

# Planning Commission

## Staff Report

June 6, 2024



<b>Case No:</b>	24-ZONE-0028
<b>Project Name:</b>	Radius West Apartments Office
<b>Location:</b>	9713 & 9715 Starlet Drive
<b>Owner(s):</b>	9800 Starlet Duo LLC
<b>Applicant:</b>	9800 Starlet Duo LLC
<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Louisville Metro
<b>Council District:</b>	13 – Dan Seum, Jr.
<b>Case Manager:</b>	Dante St. Germain, AICP, Senior Planner

### **REQUESTS**

- **Change in zoning** from R-4 Single Family Residential to R-7 Multi-Family Residential
- **Detailed District Development Plan** with Binding Elements

### **CASE SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

The subject site is located on Starlet Drive south of the intersection with W Manslick Road, and consists of two parcels. One parcel is currently undeveloped, and the other parcel is currently developed with a single-family residence. The applicant proposes to rezone the site in order to utilize the structure as an office for the adjacent multi-family development, with associated parking located on the site of the apartments.

The site is adjacent to the multi-family development that the office is intended to serve. Fairdale Elementary School is located to the south-east. Single-family development is located to the north.

The site is located within the study area for the Fairdale Village Center Plan. The plan has no specific recommendations for this site, and the Big Ideas in the plan would be unlikely to apply as the site is removed from W Manslick Road and has no frontage on a major street.

### **STAFF FINDING**

Staff finds that the proposed zoning change meets the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan. The site plan meets the requirements of the Land Development Code, and the guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan.

### **TECHNICAL REVIEW**

Plan 2040

Land Development Code (Louisville Metro)

MSD and Transportation Planning have provided preliminary approval of the proposal.

## **INTERESTED PARTY COMMENTS**

No interested party comments have been received by staff.

## **STANDARD OF REVIEW FOR REZONING**

Criteria for granting the proposed form district change/rezoning: KRS Chapter 100.213

1. The proposed form district/rezoning change complies with the applicable guidelines and policies Plan 2040; **OR**
2. The existing form district/zoning classification is inappropriate and the proposed classification is appropriate; **OR**
3. There have been major changes of an economic, physical, or social nature within the area involved which were not anticipated in Plan 2040 which have substantially altered the basic character of the area.

## **STAFF ANALYSIS FOR CHANGE IN ZONING**

The site is located in the Village Center Form District

Village Form is characterized by predominately residential uses where the pattern of development is distinguished by open space such as parks, greenways, and farmland protected by conservation easements. The Village Form should have a small-scale village center with a mixture of uses such as offices, shops, restaurants, services and a diversity of housing types that may be higher in density than the rest of the district. The village center may be arranged around a village green. Low-density residential uses interspersed with open space may be encouraged at the edge of the Village. Village Form should be designed to encourage pedestrian, bicycle and transit use.

Following is staff's analysis of the proposed rezoning against the Goals, Objectives and Policies of Plan 2040.

The site is adjacent to an existing R-7-zoned apartment complex, and the proposed R-7 zoning would constitute an expansion of higher-density residential zoning in a residential area. The proposed zoning would permit the site to be utilized for an accessory office for the adjacent complex, under unified zoning. A lower-intensity zoning would not be appropriate for the proposed use, as it is inappropriate for a higher-intensity use to have accessory uses in a lower-intensity zoning district. The proposed district would, however, also be appropriate as a stand-alone request, as the maximum density permitted on the site would be impossible to attain within the restrictions of the Land Development Code if the applicant desired to provide parking for residents on the site.

The proposed zoning district is generally in compliance with the plan elements and CHASE principles of Plan 2040. All other agency comments should be addressed to demonstrate compliance with the remaining Goals, Objectives and Policies of Plan 2040.

A checklist is attached to the end of this staff report with a more detailed analysis. The Louisville Metro Planning Commission is charged with making a recommendation to the Louisville Metro Council regarding the appropriateness of this zoning map amendment. The Louisville Metro Council has zoning authority over the property in question.

## **STANDARD OF REVIEW AND STAFF ANALYSIS FOR DDDP**

- (a) The conservation of natural resources on the property proposed for development, including: trees and other living vegetation, steep slopes, water courses, flood plains, soils, air quality, scenic views, and historic sites;

STAFF: No natural resources are evident on the site. Required tree canopy will be provided.

- (b) The provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation both within the development and the community;

STAFF: Provisions for safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian transportation within and around the development and the community has been provided, and Metro Public Works has approved the preliminary development plan.

- (c) The provision of sufficient open space (scenic and recreational) to meet the needs of the proposed development;

STAFF: No open space provisions are pertinent to the request.

- (d) The provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community;

STAFF: The Metropolitan Sewer District has approved the preliminary development plan and will ensure the provision of adequate drainage facilities on the subject site in order to prevent drainage problems from occurring on the subject site or within the community.

- (e) The compatibility of the overall site design (location of buildings, parking lots, screening, landscaping) and land use or uses with the existing and projected future development of the area;

STAFF: The overall site design is in compliance with existing and planned future development in the area. The proposal would provide an office for the adjacent, existing apartment complex in an existing structure.

- (f) Conformance of the development plan with the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. Revised plan certain development plans shall be evaluated for conformance with the non-residential and mixed-use intent of the form districts and comprehensive plan.

STAFF: The development plan conforms to applicable requirements of the Land Development Code. The site plan complies with the policies and guidelines of the Comprehensive Plan. The proposal to utilize the existing structure for an office serving the adjacent apartment development would have minimal impact on the surrounding single-family uses.

## **REQUIRED ACTIONS**

- **RECOMMEND** that Metro Council **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Change-in-Zoning** from R-4 to R-7
- **APPROVE** or **DENY** the **Detailed District Development Plan** with **Binding Elements**

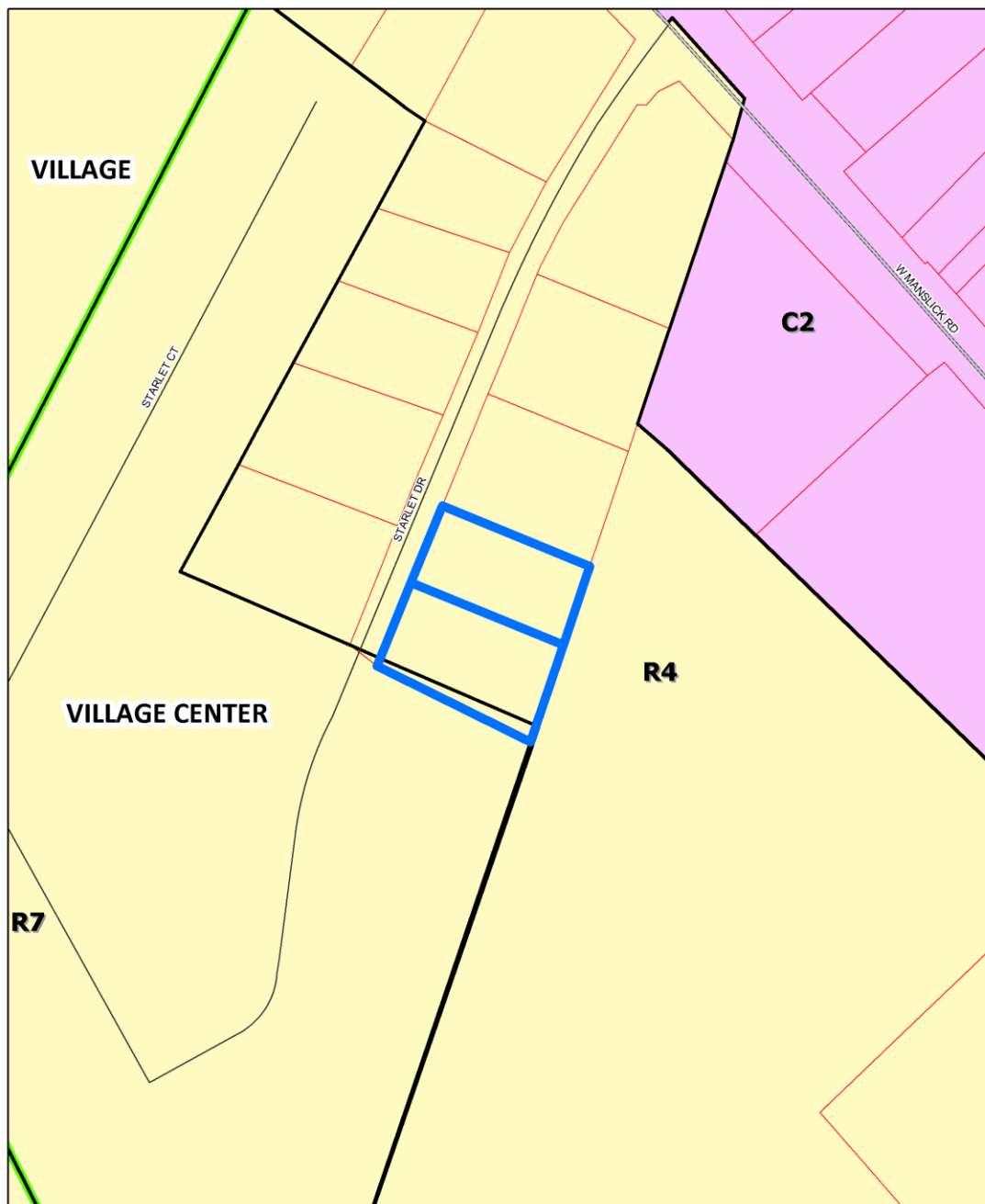
## **NOTIFICATION**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Purpose of Notice</b>	<b>Recipients</b>
<b>04/25/2024</b>	Hearing before LD&T	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> tier adjoining property owners and current residents Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 13
<b>05/23/2024</b>	Hearing before PC	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> tier adjoining property owners and current residents Registered Neighborhood Groups in Council District 13
<b>05/20/2024</b>	Hearing before PC	Sign Posting on property
<b>05/28/2024</b>	Hearing before PC	Legal Advertisement in the Courier-Journal

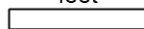
## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Zoning Map
2. Aerial Photograph
3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist
4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. Zoning Map



9713 & 9715 Starlet Drive  
feet



110  
Map Created: 12/4/2023



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COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWER DISTRICT (MSD),  
LOUISVILLE WATER COMPANY (LWC),  
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JEFFERSON COUNTY PROPERTY VALUATION  
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2. Aerial Photograph



9713 & 9715 Starlet Drive  
feet

110

Map Created: 12/4/2023



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### 3. Staff Plan 2040 Checklist

- + Exceeds Guideline
- ✓ Meets Guideline
- Does Not Meet Guideline
- +/- More Information Needed
- NA Not Applicable

#### Village: Residential

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
1	Community Form: Goal 1	7. Locate higher density and intensity uses near major transportation facilities and transit corridors, employment centers, in or near activity centers and other areas where demand and adequate infrastructure exists or is planned.	✓	Starlet Drive is a local road at this location. The site is adjacent to existing multi-family development and will serve that development.
2	Community Form: Goal 1	9. Ensure an appropriate transition between uses that are substantially different in scale and intensity or density of development. The transition may be achieved through methods such as landscaped buffer yards, vegetative berms, compatible building design and materials, height restrictions and setback requirements.	✓	Appropriate transitions will be provided.
3	Community Form: Goal 2	9. Encourage new developments and rehabilitation of buildings that provide commercial, office and/or residential uses.	✓	The proposal would provide office development serving a multi-family development.
4	Community Form: Goal 3	10. Encourage development to avoid wet or highly permeable soils, severe, steep or unstable slopes where the potential for severe erosion problems exists in order to prevent property damage and public costs associated with soil slippage and foundation failure and to minimize environmental degradation.	✓	No wet or highly permeable soils, or severe, steep or unstable slopes are evident on the site.
5	Community Form: Goal 4	2. Encourage preservation of distinctive cultural features including landscapes, natural elements and built features.	✓	No distinctive cultural features are evident on the site.
6	Community Form: Goal 4	3. Encourage preservation and/or adaptive reuse of historic sites listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and/or recognized by the Louisville Metro Landmarks Commission or other national, state or local government historic preservation agencies.	✓	No historic assets are evident on the site.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
7	Mobility: Goal 1	4. Encourage higher densities and intensities within or near existing marketplace corridors, existing and future activity centers, and employment centers to support transit-oriented development and an efficient public transportation system.	✓	The site is located close to an activity center at the roundabout.
8	Mobility: Goal 2	4. Avoid access to development through areas of significantly lower intensity or density development if such access would create significant nuisances.	✓	Access to the site is from W Manslick Road, a primary collector at this location, via Starlet Drive, a local road passing through development of similar intensity.
9	Mobility: Goal 3	2. To improve mobility, and reduce vehicle miles traveled and congestion, encourage a mixture of compatible land uses that are easily accessible by bicycle, car, transit, pedestrians and people with disabilities. Housing should be encouraged near employment centers.	✓	The proposal would encourage a mixture of compatible land uses near an activity center at the roundabout.
10	Mobility: Goal 3	5. Evaluate developments for their impact on the transportation network (including the street, pedestrian, transit, freight movement and bike facilities and services) and air quality.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
11	Mobility: Goal 3	6. Ensure that those who propose new developments bear or share in rough proportionality the costs of transportation facilities and services made necessary by development.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
12	Mobility: Goal 3	9. When existing transportation facilities and services are inadequate and public funds are not available to rectify the situation, the developer may be asked to make improvements, roughly proportional to the projected impact of the proposed development, to eliminate present inadequacies if such improvements would be the only means by which the development would be considered appropriate at the proposed location.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
13	Mobility: Goal 3	10. Ensure that necessary improvements occur in accordance with long-range transportation plans and level of mobility criteria for all modes of travel.	✓	Transportation Planning has approved the proposal.
14	Mobility: Goal 3	21. Prevent safety hazards caused by direct residential access to high speed roadways.	✓	No direct residential access to high-speed roadways is proposed.



#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
15	Community Facilities: Goal 2	1. Locate development in areas served by existing utilities or capable of being served by public or private utility extensions.	✓	The relevant utilities have approved the proposal.
16	Community Facilities: Goal 2	2. Ensure that all development has an adequate supply of potable water and water for fire-fighting purposes. Locate only very low-density land uses on sites that use on-lot sewage disposal systems or on a private supply of potable water.	✓	Louisville Water Company has approved the proposal.
17	Community Facilities: Goal 2	3. Ensure that all development has adequate means of sewage treatment and disposal to protect public health and to protect water quality in lakes and streams as determined by the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD).	✓	MSD has approved the proposal.
18	Livability: Goal 1	5. Encourage development that recognizes and incorporates the unique characteristics of identified general landscape types and native plant communities (e.g., upland hardwood forest) throughout Louisville Metro.	✓	Landscaping will be provided.
19	Livability: Goal 1	17. Determine site susceptibility to erosion; identify the presence of on-site carbonate conditions and features that are vulnerable to site disturbance; identify the extent of existing groundwater use and the impacts of the project on groundwater resources, flow patterns, and existing and proposed surface drainage. Then mitigate potential hazards to such systems resulting from the project.	✓	No karst terrain is evident on the site. The site is located in the floodplain. No external changes are being made.
20	Livability: Goal 1	21. Mitigate negative development impacts to the integrity of the regulatory floodplain by encouraging development patterns that minimize disturbance and consider the increased risk of more frequent flooding events.	✓	The site is located in the floodplain. No external changes are being made.
21	Housing: Goal 1	1. Encourage a variety of housing types including, but not limited to, detached and attached single family, multi-family, mixed use, zero lot line, average lot, cluster, and co-housing. Allow for accessory residential structures and apartments. Housing types should reflect the Form District pattern.	✓	The proposal would increase the variety of housing in the neighborhood by serving existing multi-family development.

#	Plan 2040 Plan Element	Land Use & Development Policy	Staff Finding	Staff Analysis
22	Housing: Goal 1	2. Promote housing options and environments that support aging in place. Encourage housing for older adults and people with disabilities to be located close to shopping and transit routes and, when possible, medical and other supportive facilities.	✓	The proposal would support aging in place by increasing the variety of ownership options and price points in an area which is located close to an existing activity center.
23	Housing: Goal 2	1. Encourage inter-generational, mixed-income and mixed-use development that is connected to the neighborhood and surrounding area.	✓	The proposal would encourage inter-generational mixed-income and mixed-use development which is connected with an activity center nearby.
24	Housing: Goal 2	2. Locate housing within proximity to multi-modal transportation corridors providing safe and convenient access to employment opportunities, as well as within proximity to amenities providing neighborhood goods and services. Higher density, accessible residential uses should be located along transit corridors and in or near activity centers.	✓	The site is within proximity to an activity center providing neighborhood-serving goods and services.
25	Housing: Goal 3	1. Encourage provision of fair and affordable housing by providing a variety of ownership options and unit costs throughout Louisville Metro. Expand opportunities for people to live in quality, variably priced housing in locations of their choice by encouraging affordable and accessible housing in dispersed locations throughout Louisville Metro.	✓	The proposal would increase the provision of fair and affordable housing by improving access to multi-family development.
26	Housing: Goal 3	2. As neighborhoods evolve, discourage displacement of existing residents from their community.	✓	No existing residents will be displaced by the proposal.
27	Housing: Goal 3	3. Encourage the use of innovative methods such as clustering, mixed-use developments, co-housing, and accessory apartments to increase the production of fair and affordable housing.	✓	The proposal would permit innovative methods of housing.

#### 4. Proposed Binding Elements

1. The development shall be in accordance with the approved district development plan, all applicable sections of the Land Development Code (LDC) and agreed upon binding elements unless amended pursuant to the Land Development Code. Any changes/additions/alterations of any binding element(s) shall be submitted to the Planning Commission or the Planning

Commission's designee for review and approval; any changes/additions/alterations not so referred shall not be valid.

2. No outdoor advertising signs, small freestanding signs, pennants, balloons, or banners shall be permitted on the site.
3. Construction fencing shall be erected when off-site trees or tree canopy exists within 3' of a common property line. Fencing shall be in place prior to any grading or construction to protect the existing root systems from compaction. The fencing shall enclose the entire area beneath the tree canopy and shall remain in place until all construction is completed. No parking, material storage or construction activities are permitted within the protected area.
4. Before any permit (including but not limited to building, parking lot, change of use, site disturbance, alteration permit or demolition permit) is requested:
  - a. The development plan must receive full construction approval from Construction Review, Louisville Metro Public Works and the Metropolitan Sewer District.
  - b. The property owner/developer must obtain approval of a detailed plan for screening (buffering/landscaping) as described in Chapter 10 prior to requesting a certificate of occupancy. Such plan shall be implemented prior to occupancy of the site and shall be maintained thereafter.
  - c. A general crossover access easement in a form acceptable to the Planning Commission legal counsel shall be created granting reciprocal access along the proposed sidewalk connecting the office to the apartments. A copy of the recorded instrument shall be submitted to the Office of Planning; transmittal of approved plans to the office responsible for permit issuance will occur only after receipt of said instrument.
5. A certificate of occupancy must be received from the appropriate code enforcement department prior to occupancy of the structure or land for the proposed use. All binding elements requiring action and approval must be implemented prior to requesting issuance of the certificate of occupancy, unless specifically waived by the Planning Commission.
6. The applicant, developer, or property owner shall provide copies of these binding elements to tenants, purchasers, contractors, subcontractors and other parties engaged in development of this site and shall advise them of the content of these binding elements. These binding elements shall run with the land and the owner of the property and occupant of the property shall at all times be responsible for compliance with these binding elements. At all times during development of the site, the applicant and developer, their heirs, successors; and assignees, contractors, subcontractors, and other parties engaged in development of the site, shall be responsible for compliance with these binding elements.