# Zoning Board of Appeals January 25, 2017 Regular Meeting

# **STAFF REPORT**

# Subject: ZBA16-028 1209, 1211, 1213 South University Avenue (Collegian East)

## Summary:

South University-North East LLC, represented by Sean Havera, request a variance from Chapter 47 (Streets) Section 4:20 (c), a variance to permit a twenty (20) foot driveway width; twenty-four (24) is required.

## **Description and Discussion:**

The proposed project is located in the D1, Downtown Core Zoning District, and will consist of a thirteen (13) story mixed use building containing first floor commercial and approximately forty (40) residential units. An existing 8-foot wide alley off South University is proposed to be widened, which leads to solid waste services and 12 surface parking spaces located on the north side of the site.

### Standards for Approval - Chapter 47 (Streets) Variance

The Zoning Board of Appeals has all the power granted by State law and by Section 5:99, Application of the Variance Power, from the City of Ann Arbor Zoning Ordinance and Chapter 47(Streets), Section 4:20(9). The following criteria shall apply:

# The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the authority to interpret this Chapter and may, in specific cases involving practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship, grant variances or exceptions from the requirements of this Chapter providing such a variance or exception is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this Chapter.

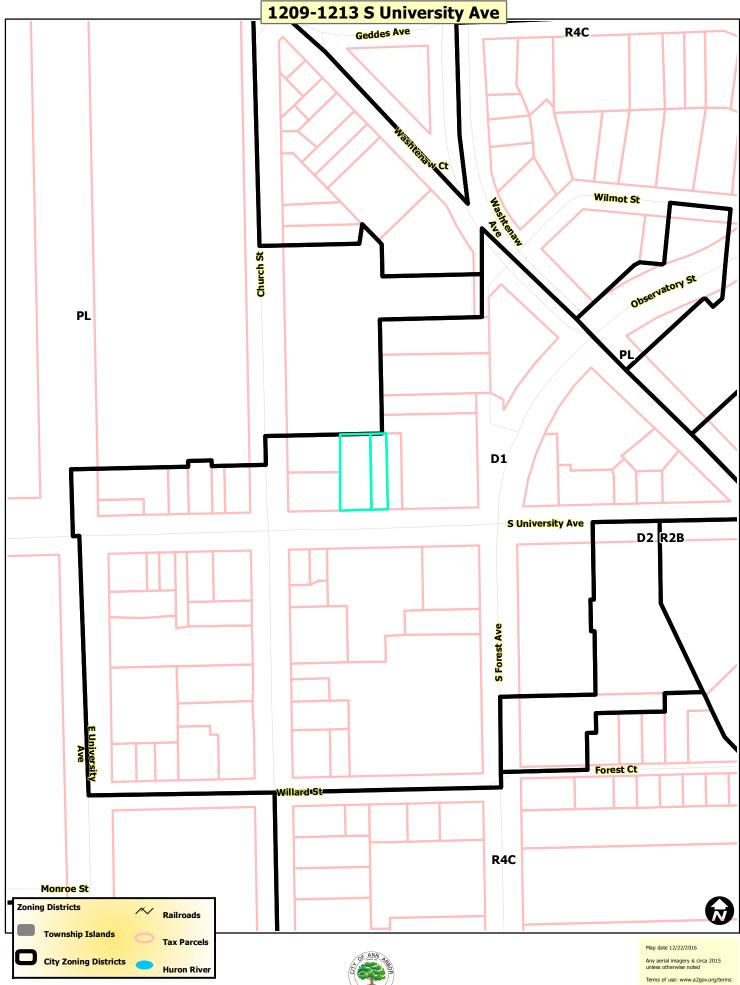
The variance requested will be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of Chapter 47 because the reduced driveway width will allow for safer pedestrian right of way in the vicinity of the project. This site is located midblock and should be designed to benefit the urban experience. The proposed modification will accommodate delivery vehicles as well as large emergency vehicles, while minimizing potential conflicts with passenger vehicles and pedestrians.

The City's Traffic Engineer, Systems Planning Department and DDA representatives have reviewed this variance request and support the reduced drive width as it minimizes the gap in the continuous street wall, helping provide a safer and better urban experience. When possible, preserving the street wall and streetscape of downtown buildings is desired. It is also anticipated that narrower street wall gaps will slow entering and exiting traffic to this site. Zoning Board of Appeals ZBA 16-028 January 25, 2017 Page 2

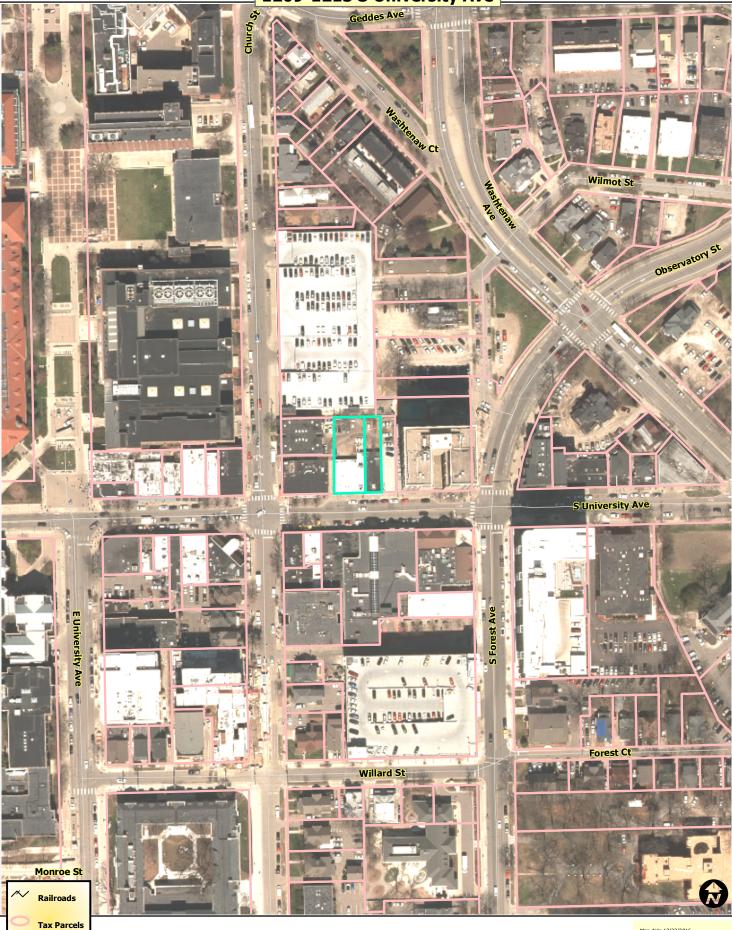
Respectfully submitted,

m Jant

Jon Barrett Zoning Coordinator



# 1209-1213 S University Ave







Map date 12/22/2016 Any aerial imagery is circa 2015 unless otherwise noted Terms of use: www.a2gov.org/terms





# APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE OR NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

# Section 1: Applicant Information Name of Applicant: South University - North East, LLC Address of Applicant: 30100 Telegraph Rd., Suite 220 Bingham Farms, MI 48025 Daytime Phone: 248-647-2600 X115 248-647-1330 Fax: Fmail: shavera@hughes-properties.net - Sean Havera Applicant's Relationship to Property: Ground Lessee Section 2: Property Information Address of Property: 1209, 1211, 1213 S. University, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 Zoning Classification: D1 / South University Character District Tax ID# (if known): 09-09-28-313-003, 004 \*Name of Property Owner: Beatty Hawkins, LLC & 1213 South University, LLC \*If different than applicant, a letter of authorization from the property owner must be provided. Section 3: Request Information ☑ Variance Chapter(s) and Section(s) from which a variance is requested: Required dimension: **PROPOSED** dimension: Chapter 47 (Streets): 4:20.4.c - Driveway opening width 24 ft min. opening 20 ft Example: Chapter 55, Section 5:26 Example: 40' front setback Example: 32' Give a detailed description of the work you are proposing and why it will require a variance (attach additional sheets if necessary) Construction of a mixed use building with shared driveway providing access to parking north of the building, solid waste/recycling pick-up, and access to adjacent properties. The shared driveway has a curb cut width of 39 feet, an opening width of 20 feet, and a driveway width of 20 feet. The existing 8-foot wide alley at the same location has an opening width of approximately 8 feet and a curb cut of 18 feet. A variance is requested for the 20 foot opening width to match the access drive width between the adjacent building and proposed building while maximizing pedestrian space within the South University right-of-way, Section 4: VARIANCE REQUEST (If not applying for a variance, skip to section 5) The City of Ann Arbor Zoning Board of Appeals has the powers granted by State law and City Code Chapter 55, Section 5:98. A variance may be granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals

only in cases involving practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships when **ALL** of the following is found **TRUE**. Please provide a complete response to each item below. These responses, together with the required materials in Section 5 of this application, will form the basis for evaluation of the request by staff and the Zoning Board of Appeals. (continued...)

# 1. Are there hardships or practical difficulties to complying with the ordinance? Are these hardships or practical difficulties an exception or unique to the property

**compared to other properties in the City?** The location of the curb cut is dictated by the existing curb cut location and the South University Streetscape Improvement plans submitted by the DDA. The existing opening is 8 feet and the proposed opening is 20 feet. Street code requires a min. opening of 24 feet and Parking code requires a min. access drive of 18 feet. Centering the required 24-foot wide opening, which is wider than the required access drive, would result in an opening that extends beyond the limits of the existing adjacent building and the proposed building by 2 feet on each side, potentially creating conflict with vehicular traffic and the building footprint. Additionally, the reduced opening with supports the pedestrian focused streetscape identified for South University in the Downtown Street Design Manual and improves the existing condition. The hardship is unique to the property because there is an existing curb cut and alleyway that is located on two parcels and the DDA Streetscape plans dictate the new location for the drive.

# 2. Are the hardships or practical difficulties more than mere inconvenience, inability to obtain a higher financial return? (explain)

The location of the driveway that is set by the existing curb cut and the DDA Streetscape improvement plans limits the location of the driveway and the proximity of the adjacent building to the property line prohibits the ability to construct the 24-foot wide required opening without extending the driveway beyond the face of the existing adjacent building. Further, the parking code allows an driveway on-site to be between 18 and 24 feet while the Street code requires an opening at teh right-of-way line at 24 feet. Our goal is to best respect the pedestrian natural of the area and reduce the opening to 20 feet.

## 3. What effect will granting the variance have on the neighboring properties?

The proposed driveway location will not affect the amount of adjacent property that will be utilized for the access drive. The proposed driveway opening is larger than the existing driveway opening, therefore, it is assumed that the increase in width will improve visibility for vehicles entering and exiting the driveway, while the variance will support the pedestrian nature of the right-of-way.

# 4. What physical characteristics of your property in terms of size, shape, location or topography prevent you from using it in a way that is consistent with the ordinance?

The location of the driveway that is set by the existing curb cut and the DDA Streetscape improvement plans limits the location of the driveway and the proximity of the adjacent building to the property line prohibits the ability to construct the 24-foot wide required opening without extending the driveway beyond the face of the existing adjacent building.

### 5. Is the condition which prevents you from complying with the ordinance selfimposed? How did the condition come about?

The location of the driveway is at the same location as the existing alley and the DDA Streetscape Improvement plans limits the location of the driveway. The adjacent building is an existing structure that limits the width of the opening at the right-of-way line.

# Section 5: ALTERATION TO A NON-CONFORMING STRUCTURE

Current use of the property Retail (Proposed - Mixed Use)

The proposed change is allowed in accordance with Structure Non-Conformance, Section 5:87(1)(a) & (b), which reads as follows:

- (1) A non-conforming structure may be maintained or restored, but no alteration shall be made to a non-conforming structure unless one of the following conditions is met:
  - a. The alteration is approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals upon finding that it complies as nearly as practicable with the requirements of this Chapter and that it will not have a detrimental effect on neighboring property.
  - b. The alteration conforms to all the requirements of this Chapter and is made to a building which will be a single-family dwelling on completion of the alteration and is located in an R1,R2, R3, or R4 district.
  - c. The structure is considered non-conforming due to the following reasons

(continued . . .....)

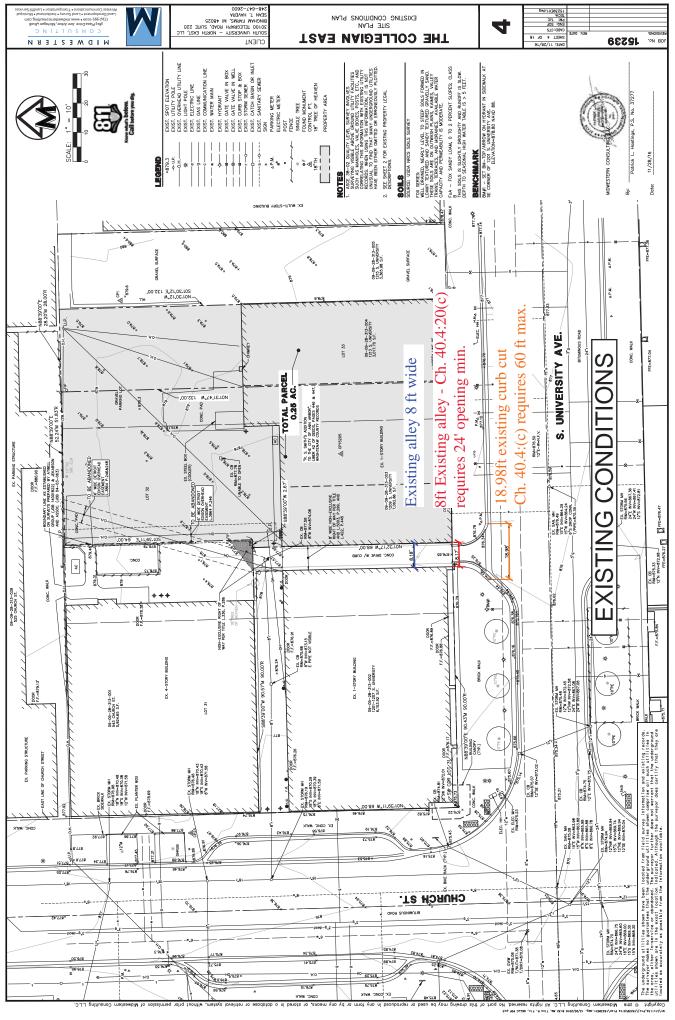
	Existing Condition	<u>Code Requirement</u>
Lot area _		
	ratio	
<b>D</b> 11		
Landscapi	ng	
Not Applicable.		
601P. 4		
The alteration	complies as nearly as is practicable	with the requirements of the Chapter and
	complies as nearly as is practicable a detrimental effect on neighboring pr	
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vill not have a lot Applicable. Vherefore, Pe	a detrimental effect on neighboring pr	operty for the following reasons:
vill not have a lot Applicable. Vherefore, Pe ind Section of	a detrimental effect on neighboring pr	operty for the following reasons:
vill not have a lot Applicable. Vherefore, Pe ind Section of	a detrimental effect on neighboring pr	operty for the following reasons:
vill not have a lot Applicable. Vherefore, Pe ind Section of	a detrimental effect on neighboring pr	granted from the above named Chapter

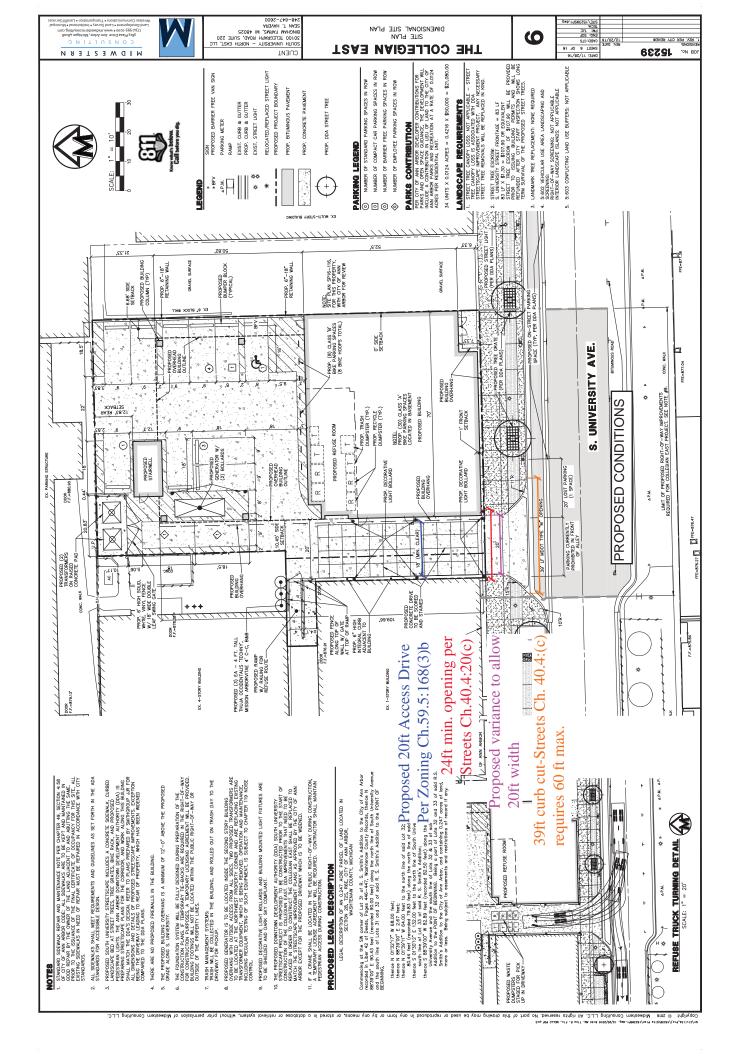
The following materials are required for all variance requests. Failure to provide these materials will result in an incomplete application and will delay staff review and Zoning Board of Appeals consideration of the request. The materials listed below must accompany the application and constitute an inseparable part of the application.

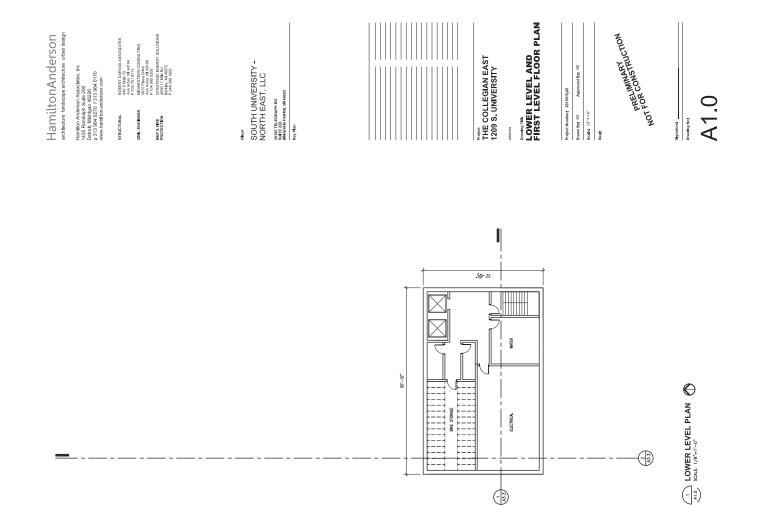
All materials must be provided on <u>8 ½" by 11" sheets.</u> (Continued.....)

ي ا	Survey of the property including property, and area of property.	g all existing and proposed structures, dimensions of
ي ا	Building floor plans showing inte	erior rooms, including dimensions.
<b>L</b> 2		d any existing buildings involved in the request.
Q	Any other graphic or written ma	
	, , ,	
Section 3	7: Acknowledgement	
	SIGNATURES MUST BE SIG	GNED IN PRESENCE OF NOTARY PUBLIC
I, the a Ann Ar hereto.	rbor City Code for the stated reas	n the above named Chapter(s) and Section(s) of the sons, in accordance with the materials attached
-	7-2600 X115	
Phone Nu shavera	umber @hughes-properties.net	Signature Sean T. Havera - VP of Construction
Email Add	dress	Print Name
I, the a statem	pplicant, hereby depose and say ents contained in the materials s	that all of the aforementioned statements, and the ubmitted herewith, are true and correct.
		Signature
Further	r Lhereby give City of App Arbor	Planning & Development Services unit staff and
membe	ers of the Zoning Board of Appea e of reviewing my variance reque	Is permission to access the subject property for the
		Signature
		nal cover sheet with the deadlines and meeting dates emind the petitioner of the meeting date and
	22	Signature
contents	t and made oath that he/she has read th thereof, and that the same is true as to	_, 20 \\ <i>Q</i> before me personally appeared the above named e foregoing application by him/her subscribed and knows the his/her own knowledge except as to those matters therein stated matters, he/she believes them to be true.
		Notary Public Signature
	62719	Andrea Gould
Notary C	ommission Expiration Date	Print Name
		· ·
Staff Use	Only	
Date Submitte	ed:	Fee Paid:
File No.:		Date of Public Hearing

Date Submitted:	Fee Paid:	
File No.:	Date of Public Hearing	
Pre-filing Staff Reviewer & Date	ZBA Action:	
Pre-Filing Review:		
Staff Reviewer & Date:		

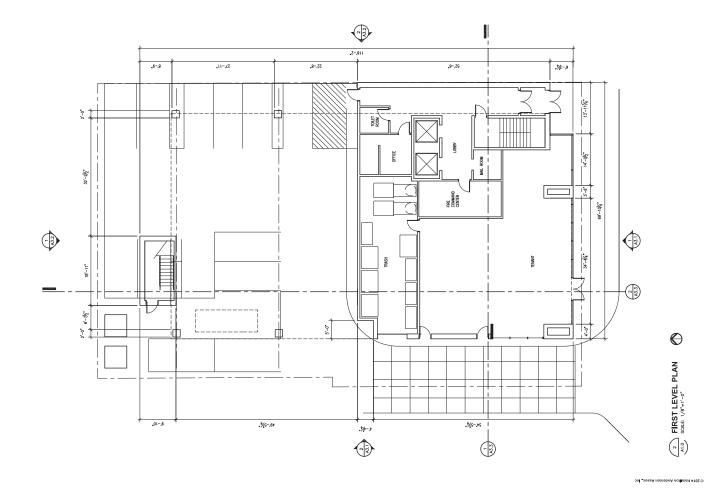






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CONSULTING

3815 Plaza Drive Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108 734.995.0200

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Existing Curb Cut, Alley Opening, and Adjacent Building (Jimmy John's)



Existing alley – view toward South University

	. Treas. Tax Certificate N ARRANTY DEED-By Corporation.	10. 23793 1334 or 1912	LIBER 422 PAGE44
(	Ihis Indenture, M	nde this7th	day of _June
	the year of our Lord one thousand nine hu		
	ETWEEN State Savings Bank of		
•	the city of Ann	Arbor	County ofWashtenaw
i	ate of Michigan, a corporation organized a an, party of the first part, and Florence chigan	N. Groves of 1520_	Baldwin Avenue, Ann Arbor,
-			part_Yof the second p
	ITNESSETH, That the said party One Dollar and other valuable (		
1	it in hand paid by the said party	of the second part, the rec	ceipt whereof is hereby confessed a
	knowledged, does by these presents, grar		
	rt_Jof the second part, and 3		- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Ann Arbor		
	Ann Arbor County of		
	nown and described as follows, to wit: ection of the east line of Chun venue, it being the southwest of ddition to the city of Ann Arbo hurch Street, sixty-eight (68) ary P. Martin; thence east alor outh parallel with the east lin niversity Avenue, sixty-eight ( outh University Avenue, ninety ight of way for the owner of th he east end of the above descri eams, but with no right to obst	cch Street with the sorner of Lot thirty- or; running thence not feet to the southway ag said Martin's line of Church Street (90) feet; thence way (90) feet to the play he next adjoining low blad premises, to page	north line of South Univer -one (31) R. S. Smith's orth along the east line o st corner of land owned by e ninety (90) feet; thence to the north line of South st along the north line of ace of beginning; with the ts eight (8) feet wide on
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•	nd the said party of the first part, for itse		covenant, grant, bargain and agree
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i	at at the time of the ensealing and deliver FEE SIMPLE; that they are free from ave accrued subsequent to Augus	all encumbrances whatever,	excepting any which may
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j	will and its successors shall forever WARR er <u>except as hereinbefore ment</u> :	ANT and DEFEND the s	ame against all lawful claims what

422 PAGE 446 LIBER In Witness Whereof the said\_State\_Savings Bank of Ann Arbor----has caused these presents to be signed in its name by its. President and its Cashier and sealed with its corporate seal, the day and year first above written. Signed, Sealed and Delivered in Presence of 1.6 STATE SAVINGS BANK OF ANN ARBOR 10806 20 Sherrill Leone ₩. By. Corporate Seal F. Gross H. Its F. M. Crandal Betty J. Christopherson Its\_ STATE OF MICHIGAN, County of Washtenaw On this 7th day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and for ty-six before me, a Notary Public in and for said County, appeared H. F. Gross and F. M. Crandall to me personally known, who, being by me duly sworn, did 1\_\_\_\_\_each for himself\_\_\_\_\_\_say that \* he is the President and the Cashier, respectively ..... State Savings Bank of Ann Arbor the corporation named in and which executed the within instrument, and that the seal affixed to said instrument is the corporate seal of said corporation; and that said instrument was signed and sealed in behalf of said corporation by authority of its board of directors; and said\_H. F. Gross and F. M. Crandall acknowledged said instrument to be the free act and deed of said corporation. Leone W. Sherrill Notary Public, Washtonay County, Michigan. My commission expires January 15 19 47 NOTE "each for himself" and at 2 "they are respectively." p, the following may be inserted, "its successors,' and draw a line through the word If more than one officer acknowledges insert at 1 " e conveyance is made to corporation or partnership, 1 and 2 Arbor and A. D. 19<u>-46</u> 0 and amended certifica Ø sgister of Deeds FLINT, MICHIGAN M... presented DEE Ann Sth. ŝ CORPORATION State Savings Bank of REGISTER'S OFFICE, ----o'clock. instrument was 334 or 1912 ARRANTY Washtenaw Groves received for record this. recorded in Liber\_422 in compl g as Press. laws o ч June Florence N. 11:05 Compiled RIEGLE പ് turnished This Act 261, Ч of page. THE County 2 day Q Was 5 م 0

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November 22, 2016

City of Ann Arbor Planning and Development Department 301 E. Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Re: Designation of Agent - Site Plan Approval

**Dear Planning Department:** 

Bank of Ann Arbor is pleased to serve as Manager of Groves South U, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company (the "Groves South U"), the owner of 1201-1207 S. University (the "Property"). We hereby appoint Sean T. Havera or South University – North East, LLC (the "Agent") as our agent to represent us in any request for Site Plan Approval involving improvements to the alley on the east and the alley at the rear of the Property. We note that the buildings on the Property are not currently under development, and are not part of the project being submitted for Site Plan Approval.

By signing below, we understand that the Site Plan Approval application process consists of several forms, and our Agent may represent us in all phases of the Site Plan approval process and any ancillary procedures required thereby which may include submission to agencies of government that may have jurisdiction. We certify that the below information is correct:

Property Address:	1201 -1207 S. University
Parcel No.:	09-29-28-313-002
Legal Ownership Name:	Groves South U, LLC
Owner Mailing Address:	125 S. Fifth Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Daytime Phone No.:	734-327-0138
Email:	ldahlberg@boaa.com

Groves South U, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company

By: Bank of Ann Arbor, Manager

- Shih Bv:

Lyle Dahlberg First Vice President and Senior Trust Officer

Bank of Ann Arbor | 125 S. Fifth Avenue | Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | 734.662.1600 | boaa.com

September 12, 2016

8.

City of Ann Arbor Planning and Development Department 301 E. Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

### Re: Designation of Agent - Site Plan Approval

To Whom it May Concern,

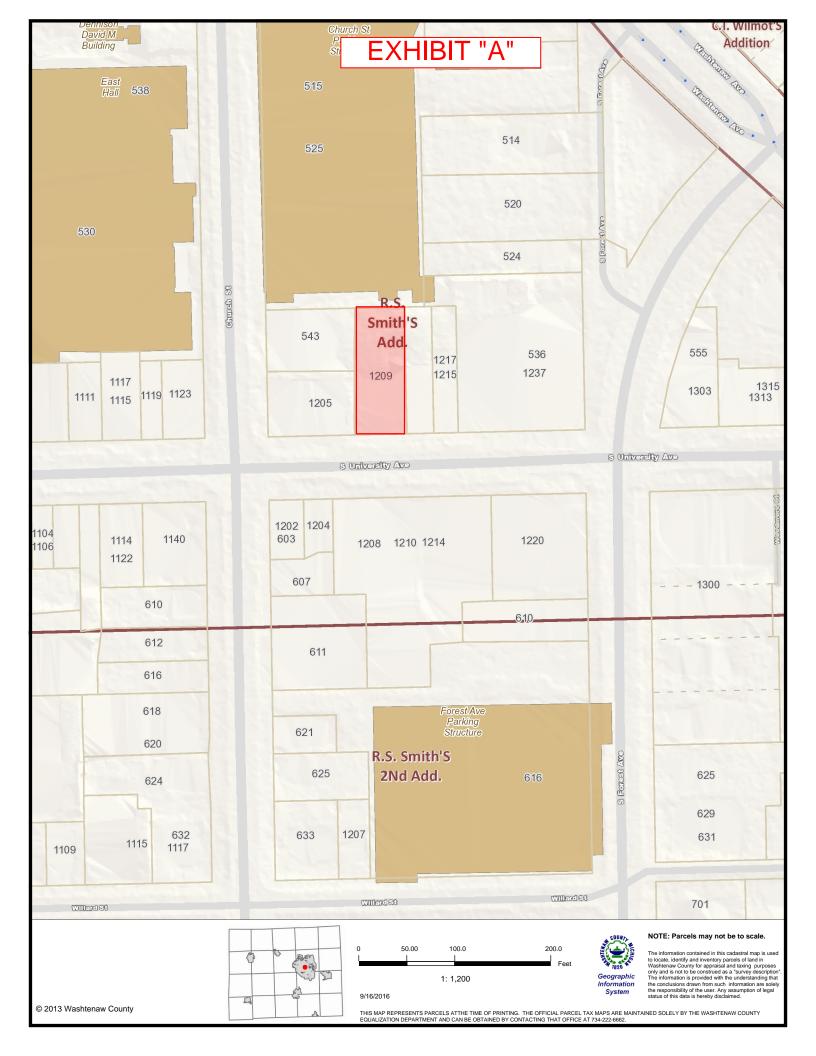
I (we) hereby appoint Sean T. Havera or South University – North East, LLC (the "Agent") as my (our) agent to represent me (us) in any request for Site Plan approval on of for the subject property enumerated below. By signing below, I (we) understand that the Site Plan Approval application process consists of several forms and my (our) agent may represent me (us) in all phases of the Site Plan approval process and any ancillary procedures required thereby which may include submission to other agencies of government that may have jurisdiction. I (we) certify that all information below is correct.

Property Address:	1209 & 1211 S. University
Parcel #:	09-09-28-313- 003– See Exhibit A
Legal Ownership Name:	Beatty Hawkins Limited Liability Company
Approximate Property Square Feet:	7,063
Current Zoning District:	D1
Owner Name:	Beatty Hawkins Limited Liability Company
Owner Mailing Address:	1717 S. State St.
	Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Daytime Phone #:	734-761-3100 x11
Email:	sales@westhawkpromo.com

**Beatty Hawkins Limited Liability Company** 

Jul Rinz

By: Harry Hawkins Its: Member





September 12, 2016

City of Ann Arbor Planning and Development Department 301 E. Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

### **Re: Designation of Agent - Site Plan Approval**

To Whom it May Concern,

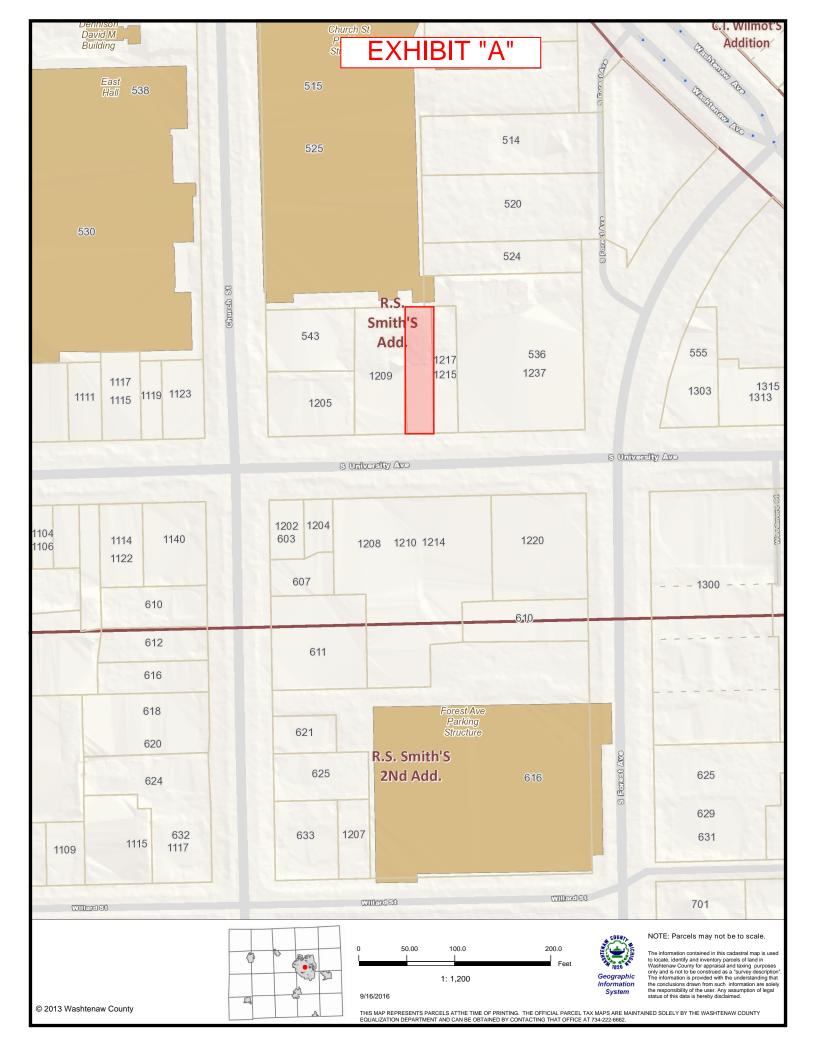
I (we) hereby appoint Sean T. Havera or South University – North East, LLC (the "Agent") as my (our) agent to represent me (us) in any request for Site Plan approval on of for the subject property enumerated below. By signing below, I (we) understand that the Site Plan Approval application process consists of several forms and my (our) agent may represent me (us) in all phases of the Site Plan approval process and any ancillary procedures required thereby which may include submission to other agencies of government that may have jurisdiction. I (we) certify that all information below is correct.

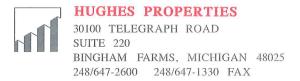
Property Address:	1213 S. University
Parcel #:	09-09-28-313- 004– See Exhibit A
Legal Ownership Name:	1213 South University, LLC
Approximate Property Square Feet:	3,718
Current Zoning District:	D1
Owner Name:	1213 South University, LLC
Owner Mailing Address:	125 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Daytime Phone #:	734-327-0138
Email:	ldahlberg@boaa.com

1213 South University, LLC By: Bank of Ann Arbor, Trustee Its: Manager

FUhil

By: Lyle F. Dahlberg, First Vice President and Senior Trust Officer





September 20, 2016

City of Ann Arbor Planning and Development Department 301 E. Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

### **Re: The Collegian North East**

To Whom It May Concern,

South University – North East, LLC (SUNE) has a long-term ground lease with the owners of 1209 S. University, 1211 S. University, and 1213 S. University. SUNE, as developer, is proposing to develop an iconic mixed use building on these properties. SUNE has retained and is represented in regards to the project by Hamilton Anderson Associates and Midwestern Consulting, LLC and authorize them, jointly or severally, to make application for any and all approvals required to secure Site Plan Approvals to the City of Ann Arbor and any other agencies of government that may have jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Sean T. Havera VP of Construction South University – North East, LLC

# MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals From: Amber Miller, Ann Arbor DDA Planner Regarding: Collegian East drive opening variance Date: 12.20.2016

After reviewing the Collegian East plans and discussing the project with planning and engineering staff we support the developer's variance request for the reasons outlined below.

South University is a special commercial district within downtown Ann Arbor. As with many downtown streets, its success depends on vibrant ground floor retail and a walkable, safe environment. Driveway openings interrupt this enjoyable experience and should be limited; pre-existing drives should be as narrow as practical.

The Collegian East seeks to limit the width of its existing driveway opening to 20 feet to coordinate with the 20-foot driveway needed for service access. Current code requires a 24-foot opening for projects of this nature. Meeting this requirement would cause the project to take up an additional four feet of sidewalk and curb space for an over-sized opening for the driveway.

It is our understanding that this 24-foot requirement will soon be removed from zoning code to accommodate new best practices and encourage narrower openings. In the interim, we support the request from The Collegian East team to seek a variance to install a 20-foot drive opening.