# ZONING COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

**FILE NAME**: 597-605 Front Rezoning **FILE #**: 23-077-798

**APPLICANT**: Pillai Builders LLC **HEARING DATE**: September 21, 2023

TYPE OF APPLICATION: Rezoning

**LOCATION:** 597-605 Front Avenue, between Dale Street and Kent Street

PIN & LEGAL DESCRIPTION: 25-29-23-23-0086, -0087, & -0088; Lots 44-47, Block 14, Como

Prospect Addition

PLANNING DISTRICT: 6 EXISTING ZONING: B3

**ZONING CODE REFERENCE**: § 61.801(b), § 66.313

**STAFF REPORT DATE**: September 7, 2023 **BY**: Marilyn Rosendahl

**DATE RECEIVED:** August 28, 2023 **60-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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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.

# **REZONING APPLICATION**

Department of Planning and Economic Development Zoning Section 1400 City Hall Annex, 25 West Fourth Street Saint Paul, MN 55102-1634

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Zoning Office Use Only
File #
Fee Paid \$
Received By / Date
Tentative Hearing Date

(651)	200-0583	Tentative rearing Date		
APPLICANT	Property Owner(s) Pillai Builders LC  Address 1769 Lexing fon Aven, #207 City ROS  Email Quintus Pillai builders. Com Phone 60  Contact Person (if different)  Address City  (Attach additional sheet if necessary to include all of the owners of an	2-876-7607 EmailStateZip		
PROPERTY INFO	Address/Location 599,599 605 FV on the PIN(s) & Legal Description 252923230087,253 (Attach additional sheet if necessary.)  Sec attached LIST			
TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:  Pursuant to Saint Paul Zoning Code § 61.801 and Minnesota Statues § 462.357, Pillai Builders. LLC  owner(s) of land proposed for rezoning, hereby petition(s) to rezone the above described property from a  zoning district to a T2 zoning district, for the purpose of:				
_	nal sheets if necessary. Attachments as required: $\ \Box$ Site PI	MAC III		
☐ If you are a re	eligious institution you may have certain rights under RLUIPA. Please c	heck this box if you identify as a religious institution.		
Date 813	TAMMY L FRALEY Notary Public State of Minnesota	By: Fee owner of property  Title: Owner		

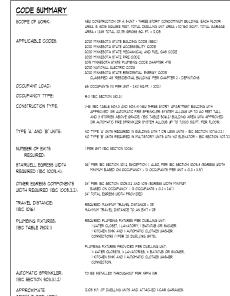
TAMMY L FRALEY
Notary Public
State of Minnesota
My Commission Expires
January 31, 2028

COMO PROSPECT ADDITION LOT 43 BLK 14

COMO PROSPECT ADDITION LOT 44 BLK 14

COMO PROSPECT ADDITION LOTS 45 46 and lot 47 BLK 14

OPAQUE THERMAL ENVELOPE REQUIREMENTS PER 2020 MN ENERGY CODE (PER TABLE R402.1.1 - INSULATION AND FERESTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT)				
OPAQUE ELEMENTS REQUIRED VALUES PROPOSED VALUES				
ROOF - ATTIC:	R-49	R-49		
WALLS, ABOVE GRADE - WOOD FRAMED:	R-20	R-20		
WALLS, BELOW GRADE - POURED CONCRETE:	R-10	R-1.5 + R-5 + R-0.5		
FLOOR - TRUSS/FRAMING:	R-20	R-20 + R-1.5 + R-21.5		
FLOOR - TRUSS/FRAMING OVER GARAGE:	R-30	R-49		
VERTICAL FENESTRATION - FIXED:	MAXIMUM U-0.32 U-FACTOR	MAXIMUM U-0.30 U-FACTOR		
VERTICAL FENESTRATION - OPERABLE:	MAXIMUM U-0.32 U-FACTOR	MAXIMUM U-0.30 U-FACTOR		
VERTICAL FENESTRATION - ENTRANCE DOORS: MAXIMUM U-0.32 U-FACTOR MAXIMUM U-0.30 U-FACTOR				
NOTE, PROPOSED VALUES MEET OR EXCEED REQUIRED VALUES FROM TABLE RADALI AND OPAQUE THERMAL EXVELOPE REQUIREMENTS PER 1020 MN ENERGY CODE.				



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ARCHITECT

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Plan Date PRE-FINAL 8-22-23

### GENERAL NOTES

- PLANS AND NOTES ASSIVE LICRK IS TO BE DONE BY CERTIFIED OR LICENSED CONTRACTORS, ADDITIONAL COSTS NOLIFRED BY YOT ISMN, SUCH CONTRACTORS BILL BE BORNE SOLELY BY THE CHIEF.
- SIMLAR MATERIALS NOICATED ON DIFFERENT PLANS, SECTIONS, AND DETALS, AND ANNOTATED ON ONE OR MORE PLAN, SECTION OR CITAL SHALL BILL COMPLIENT ON MOTO AND DETALLS. LABBLED COMPLIENT ON ALL PLANS, SECTION AND DETALLS.
- IN THE CASE OF AMBIGUTES, DISCREPANCIES OR IRREGULARITES IN THE CASE OF APPIGITIES, DECREPANCIES OR REEDILARITIES IN THE DRAWINGS SHEPICATION, NATURALIZATION, AND RINGLOOM, SITE CONDITIONS OR APPLICABLE CODES AND STANDARDS, REQUISION, CAMPILLATION ROTH THE PRAFFANNIAN OR BIANAIRE SHEPORE PROCEEDING, THE COST OF CORRECTION LICKY, DOWN THE COST OF CORRECTION LICKY DOWN THE CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT ON LICKY PLATFORM U.M. BE SORVE SOLELY BY THE CONTRACT ONLINES.
- THE CONTRACTOR AND/OR QUINE MUST VERFY AND CHECK ALL NOTES RUCK FLANS, BLEVATONS, SECTIONS AND DETAILS AND NOTIFY THE DRAFFSMAN OF ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS FOR POSSIBLE CORRECTION PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION.
- SEE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
- MECHANCAL, ELECTRICAL, AND PLUMENTS DRAILINGS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTIONS INSTILLING AND PROVIDING THOSE SERVICES. THESE CONTRACTIONS AND THE GENERAL CONTRACTION ARE RESPONSIBLE DOWNSTRIPTION ALL COOLITIONS AS IT SELATES TO THER NEEDS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.



FRONT ELEVATION

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

TOTAL OPENING/WALL PERCENT = 19.7%

**BUILDERS** ST. PAUL, MN 55111 ₹ 605 FRONT 립

TCO DESIGN

5906 -lighuay léti N, fuite Plynouth, MN 58441 Office 163-454-5616 Cell 953-954-8276

A6 SECOND FLOOR PLAN

AT THIRD FLOOR PLAN

AS TYPICAL CROSS SECTION AND WALL/CEILING TYPES

A9 CROSS SECTIONS

tco202303

Design \*

A1 OF 9





JIM MACKEY ARCHITEC1

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FGS LaFond Avenue St. Paul, MN 55/04

registration \* 23018

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Plan Date PRE-FINAL 6-20-23

PILLAI BUILDERS 605 FRONT AVENUE 8T, PAUL, MN 55117

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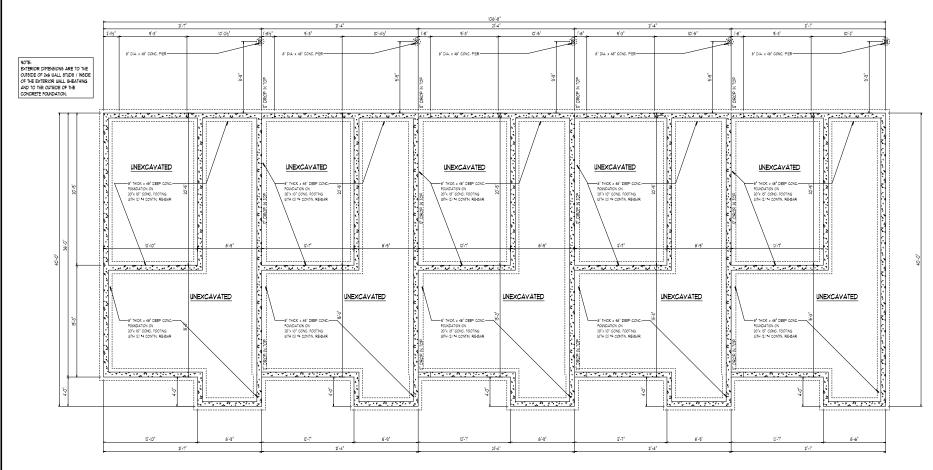
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Design \* tco202303

NOTE: SEE SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET SI FOR ADDITIONAL STRUCTURAL INFORMATION,

HEADER SCHEDULE			
MARK	SIZE	TRIMMERS	KING STUDS
HI	(2) 2xIO	(1) 2x6	(U 2x6
H2	(2) 1 3/4" x 9 1/2" LVL	(1) 2x6	(I) 2x6
H3	(3) 1 3/4" x 14" LVL	(3) 2x6	(I) 2x6
H4	(2) 1 3/4" x 9 1/2" LVL	(2) 2x6	(U 2x6

COLUMN SCHEDULE		
MARK	SIZE	
CI	(2) 2x6	
C2	(3) 2x6	
C3	(4) 2x6	



FOUNDATION PLAN 9CALE 1/4" = 1'-0" JIM MACKEY ARCHITEC

JIM MACKET ARCHITECT 1723 LiFond Avenue 8L Paul MN 55104

Jin Mackey
Office 691-644-0869
registration \* 2308
Disting by:
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Office 183-434-3616
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Plan Date PRE-FINAL 8-72-23

PILLAI BUILDERS



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NOTE: SEE SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET SI FOR ADDITIONAL STRUCTURAL INFORMATION.

HEADER SCHEDULE			
MARK	SIZE	TRIMMERS	KING STUD
HI	(2) 2xIO	(1) 2x6	(I) 2x6
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COLUMN SCHEDULE		
MARK	SIZE	
C1	(2) 2x6	
C2	(3) 2x6	
C3	(4) 2n6	



MACKEY

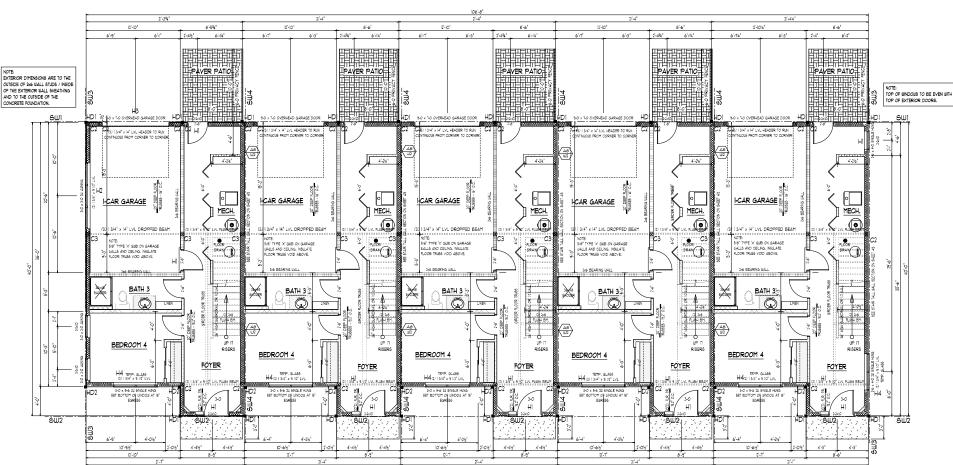


PILLAI BUILDERS 605 FRONT AVENUE 8T. PAUL, MN 55117



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Design \* tco202303



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

DWELLING UNIT = 538 SQ.FT. I-CAR GARAGE = 269 SQ.FT. AREA PER UNIT = 801 SQ.FT. TOTAL FIRST FLOOR AREA = 4035 SQ.FT. NOTE: SEE SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET SI FOR ADDITIONAL STRUCTURAL INFORMATION.

	HEADER SCHEDULE		
MARK	SIZE	TRIMMERS	KING STUDS
HI	(2) 2xIO	(1) 2x6	(I) 2x6
H2	(2) 1 3/4" x 9 1/2" LVL	(1) 2x6	(I) 2x6
H3	(3) 1 3/4" x 14" LVL	(3) 2x6	(I) 2x6
H4	(2) 1 3/4" x 9 1/2" LVL	(2) 2x6	(U 2x6

COLUMN SCHEDULE		
MARK	SIZE	
CI	(2) 2x6	
C2	(3) 246	
C3	(4) 2x6	

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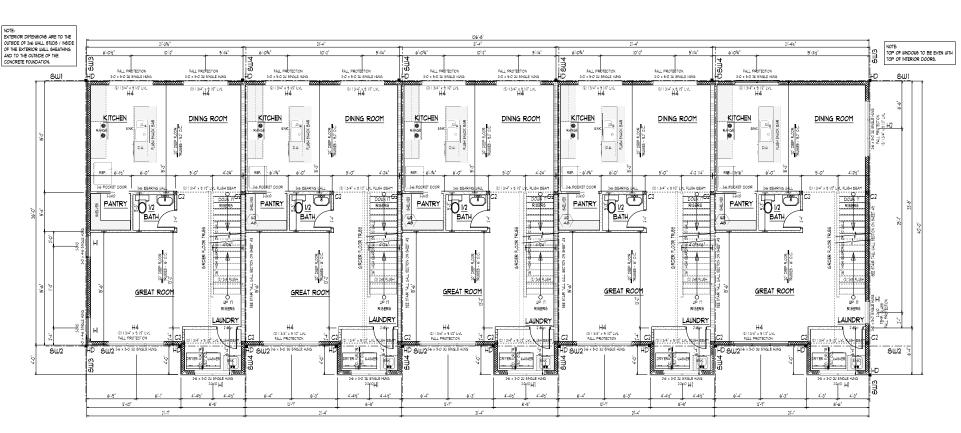
Plan Date PRE-FINAL 8-22-23

PILLAI BUILDERS 605 FRONT AVENUE 8T. PAUL, MN 55117

TCO DESIGN

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Design \* tco202303

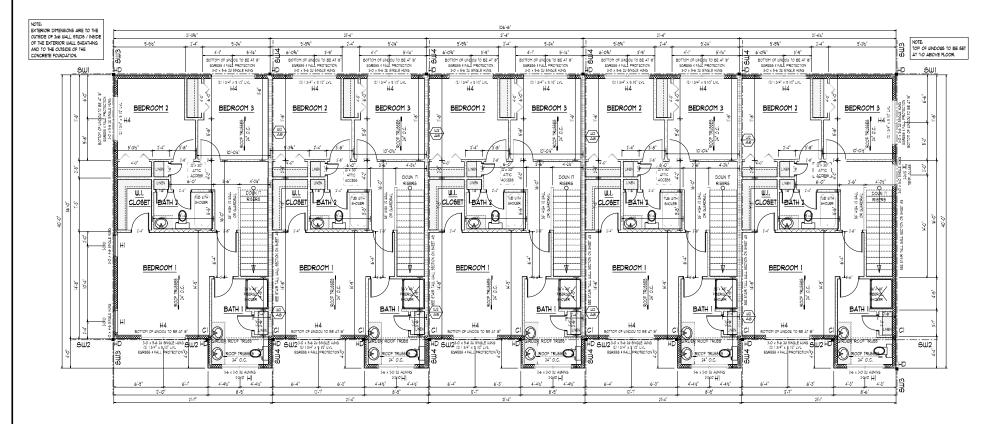


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

AREA PER UNIT = 801 SQ.FT. TOTAL SECOND FLOOR AREA = 4035 SQ.FT. NOTE: SEE SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET SI FOR ADDITIONAL STRUCTURAL INFORMATION.

	HEADER SCHEDULE		
MARK	SIZE	TRIMMERS	KING STUDS
HI	(2) 2xIO	(U 2x6	(1) 2x6
H2	(2) 1 3/4" x 9 1/2" LVL	(U 2x6	(1) 2x6
H3	(3) 1 3/4" x 14" LVL	(3) 2x6	(1) 2%
H4	(2) 1 3/4" x 9 1/2" LVL	(2) 2x6	(1) 206

COLUMN S	CHEDULE
MARK	SIZE
Cl	(2) 2x6
C2	(3) 2x6
C3	(4) 2x6



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

AREA PER UNIT = 801 SQ.FT.
TOTAL SECOND FLOOR AREA = 4035 SQ.FT.

JIM MACKEY ARCHITECT

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ARCHITECT
FISS List-ond Avenue
81. Paul, MN 59104
Jim Mackey
Office 691-644-0869

registration \* 23018

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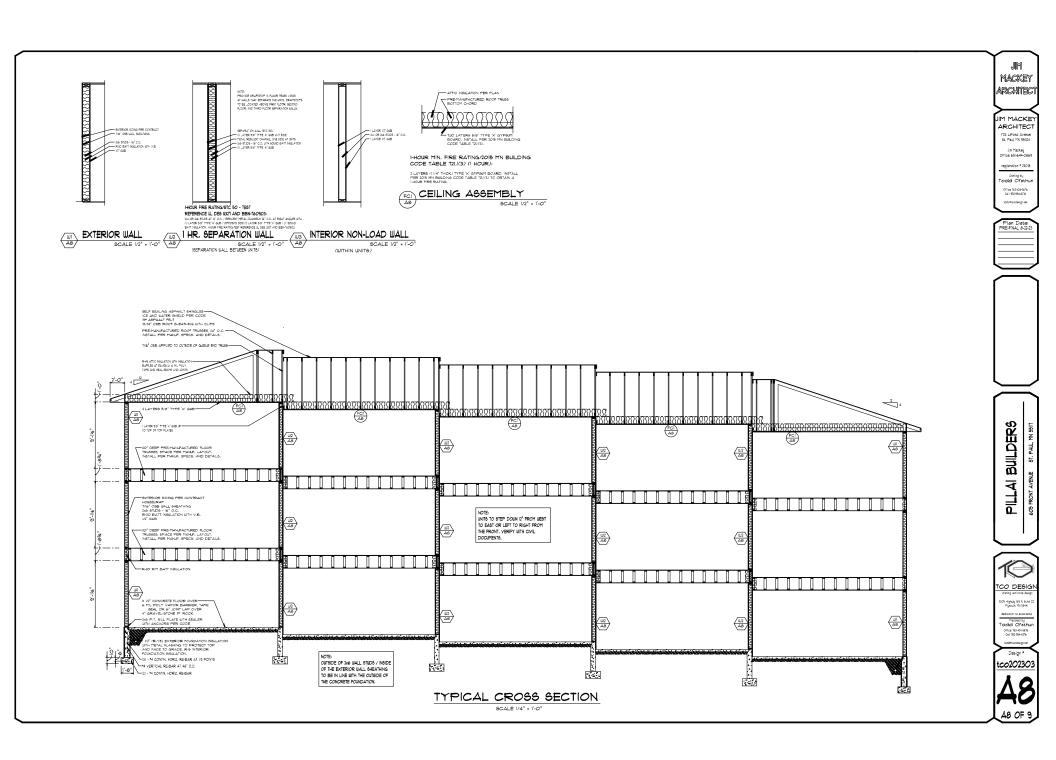
PILLAI BUILDERS

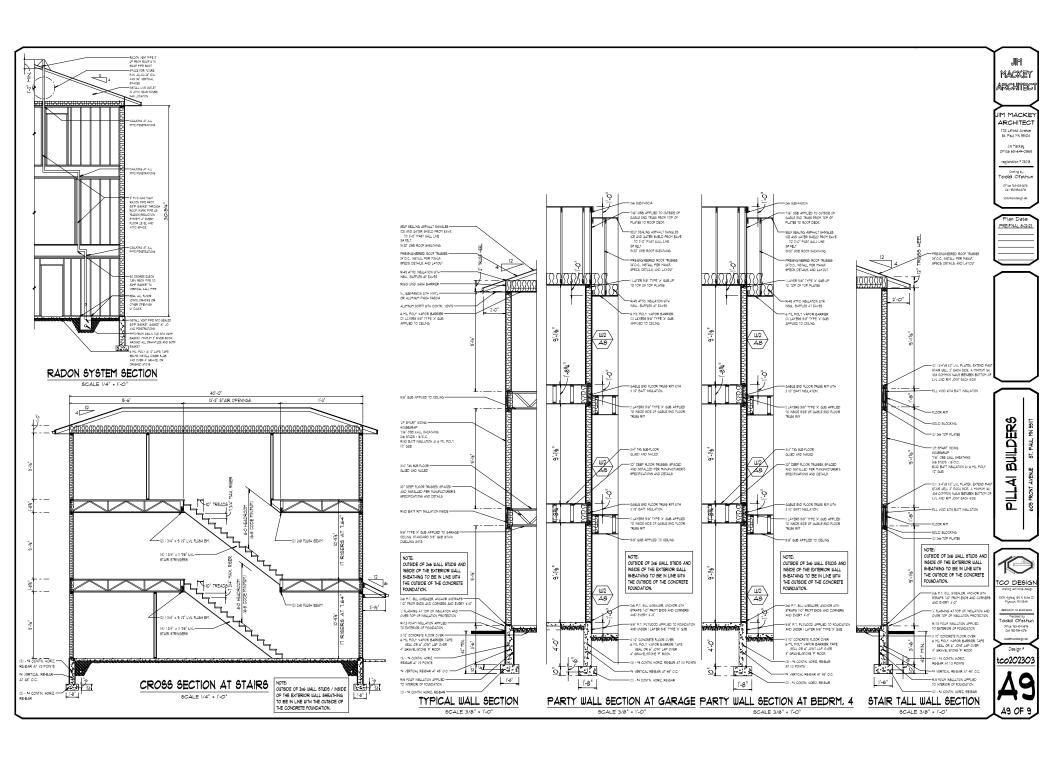


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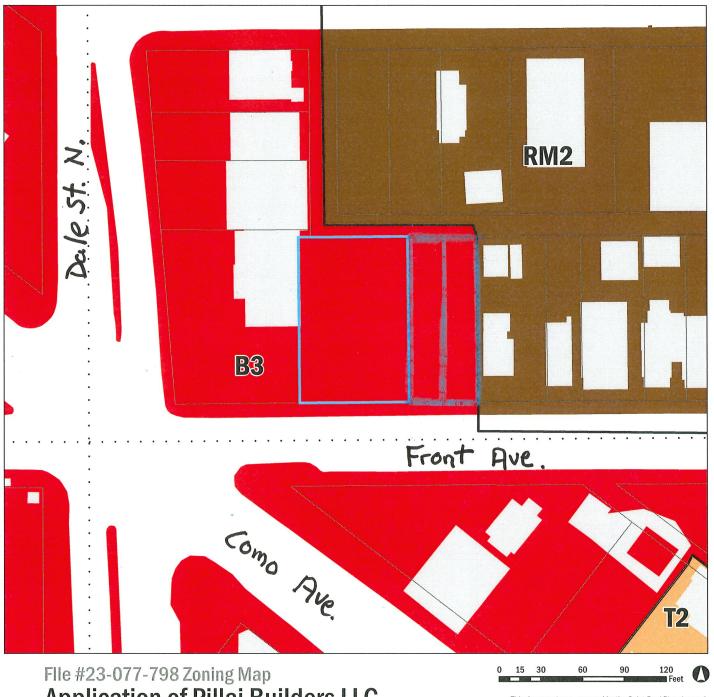












# **Application of Pillai Builders LLC**

Application Type: Rezone Application Date: August 28, 2023

Planning District: 6

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## Subject Parcel(s) Outlined in Blue





FIIe #23-077-798 Existing Land Use

# **Application of Pillai Builders LLC**

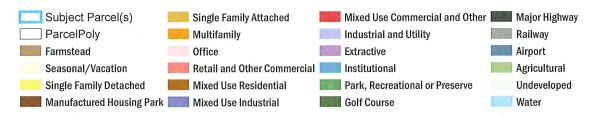
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Planning District: 6

15 30 60 90 120 Feet

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# Subject Parcel(s) Outlined in Blue





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

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

Subject Parcel(s) Outlined in Blue

Subject Parcel(s) ParcelPoly

120 160 Feet 20 40

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