VARIANCE(S): V-2018-001

CITY OF SUWANEE VARIANCE ANALYSIS

CASE NUMBER: V-2018-001

REQUEST: ADDITIONAL WALL SIGN

APPLICABLE SECTION: SECTION 1612 OF THE CITY OF SUWANEE

ZONING ORDINANCE

LOCATION: 3245 LAWRENCEVILLE SUWANEE ROAD

PARCEL: 7-169-165

ZONING: C-2A (SPECIAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT)

APPLICANT: PB2 ARCHITECTURE + ENGINEERING

2809 AJAX AVENUE, SUITE 100

ROGERS, AR 72758

OWNER: WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST

2001 SE 10TH STREET

BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

CONTACT: JIM GALLAGHER

CONTACT PHONE: 479-878-3617

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: **DENIAL**

ANALYSIS:

The applicant seeks a variance from Section 1612 of the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to allow for an additional wall sign for a business in a single tenant building. The business currently has seven signs and is requesting an additional sign, one more than the seven they have are allowed as a result of previous variances.

The surrounding area is characterized by commercial and office warehouse uses. Across Satellite Boulevard to the north is a site with three large office/warehouse buildings (zoned M-1). To the west of the subject property, across Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road is a Planned Mixed Use Development (PMUD) with commercial uses and a daycare center (zoned C-2). To the south of the subject parcel is a multi-tenant shopping center (zoned C-2A) and a bank (zoned C-2A). To the east of the subject property is an undeveloped site (zoned C-2A) and a multi-tenant shopping center (zoned C-2A).

The subject property is zoned C-2A (Special Commercial District). The subject parcel is 22.65 acres and is located at 3245 Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road. There is one building located on the site that was constructed for and has always been occupied by a Walmart Super Center. Access

to the site is provided via a right-in/right-out off Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road and two entrances with median cuts on Satellite Boulevard. The one story building is oriented towards Satellite along the southwestern portion of the property, near Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road.

The City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance allows 1 wall sign per elevation with a maximum of 4 signs per building for a single occupant building (Section 1612). In 2002, the City granted Walmart 7 variances to allow 6 additional wall signs on the front façade of the building and 1 on the side. 6 of the variances were to allow for 6 additional signs, and 1 variance was to allow for a larger sign than allowed.

A wall sign is allowed to be up to 5% of the wall area of the façade the sign is affixed per section 1612 of the Zoning Ordinance. In this case, the size of the subject wall is 20,355 square feet. 5% of this wall area is 1,017 square feet. The combined square footage of the 6 signs for the front façade approved by previous variances is 1,027 square feet. This already exceeds the 5% normally allowed. The applicant is requesting an additional variance for one additional sign on the front façade. The proposed sign is 19.47 square feet.

The City of Suwanee's Zoning Ordinance grants the Zoning Board of Appeals the authority to grant variances. According to Section 2006 of the Ordinance, the Board is authorized to grant variances when literal enforcement of the Ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship to a property owner. A variance may be granted if the conditions are unique to the property and/or are unlikely to cause substantial detriment to the public good or if the variance will not undermine the intent of the zoning ordinance. In addition, a variance may be granted when such conditions are not the result of any actions of the property owner.

V-2018-001, if granted, would not be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Ordinance. Section 1612 of the Zoning Ordinance is intended to allow for a maximum number and size of signage for each business to ensure a quality aesthetic throughout the city. Walmart has already been granted 7 sign variances. Should this variance be granted, there would be 1,027 square feet of signage on the front of the building exceeding the allowed square footage by 10 square feet. Furthermore, there are no extraordinary or exceptional conditions on the subject property due to its size, shape, or topography that would create an unnecessary hardship under the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance which should give cause for an additional wall sign to be installed on the subject property. As such, staff recommends **DENIAL** of V-2018-001.

RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

Based upon the findings and conclusions herein, staff recommends DENIAL.

Should the Board feel compelled to approve the Variance request, Staff recommends that approval be subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The sign shall be limited to 20 square feet.
- 2. No additional wall signage, other than any signage allowed under prior variances, shall be permitted on the building.

Standards for Consideration

Pursuant to Section 2009A of the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance, the City finds the following standards are relevant in considering all applications for a Variance.

A. Will approval of the variance unreasonably increase the congestion in public streets?

Approval of this variance would not increase the congestion in public streets.

B. Will approval increase the danger of fire or endanger public safety?

Approval of this variance would not increase the danger of fire or endanger public safety.

C. Will approval unreasonably diminish or impair established property values within the surrounding area?

Approval of the variance would not unreasonably diminish or impair property values within the surrounding area. However, the Zoning Ordinance regulates the size and number of signs to ensure a quality aesthetic throughout the City. The proposed signage exceeds City standards; therefore additional signage would have a negative effect on the aesthetics of the area.

D. Will approval in any other aspect impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals or welfare of the inhabitants of the City?

Approval of this variance, with the appropriate conditions would not impair the public health, safety, comfort, morals, or welfare.

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE FROM THE CITY OF SUWANEE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Please complete this application and submit with all necessary attachments as stated on the Variance Information Form (please type or print)

APPLICANT INFORMATION	OWNER INFORMATION
Name: pb2 architecture + engineering	Name_Walmart Real Estate Business Trust
Address: 2809 Ajax Avenue, Suite 100	Address 2001 SE 10th St.
City: Rogers	City: Bentonville
State: AR 72758	StateAR
Phone: 479.878.3617	Phone: 72712
E-mail address: _jim.gallagher@pb2ae.com	
CONTACT PERSON: Jim Gallagher	PHONE: 479.878.3617
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY 3245 Lawrenceville Su	uwanee Road
LAND DISTRICT 7 LAND LOT 169	PARCEL_165 LOT
SUBDIVISION OR PROJECT NAME (IF APPLICA	ABLE)
ZONING_C2-A	
VARIANCE REQUESTED The applicant is reque	esting a variance from Section 1612 Sign Standards
of the Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to allow for an a	additional wall sign in excess of 200 square feet
for an individual business on an individual lot.	
NEED FOR VARIANCE The applicant has been	granted a previous variance; and needs
to make some changes in its identification signs re-	quiring a new variance to meet those needs.

^{*}A VARIANCE FROM A CONDITION OF ZONING CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. SECTION 2007, APPLICANT AND/OR A REPRESENTATIVE.

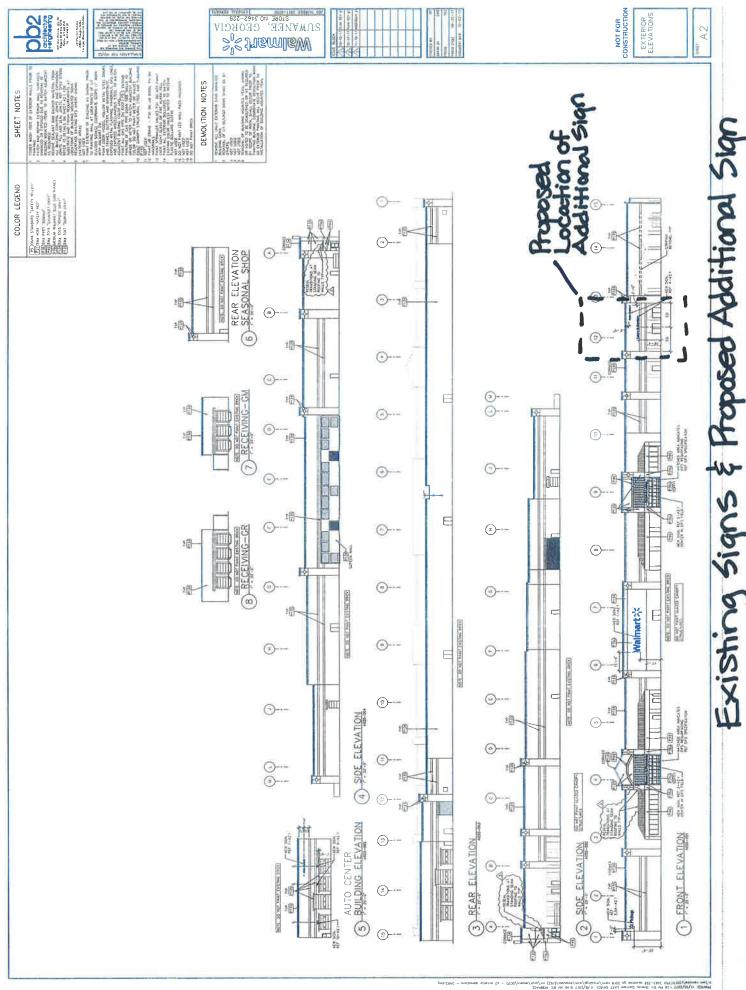
^{***}The property owner, applicant and /or a representative thereof shall be present at all meetings of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission and/or Mayor and Council at which official action is requested on any variance or application for amendment. The failure of the property owner, applicant and/or a representative to attend such meetings shall result in the denial of said variance or application for amendment.

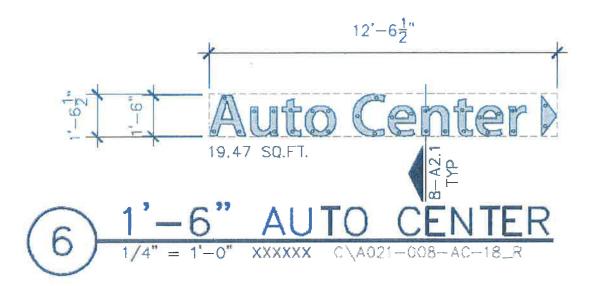
Variance Application Page 2

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION

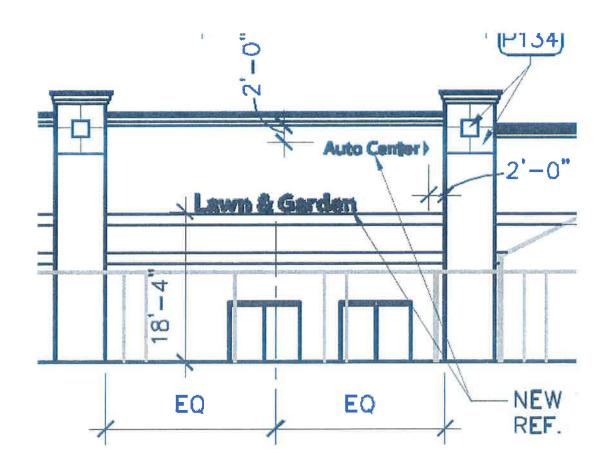
The undersigned below is authorized to make this application and is aware that an application or reupon within twelve (12) months from the date of last action by the Board of Appeals, unless waived by the Board of Appeals. An application or reapplication shall not be acted upon in less than (6) months

application for the same type of variance affecting the same land or any portion thereof shall not be acted from the date of the last action by the Board of Appeals. Signature of Applicant Jim Gallagher, Architect BOBBI SLIGAR Typed or Printed Name and Title lotary Public-Arkans Benton County ommission Expires 07-30-2024 ommission # 12400187 Notary Seal PROPERTY OWNER CERTIFICATION The undersigned below, or as attached, is the record owner of the property considered in this application and is aware that an application or reapplication for the same type of Variance affecting the same land or any portion thereof shall not be acted upon within twelve (12) months from the date of last action by the Board of Appeals unless waived by the Board of Appeals. An application or reapplication shall not be acted upon in less than six (6) months from the date of the last action by the Board of Appeals. at Walnut Storer, 1 Jeffrey R. Davis Notary Public, Benton County, Arkansas Typed or Printed Name and Title #12374265 Expires December 14, 2019 Signature of Notary Public Notary Seal DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT USE ONLY Variance Administrative Case Number_ Date Rec'd Rec'd By Hearing Date Amount Rec'd Receipt ACTION TAKEN SIGNATURE DATE:

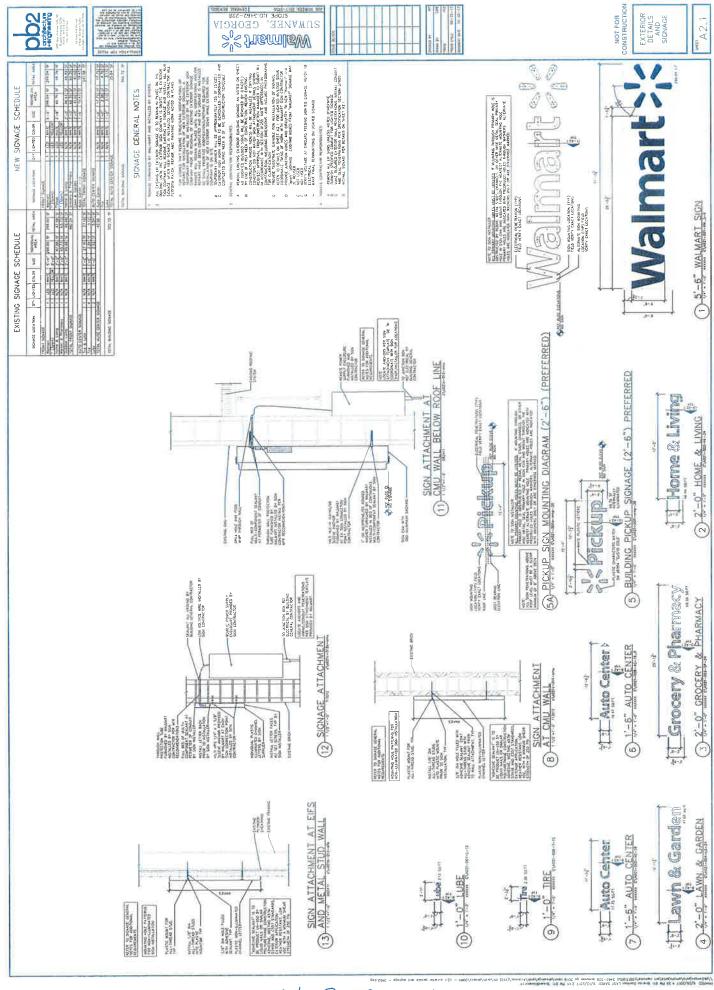




Proposed Additional Sign



Proposed Location of Additional Sign



Proposed Additional Sign

V-2018-001



Location Map V-2018-001





Z S 960 Feet

1:6,029

480



200



Zoning Map V-2018-001

