard set forth in the City Code.
- H. Upon the issuance of a final Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion, as applicable, the project approved herein shall be maintained in accordance with the plans approved by the board and shall be subject to all conditions of approval herein, unless otherwise modified by the Board. Failure to maintain shall result in the issuance of a Code Compliance citation, and continued failure to comply may result in revocation of the Certificate of Occupancy, Completion and Business Tax Receipt.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the evidence, information, testimony and materials presented at the public hearing, which are part of the record for this matter, and the staff report and analysis, which are adopted herein, including the staff recommendations, which were amended and adopted by the Board, that the application is **GRANTED** for the above-referenced project subject to those certain conditions specified in Paragraph I, II, III of the Findings of Fact, to which the applicant has agreed.

PROVIDED, the applicant shall build substantially in accordance with the plans entitled "**Variance Request**", as prepared by Amazon, dated September 4, 2020, as approved by the Historic Preservation Board, as determined by staff.

When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order. No building permit may be issued unless and until all conditions of approval that must be satisfied prior to permit issuance, as set forth in this Order, have been met.

The issuance of the approval does not relieve the applicant from obtaining all other required Municipal, County and/or State reviews and permits, including final zoning approval. If adequate handicapped access is not provided on the Board-approved plans, this approval does not mean that such handicapped access is not required. When requesting a building permit, the plans submitted to the Building Department for permit shall be consistent with the plans approved by the Board, modified in accordance with the conditions set forth in this Order.

If the Full Building Permit for the project is not issued within eighteen (18) months of the meeting date at which the original approval was granted, the application will expire and become null and void, unless the applicant makes an application to the Board for an extension of time, in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Chapter 118 of the City Code; the granting of any such extension of time shall be at the discretion of the Board. If the Full Building Permit for the project should expire for any reason (including but not limited to construction not commencing and continuing, with required inspections, in accordance with the applicable Building Code), the application will expire and become null and void.

In accordance with Chapter 118 of the City Code, the violation of any conditions and safeguards that are a part of this Order shall be deemed a violation of the land development regulations of the City Code. Failure to comply with this **Order** shall subject the application to Chapter 118 of the City Code, for revocation or modification of the application.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD  
THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEBORAH TACKETT  
CHIEF OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
FOR THE CHAIR

STATE OF FLORIDA            )  
  )SS  
COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE    )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ by Deborah Tackett, Chief of Historic Preservation, Planning Department, City of Miami Beach, Florida, a Florida Municipal Corporation, on behalf of the corporation. She is personally known to me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
Miami-Dade County, Florida  
My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved As To Form:  
City Attorney's Office: \_\_\_\_\_ (            ) )

Filed with the Clerk of the Historic Preservation Board on \_\_\_\_\_ (            ) )