ZONING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

FILE NAME: 597-605 Front RezoningFILE #: 23-077-798APPLICANT: Pillai Builders LLCHEARING DATE: September 21, 2023TYPE OF APPLICATION: RezoningLOCATION: 597-605 Front Avenue, between Dale Street and Kent StreetPIN & LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 25-29-23-23-0086, -0087, & -0088; Lots 44-47, Block 14, Como
Prospect AdditionEXISTING ZONING: B3PLANNING DISTRICT: 6EXISTING ZONING: B3ZONING CODE REFERENCE: § 61.801(b), § 66.313BY: Marilyn RosendahlDATE RECEIVED: August 28, 202360-DAY DEADLINE FOR ACTION: October, 26, 2023

- A. **PURPOSE:** Rezone from B3 general business to T2 traditional neighborhood
- B. PARCEL SIZE: 0.35 +/- acres or 15,245 square feet
- C. EXISTING LAND USE: vacant lots

D. SURROUNDING LAND USE:

North: medium-density residential (RM2)

East: medium-density residential (RM2)

South: general business (B3)

West: general business (B3)

E. **ZONING CODE CITATION:** § 61.801(b) provides for changes to the zoning of property initiated by the property owner. § 66.313 provides the intent and purpose of the T2 traditional neighborhood district.

F. HISTORY/DISCUSSION:

The subject property was zoned B3 as part of a citywide rezoning in 1975. Prior to that, the property was zoned "Light Industry District" under the previous zoning code (1922-1975). The Light Industry District allowed all commercial & residential uses.

Residents and businesses in the vicinity of the Dale-Como-Front neighborhood node were served by the Como-Harriet Street Car Route #1 connecting downtown St. Paul, state capital, Como Park, State Fair Grounds, University of Minnesota, downtown Minneapolis, Uptown, and southwest Minneapolis. At the of Como-Front-Dale intersection, streetcars running NW on Como from downtown Saint Paul would turn west on Front Avenue. This location influenced the viability of business creation given the consistency in traffic (potential business patrons) coming from multiple directions. Today Metro Transit Route 3 continues to connect residents and patrons to and from this neighborhood node to downtown Saint Paul, Como Park and State Fair grounds area, both U of MN campuses, and downtown Minneapolis. Metro Transit Route 65 also connects residents and patrons north and south within Saint Paul along Dale Street to shopping and employment centers in Roseville at Rosedale or south to the Summit Hill area.

In addition to residential and commercial uses, the Dale-Como-Front node includes Niem Phat Buddhist Templeand associated off-street parking.

The overlap of northwest by southeast Como Avenue right-of-way on a 90-degree grid pattern intersected right-of-way for Dale Street and Front Avenues, resulting in the challenges and opportunities of a complex intersection. Concrete curbs, sidewalks and a seating area are provided at a transit stop at a BP Gas station. Other businesses fronting along Dale within the neighborhood node, include a furniture repair shop, a pizza café, and other restauranteurs.

Historically a restaurant and bar establishments called Jeraldine's and later, Schroeder's Bar & Grill, occupied a structure on the western most part of the subject site, addressed as 605 Front from the late1990s to sometime around 2012. These establishments held on-sale liquor licenses, restaurant licenses, and gambling licenses. Schroeder's was closed about ten years ago, with the building razed in 2015.

Pillai Builders purchased the three adjoining vacant lots within the B3 general business district with the intent to develop the property for residential use. The current development concept includes 5 row homes. A rezoning from B3 to T2 zoning would allow for a density of 8 attached residential units given the size of the total development area and ½ the adjoining 16-foot wide alley.

The applicants concur with Staff that the retention of non-residential development rights makes sense for this land area for the long-term within this historic neighborhood node. RM2 would work to accommodate the residential development proposal but is not consistent with our policy on neighborhood nodes (i.e. 602 Lawson Avenue rezoning example transitioning between this same B3 and RM2 districts to the north).

G. **DISTRICT COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:** District Council 6, the North End Neighborhood Organization (NENO), met with the applicant to discuss their intent to request a rezoning to accommodate a proposal for 5 row homes at NENO's regular Land Use and Housing Committee meeting on August 22, 2023.

H. FINDINGS:

- 1. The request is to rezone the subject property from B3 general business to T2 traditional neighborhood.
- 2. The proposed zoning is consistent with the way this area has developed. Current land uses in vicinity of the subject site include a mixture of residential densities and housing types, childcare, educational institutions, and retail and personal services. The proposal to retain development rights for non-residential uses permitted in T2 traditional neighborhood is consistent with historical land use and zoning, as well as how the area has developed over time at this complex intersection. Long term flexibility is provided with the proposed zoning, by allowing for residential infill now that is compatible with surrounding uses but provides for the option to allow for business creation and complimentary uses over time as market conditions change.
- 3. The proposed zoning is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The Future Land Use Plan designates this land area for mixed-use and is a designated Neighborhood Node. Mixed-use areas are primarily along thoroughfares well-served by transit, as is the case for the subject property. The goal is to provide a balance of jobs and housing within walking distance of each other.

The Land Use chapter focuses economic and population growth around transit and Neighborhood Nodes that supports daily needs within walking distance. The Dale-Como-

Front intersection is a designated neighborhood node, presently providing certain food services, fuel services, child daycare, and other essential services as described in the discussion. The T2 traditional neighborhood district is designed for use in existing or potential pedestrian and transit nodes. The flexibility of uses can support compact, pedestrian-oriented commercial and residential development that can benefit from and support transit while allowing for a variety of housing types. The district acknowledges that careful treatment of parking and transitions to adjoining residential districts is important.

Efficient, adaptable and sustainable land use and development patterns and processes are also outlined as goals in the Land Use chapter. Policy LU-6 calls for the City to foster equitable and sustainable economic growth by directing new development to neighborhood nodes. Additional policies guiding the decision include land use and zoning flexibility to respond to social, economic, technological, market and environmental changes, conditions and opportunities as provided in Policy LU-7.

The North End District 6 Plan, addendum to the Comprehensive Plan, provides a vision for residents to have a diverse range of housing options over their lifetime and improved access to services and to parks, schools, jobs, and institutions they value. The site is approximately 350 feet from Crossroads Montessori School at Kent Street - walking distance for children living in homes on this land. Love in Action, LLC, is a daycare presently operating immediately south of the site across Front Avenue, which is supportive to residential use of the subject site.

District 6 Policy LU-4 within calls for mixed use residential development on sections of Rice Street, portions of Dale, and Como Avenue. The Como-Front-Dale design guidelines, previously an addendum to the District Plan, were de-commissioned or considered obsolete and not having any bearing on this case.

4. The proposed zoning is compatible with the surrounding uses. The site is served by an alley on the north which allows for access to off-street parking without disrupting the flow of traffic on Front Street or anticipated impacts to the function of the intersection. The applicant also owns and is constructing additional housing at 600-604 Hatch Avenue just across the alley from the subject site to the north.

Residential uses to the east are also compatible with the proposed zoning. Sections of Front Avenue in the vicinity have historically developed with residential structures on both the north and south side in addition to commercial, retail, civic, and institutional uses.

- 5. Court rulings have determined that "spot zoning" is illegal in Minnesota. The rezoning proposal would not create an island of nonconforming uses and is therefore not "spot zoning".
- I. **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Based on the above findings, staff recommends approval of the request to rezone from B3 general business to T2 traditional neighborhood.

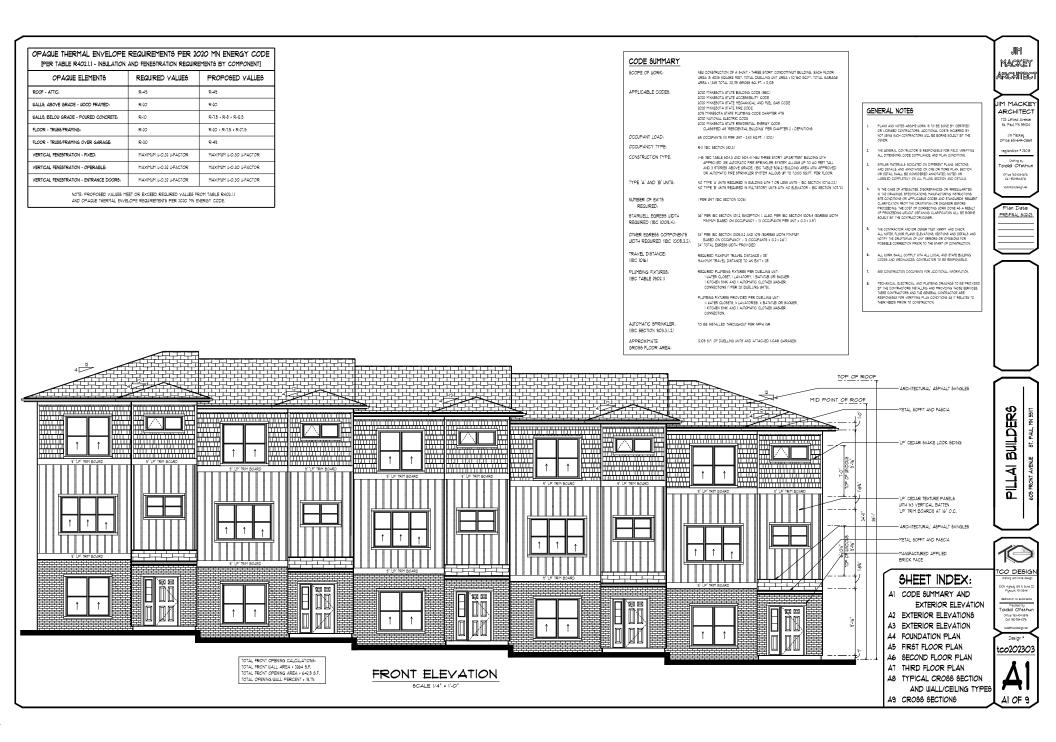
Depar Zoning 1400 Saint	DNING APPLICATION tment of Planning and Economic Development g Section City Hall Annex, 25 West Fourth Street Paul, MN 55102-1634 266-6583	PD=6	Zoning Office Use Only File # Fee Paid \$ Received By / Date Tentative Hearing Date
APPLICANT	Property Owner(s) Pillai Builders UC Address 1769 Lexington Aven, #207 Email Quintus @ Pillai builders.com Contact Person (if different) Address (Attach additional sheet if necessary to include all of the	City <u>Rosevi</u> Phone <u>612-</u> City	<u>876~7607</u> _Email StateZip
PROPERTY INFO	Address/Location <u>599,599</u> 605 PIN(s) & Legal Description <u>1529232300</u> (Attach additional sheet if n Sec attached Ust	87,2529; necessary.)	UL 23230088, 252923230086 Current Zoning 133
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Subscribed ar	d sworn to before me		00

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Date 8128 1 20,23	
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Notary Public	Notary Public State of Minnesota
0 0	My Commission Expires January 31, 2028

By:	22	
	Fee owner of property	
Title:	Owner	

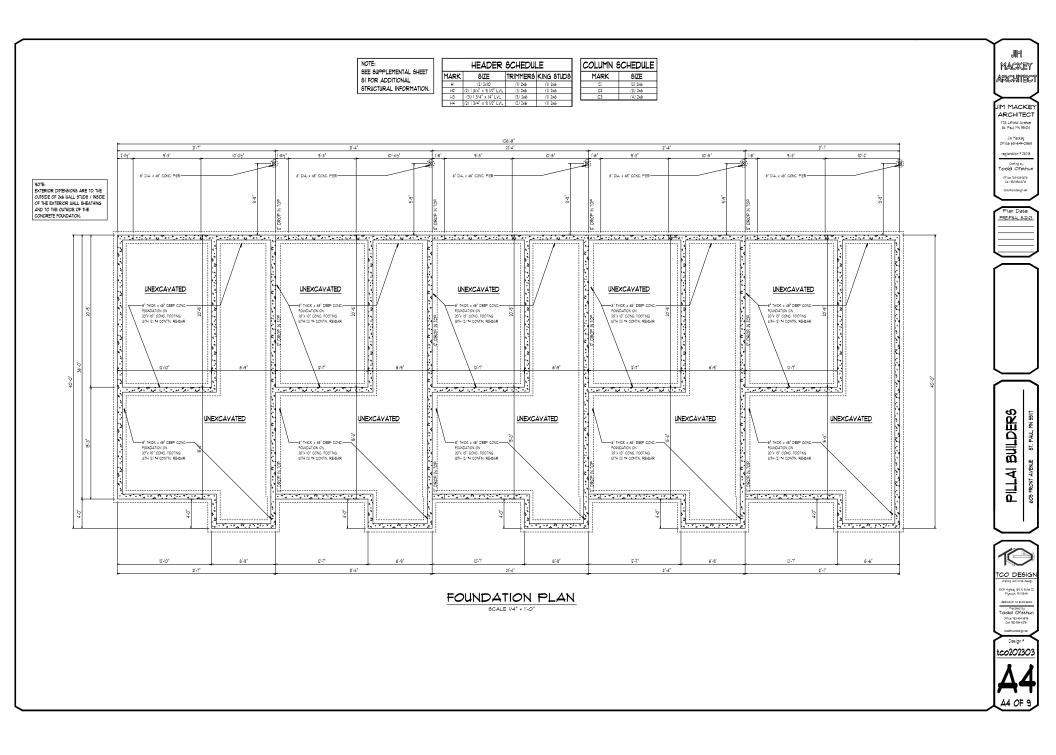
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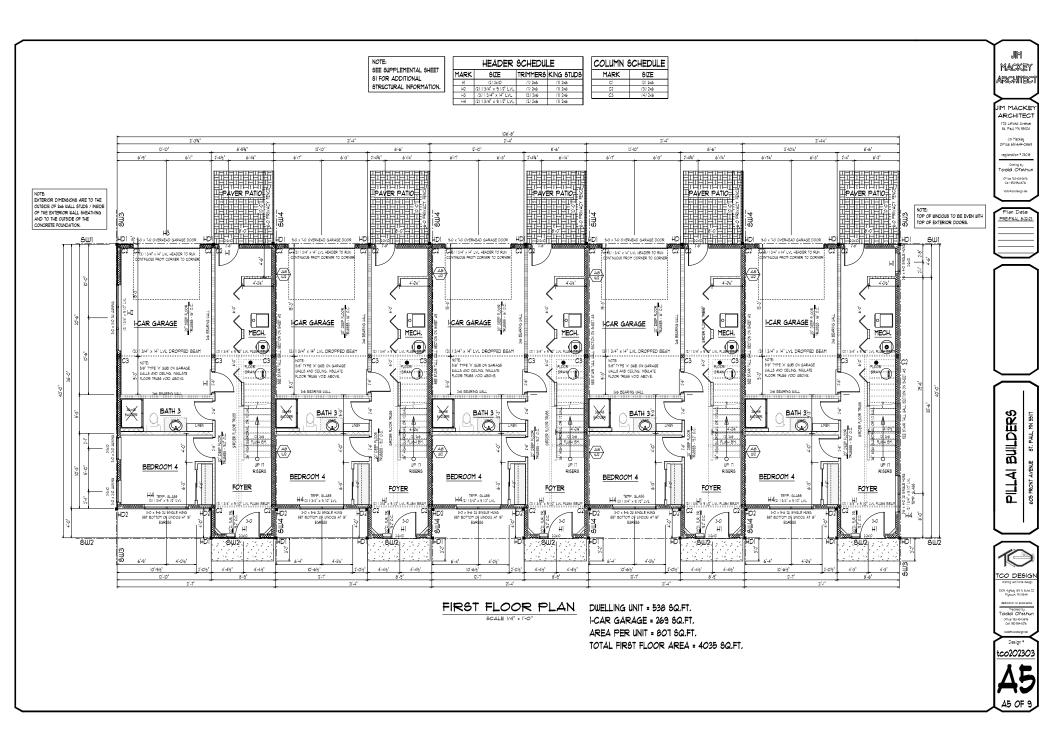
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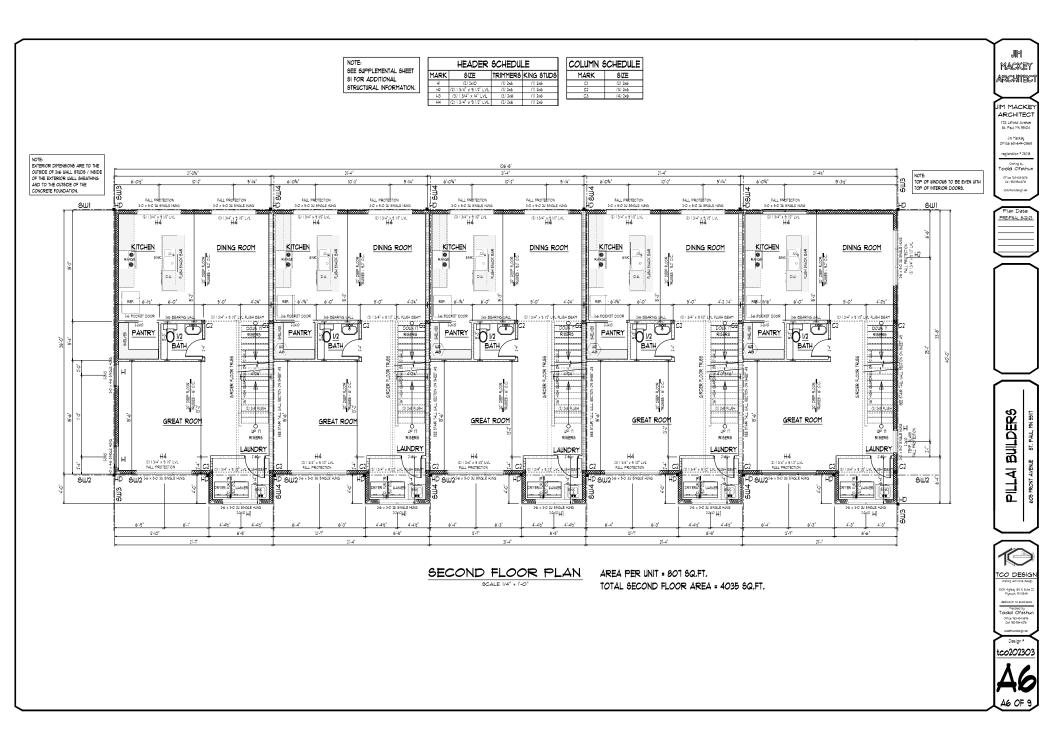


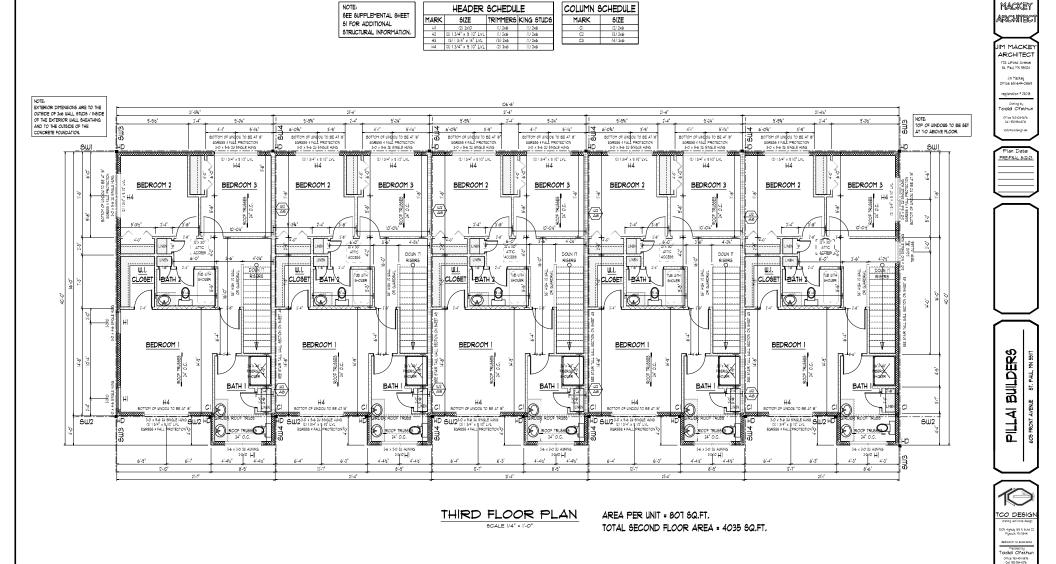




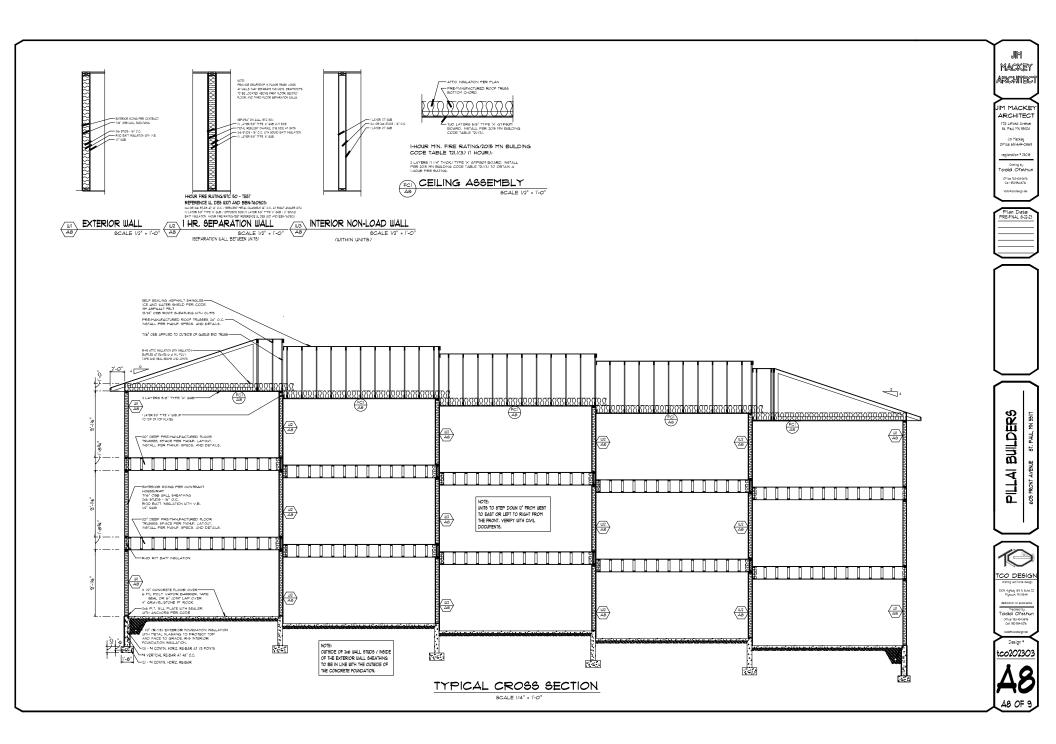


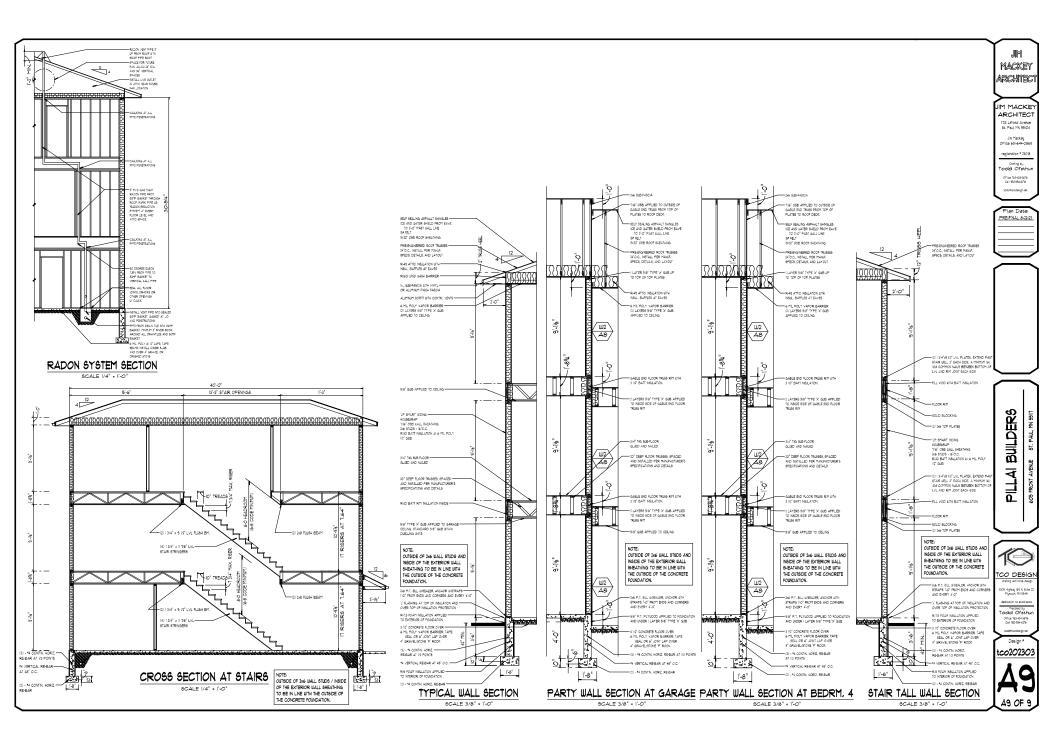




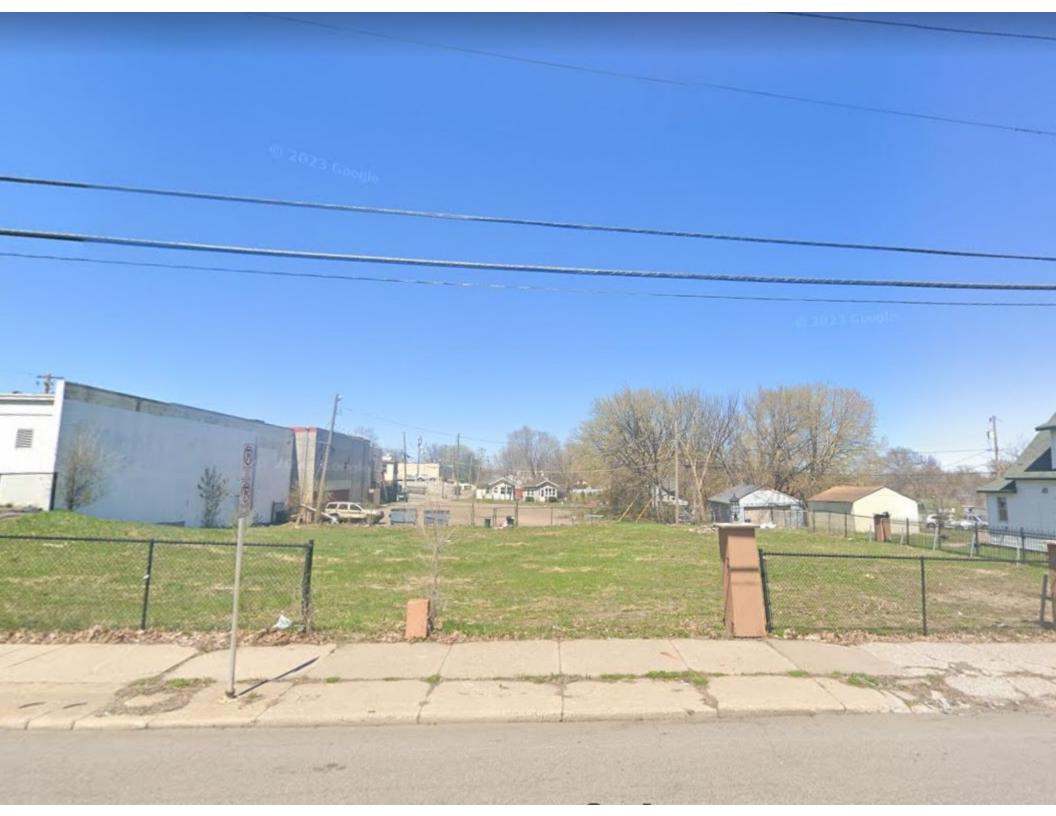


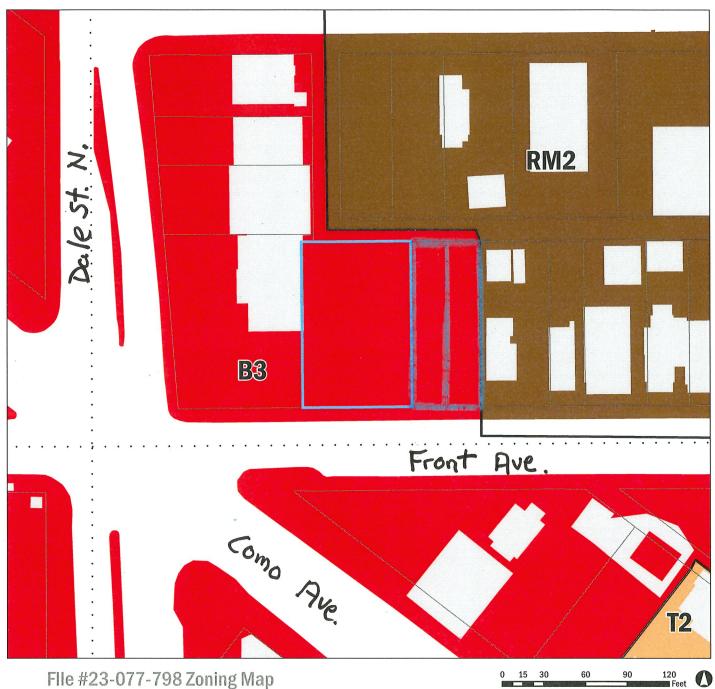
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Flle #23-077-798 Zoning Map **Application of Pillai Builders LLC**

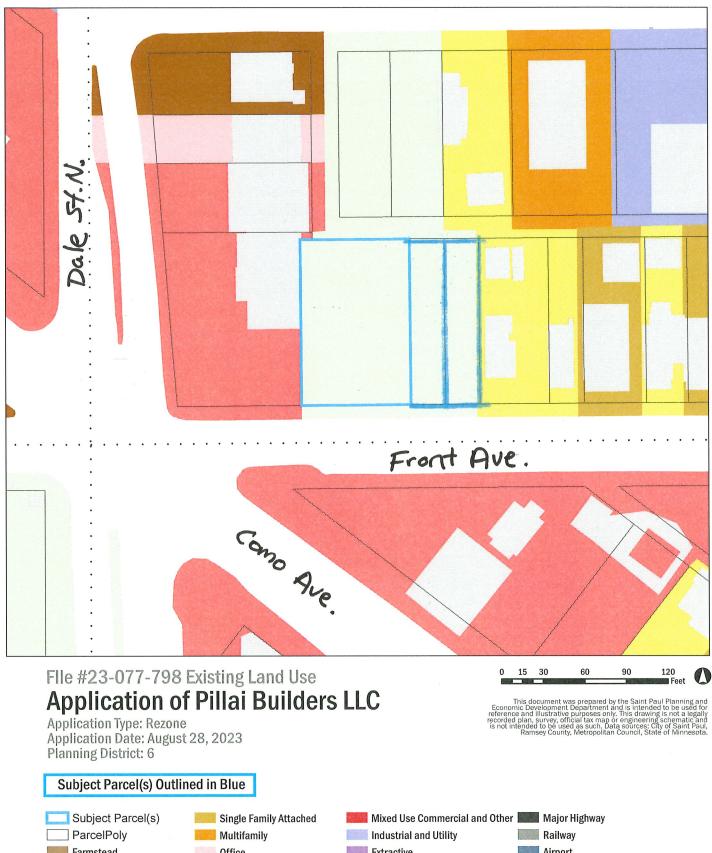
Application Type: Rezone Application Date: August 28, 2023 **Planning District: 6**

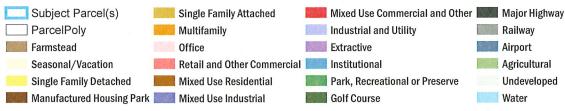
Subject Parcel(s) Outlined in Blue



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Flle #23-077-798 Aerial Map Application of Pillai Builders LLC

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