

#### **DeKalb County Zoning Board of Appeals**

Department of Planning & Sustainability
178 Sams Street
Decatur, GA 30030



Wednesday, June 12th, 2024

Cedric Hudson Interim Director

Michael L. Thurmond Chief Executive Officer

#### **Planning Department Staff Analysis**

D1. Case No: A-24-1246808 Parcel ID(s): 18 146 05 025

#### **Commission District 02 Super District 07**

Applicant: Ray Walker

2026 Detroit Avenue

Atlanta, GA 30314

Owner: Chu Phuong

2604 Lawrenceville Highway

Decatur, GA 30033

Project Name: 2604 Lawrenceville Highway Location: 2604 Lawrenceville Highway, Decatur, GA 30033

**Request**: Variance from Section 27-2.2.1 and 27-5.1.10 of the DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance to reduce rear yard and

side yard setbacks and increase lot coverage to construct new building within the C-1 (Local Commercial) Zoning

District.

Staff Determination: Denial.

#### STAFF FINDINGS:

Section 5.1.4 Lots, Corner state the lot frontage with the shortest distance to a public right-of-way shall be designated as the front yard. The site plan dated 4/19/24 shows Lawrenceville Highway as the front. However, based on Section 5.1.4, Frazier Road would be considered the legal front. This slightly alters the request to a rear setback reduction of 30 feet to 12 feet and a side setback reduction from 20 feet to 10 feet based on C-1 (Local Commercial) Non-Residential Dimensional Requirements (Section 2.24.1). The accessory structure would be pre-engineered and set on an existing 6-inch concrete slab. The purpose of the accessory structure is to provide more car storage and workspace.

1. There is an extraordinary or exceptional physical condition(s) pertaining to the particular piece of property (such as, but not limited to, lot size, lot shape, specimen tree(s), steep slope(s), or preservation of historic characteristics of the property), which was not created by the current owner, previous owner, or applicant; by reason of a clearly demonstrable condition(s), the strict application of the requirements of this chapter would deprive the property owner of rights and privileges enjoyed by other property owners in the same zoning district, as distinguished from a special privilege or convenience sought by the property owner.

The subject property may possess an extraordinary and/or exceptional physical condition that would limit where the applicant could construct the proposed building (2,625 square feet). The subject site is significantly below the minimum lot size required for C-1 zoning districts. The subject site is 13,266 square feet whereas C-1 zoning districts require a minimum of 20,000 square feet. While the proposed structure would organize and create a better appearance by way of storage and assembling vehicles, the site already surpasses the lot coverage permitted within C-1 zoning districts.

The subject site currently has 100% lot coverage whereas C-1 zoning districts require a maximum of 80% lot coverage. There may be an opportunity to incorporate greenery or remove and replace portions of concrete/concrete islands with permeable materials to reduce the lot coverage. The strict application of the requirements of the relevant zoning regulations may deprive the property owner of rights and privileges enjoyed by other property owners in the same zoning district in order to develop a commercial lot. However, approving the setback reductions and lot coverage increase would further the nonconformity of the subject site, which may no longer be suitable for the desired expansion of the use.

2. The requested variance does not go beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief, and does not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the zoning district in which the subject property is located:

The proposed accessory structure will significantly increase the degree of non-conformity of the site and offer no relief as it pertains to the lot coverage. Based on the degree of the requests (10 plus feet of setback reduction and 20% of lot coverage relief) the proposed requests may go beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief. Additionally, it may be applicable for the applicant and owner to first attempt to remedy on site non-conformities. Otherwise, granting this variance may also constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the same zoning district.

3. The grant of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the zoning district in which the subject property is located:

Because the site is currently at 100% lot coverage, there may be adverse impacts as it applies to water runoff. Additionally, there is a residential property adjacent to the subject site (1433 Frazier Road) along the side yard where the applicant has requested a setback reduction. Therefore, the development of the site may be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or the zoning district.

#### 4. The literal interpretation and strict application of the applicable provisions or requirements of this chapter would cause undue and unnecessary hardship:

It does appear that the literal interpretation and strict application of the applicable provisions or requirements of the zoning regulations may cause an undue and unnecessary hardship as it pertains to the setbacks. Given the constraints of the size and shape of the site, the applicant has little ability to develop the site (as it exists) given the required setbacks. The subject site is approximately 7,000 square feet smaller (approximately 3,000 square feet) than the minimum C-1 zoning district lot size (20,000 sqft.) which leaves an even smaller buildable envelope. Without demolishing the existing structure and building anew, as well as reducing the lot coverage, it appears the applicant may not be able to further develop the site.

#### 5. The requested variance would be consistent with the spirit and purpose of this Chapter and the DeKalb County Comprehensive Plan Text:

The requested variance may align with the spirit and purpose of the 2050 Unified Plan. The proposal may be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's goal for CRC Character Area's (Commercial Redevelopment Corridors) to service and store vehicles in an enclosed building and improve the aesthetic appeal along Lawrenceville Highway. The applicant has specified the existing lot appears crowded with little room for vehicles to move around site. This proposal may not only address the property owner's needs but also aligns with broader community development goals.

#### FINAL STAFF ANALYSIS:

Under the strict application of the zoning requirements, the owner may be limited in their ability to make modifications to the existing structure and/or propose any development. There appear to be opportunities to reduce the proposed lot coverage from 100%. Additionally, the requested variances may go beyond the minimum necessary for relief, as the requests for setback reductions and lot coverage increase are significant. Furthermore, the request would further the nonconformity of the site. Therefore, Staff recommends denial.

Staff Determination: Denial.



404.371.2155 (a) 404.371.4556 (f) DeKalbCountyGa.gov Clark Harrison Building 330 W. Ponce de Leon Ave Decatur, GA 30030

Chief Executive Officer

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCES AND SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS APPLICATION

Director

Michael Thurmond

Andrew A. Baker, AICP

AV/SE NO.:						
APPLICANT:Ray MALKER						
ADDRESS 2026 Detroit Ave Atlanta walray@mail.com						
CITY: Atlanta state: Georgia zip: 30314						
TELEPHONE: HOMED 18-668-007 (BUSINESS: 678-668-0076) FAX:						
OWNER OF RECORD FOR WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE (Print name)						
Name (Print): Chu phuong						
Name (Signature): Chu phuong E-Mail:						
Address (Mailing): 2604 Lawrenceille Highway City: Decatur State: Georgia Zip:						
Telephone 170- 908- 8223 Business: Fax:						
Authorized Agent: Ray walker E-Mail: walray@mail.com						
Address 2026 Detroit Ave Atlanta City: Atlanta State: GA. Zip: 30314						
Telephone 770- 908- 8223 Business: 770- 908- 8223						
ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PROPERTY FOR WHICH APPLICATION IS MADE						

	To Be Completed By Planning and Development Department					
Date Received:		Fee Paid:		Receipt No.:		

Address: 2604 Lawrenceille Highway City: Decatur State: GA. Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

District(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Land Lot(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_ Parcel: \_\_\_\_

Zoning: \_\_\_\_\_ Commission District(s): \_\_\_\_\_

#### **ZBOA APPLICATION AUTHORIZATION**

Completion of this form is required if the individual making the request is not the owner of the property.

DATE: 11 / 10 / 2023			
HECK TYPE OF APPLICATION:			
) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL			
<b>₩ VARIANCE</b>			
( ) SPECIAL EXCEPTION			
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:			
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being (owner ) / (owners) of the prop	erty descr	[Name of owner(s)] bed below or attached hereby d	elegate authority to
		Walker	-
		of Applicant or Representative	
to file an application on (my) / (our) l	ehalf.		
		Joh	~
Notary Public		Owner	
Notary Public	_	Owner	Outstanding to the control of the co
Notary Public	_	Over	
Notary Public		Owner	
		1/17	
		1111	

APP FOR VARINCE

### Acknowledgment by Individual



Acknowledginging	
State of C	ounty of
(Leorgia	Newton
	2003 Reference Nicola Kill
On this 10th day of NOVEMBER	, 20 <u>23</u> . Before me, Name of Notary Public
the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared the Phuona	ed
Name of Signer(s)	
Proved to me on the oath of	
Personally known to me	4 1
Proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evid	lence GA Drivers Cicense
to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscrib	bed to the within instrument, and acknowledged that he/she/they
executed it.	
WITNESS my hand and official seal.	
Nicola N Kipp NOTARY PUBLIC Newton County, GEORGIA	Weele The
My Commission Expires	(Signature of Nothry Public)
05/08/2026	My commission expires <u>05/08/2026</u>
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Notary Seal	
	Optional: A thumbprint is only needed if state statutes require a thumbprint.
For Bank Purposes Only	Right Thumbprint
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Signer(s) Other Than Named Above $A > A > A$	
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Account Number (if applicable)	
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F001-0000DSG5350-01

DSG5350/595575 (Rev 05 - 05/21)

#### Letter of Intent

Dear Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals,

My name is George Booker, and I am writing to formally request a variance from Section 27-2.2.1 and 27-5.1.10 of the DeKalb County Zoning Ordinance to reduce rear yard and side yard setbacks and increase lot coverage to construct new building within the C-1 (Local Commercial) zoning district. My request pertains to reducing the rear-yard setback requirement from 30 feet to 10 feet and the right side from 20 feet to 12 feet for the property at 2604 Lawrenceville Hwy, Decatur Ga. 30033. The purpose of this variance is to facilitate the construction of an accessory structure, which will be a Pre-Engineered building set on an existing 6-inch concrete slab. This structure is crucial for the improvement and effective use of #1 Decatur Pro Auto Repair in Decatur GA.

#### 1. Physical Conditions of the Site

The unique physical condition of the property constitutes a special case necessitating this variance. Compliance with the right 20 feet and rear 30 feet yard setback is challenging because the property sits at the corner of Lawrenceville Hwy and Frazier Rd, making the parcel an irregular and inconvenient shape. Usage of the pre-existing 6-inch concrete slab in the back is needed for more car storage and workspace. The requested change to the rear yard setback requirement will allow for more feasible use of the full property.

#### 2. Minimum Variance Necessary

I can assure you that the requested variance is not excessive and is solely intended to provide necessary relief. Furthermore, it does not entail any special privileges that would be incompatible with the zoning regulations applicable to other properties within the same district as the subject property.

#### 3. Public Welfare

Mr. Chou's company, #1 Decatur Pro Auto Repair, stands as a longstanding landmark in Decatur, GA, having dutifully served the community for many years. The proposed modification to the right and rear setback is anticipated to yield profoundly positive outcomes for both Mr. Chou's business and its patrons. The planned extension to the rear will offer increased space, facilitating safer and more comfortable access to and from the property's front. This extension will alleviate the congestion of vehicles currently occupying the front yard, which hampers the property's full utilization. Moreover, it will provide protection from outdoor elements for customers' vehicles and increase overall security of the property. Importantly, the adjustment to the right by 10 feet and the rear by 30 feet setback will not encroach on neighboring properties in anyway.

#### 4. Ordinance Hardship

A strict adherence to the zoning laws would impose considerable hardship upon the property owner, Chu Phong, as it restricts the available space for the safe and practical utilization of their property. The variance sought is fundamentally necessary to alleviate this undue hardship and enable a reasonable and productive use of the land. Without this variance, Mr. Phong would face significant limitations in optimizing the property's potential for safe and practical purposes, impeding its full functionality and utility.

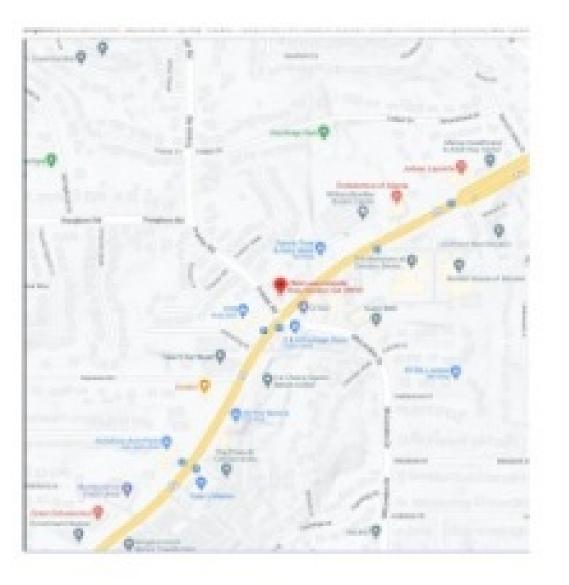
#### 5. Alignment with the Spirit of the Law

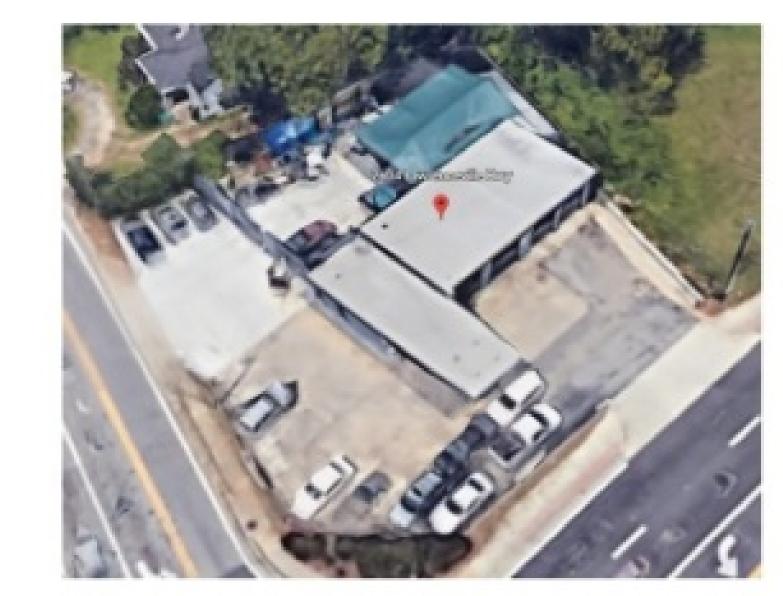
I firmly believe that my variance request aligns with the intent of the Commercial Redevelopment Corridor, as outlined in the Dekalb County Comprehensive Plan. All minor automotive repairs and established operations including the servicing of vehicles, storage of materials and similar activities connected with the use shall be conducted entirely within an enclosed building. Cars awaiting service shall be stored inside an enclosed building or in the side or rear yard for the security of the vehicles.

In summary, I am grateful for the time and attention you have dedicated to reviewing my variance request. I am fully committed to collaborating with you to ensure that the proposed modifications harmonize with Dekalb County's overarching objectives and policies. Your consideration of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

George Booker





## 2604 LAWRENCEVILLE hwy. **DECATUR GEORGIA**

#### **Current Codes**

1IBC 2018 International Building codes with Georgia Amendments 2IRC 2018 International Residential Code Georgia amendments 3IPC 2018 International Plumbing code with Georgia amendments 4IIMC 2018 international Mechanical code edition with Georgia amendments 5IIFGC 2 018 international Fuel gas codes with Georgia amendments 6IECC 2015 International Energy Conservation Code with Georgia Supplements 7IFC 2018 Edition with GA Amendments 8ISPSC 2018 Edition with GA Amendments 9 NFPA 101-Life Safety Codes 2018 Edition

International Fire Code 2012 edition with Georgia amendments

#### Scope of work information

NEW metal garage on the rear of existing building with roll up door

**24 Hour information** Mr. Booker 678-613-8902

#### **Index of Drawings**

1 C-0 Cover

S-1 existing site

2 A-1 elev. pics

3 A-2 elev. pics 4 A-3 propose floor plan/ details

DATE:

4/19/2024

SCALE:

SHEET:



OWNER / DEVELOPER Chu Phoung

2604 Lawrenceville Highway Decatur, GA 30033

770.908.8223

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

GB General Contracting 1681 Wellborn Road Lithonia, GA 30058 mobile: 678.613.8902

EXISTING CONDITIONS

1-Story Building 1,954 sq.ft.
Concrete Paving 9,000 sq.ft.
Asphalt Paving 2,312 sq.ft.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Add New Enclosed Metal Building 2625 sq.ft.



NOTE:

Plat information shown herein is based upon a Boundry Survey (# BS-82-26) dated February 23, 1982, generated by: BRUNER & ASSOCIATES 445 Beaver Ruln Rd. Sulte 25

Lilburn, GA 30247

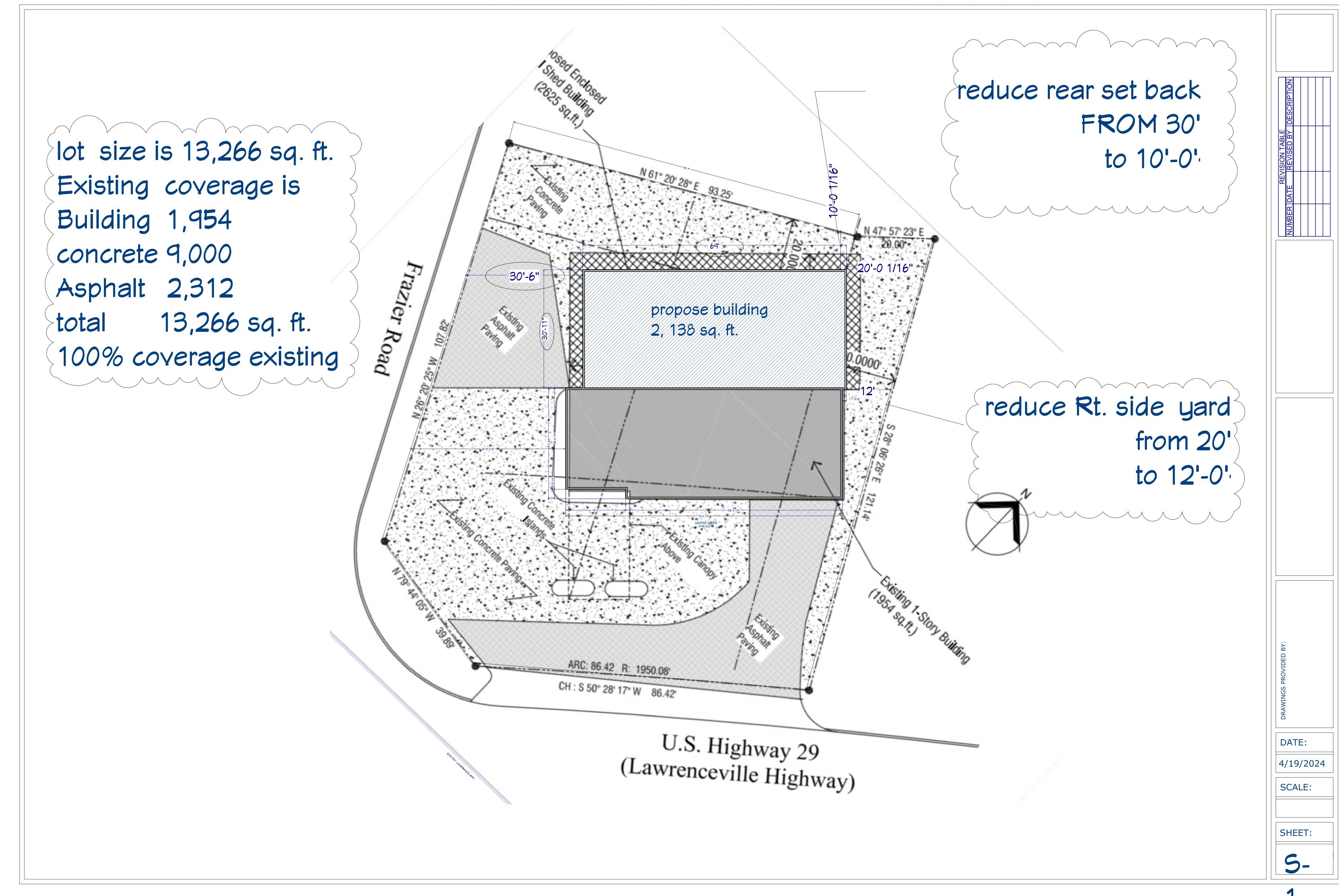
1st Floor

DATE:

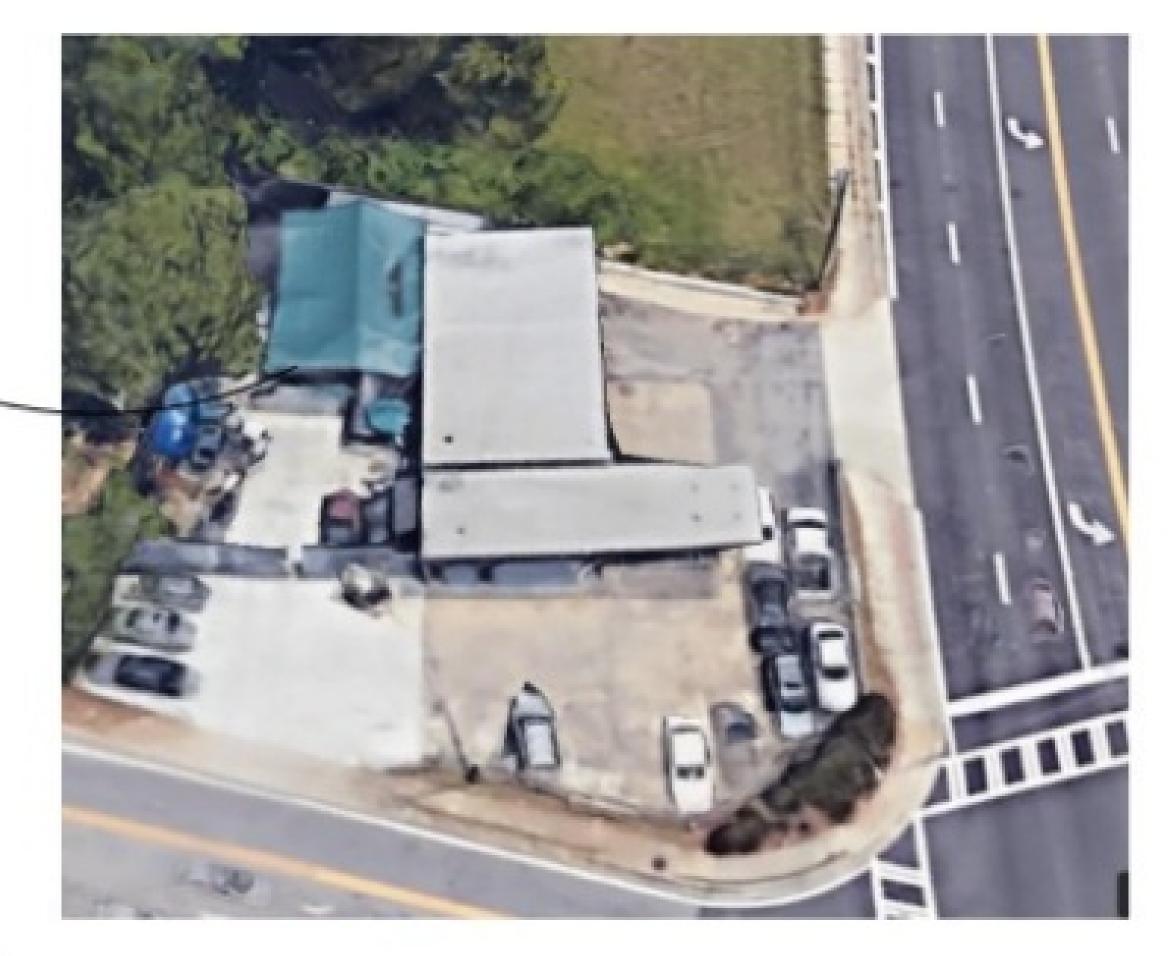
4/19/2024

SCALE:

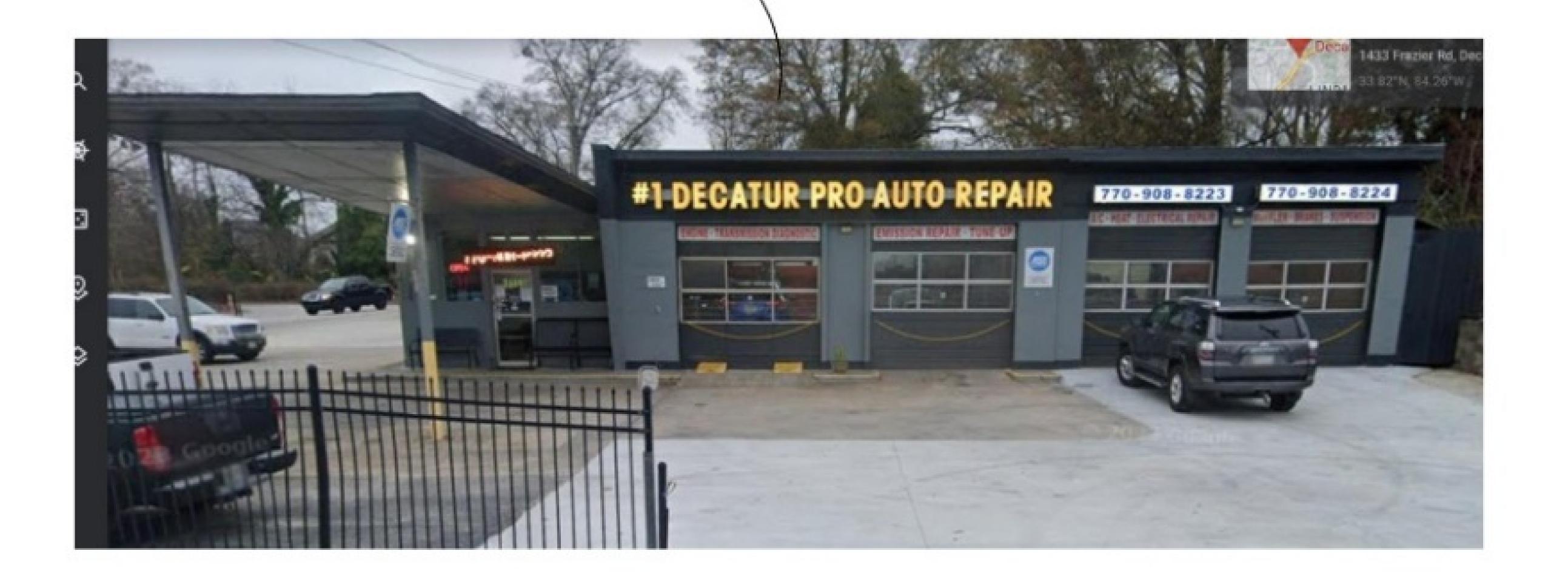
SHEET:



## existing roof view



front elevation-



4/19/2024

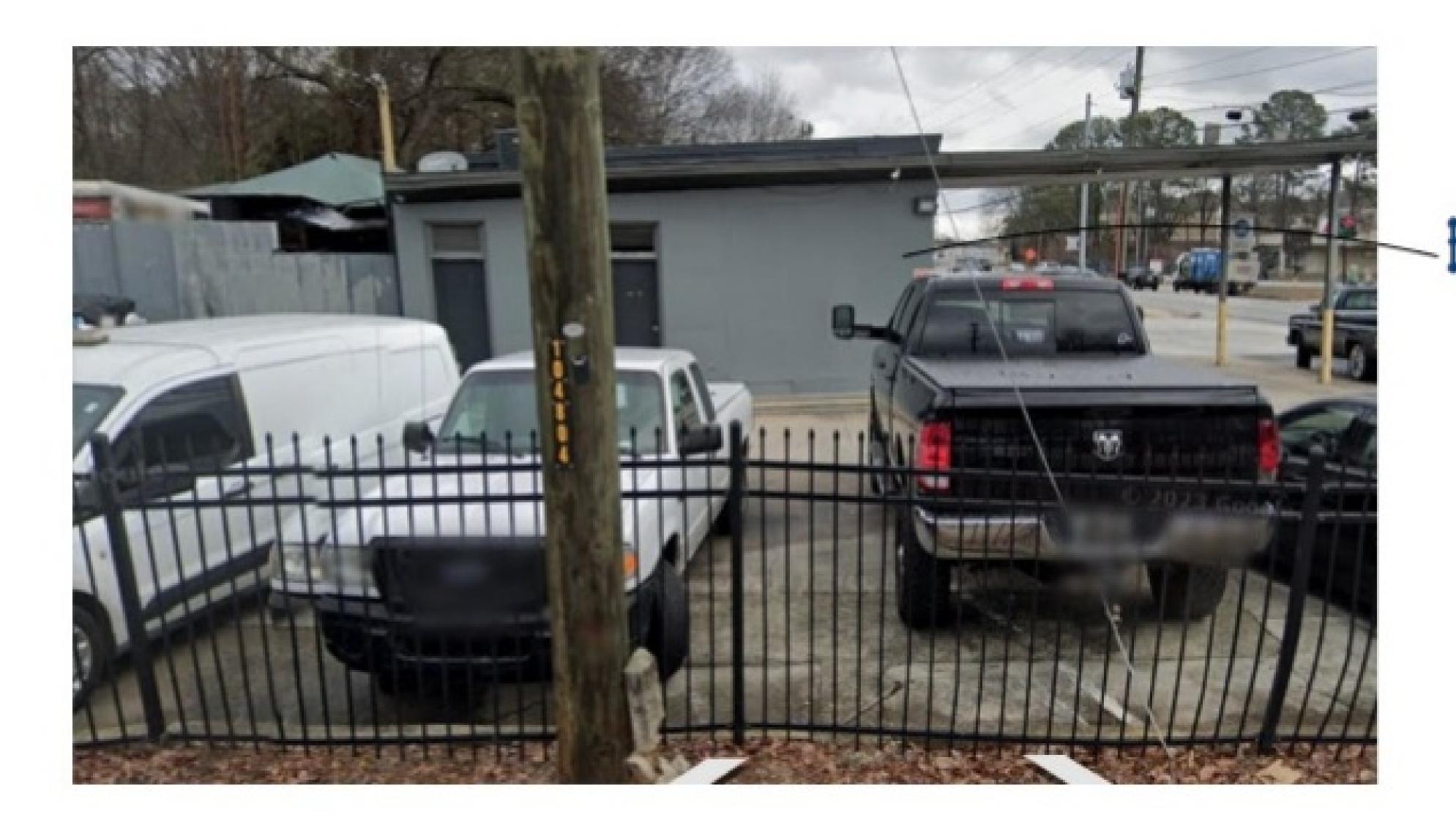
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DATE:

SHEET:

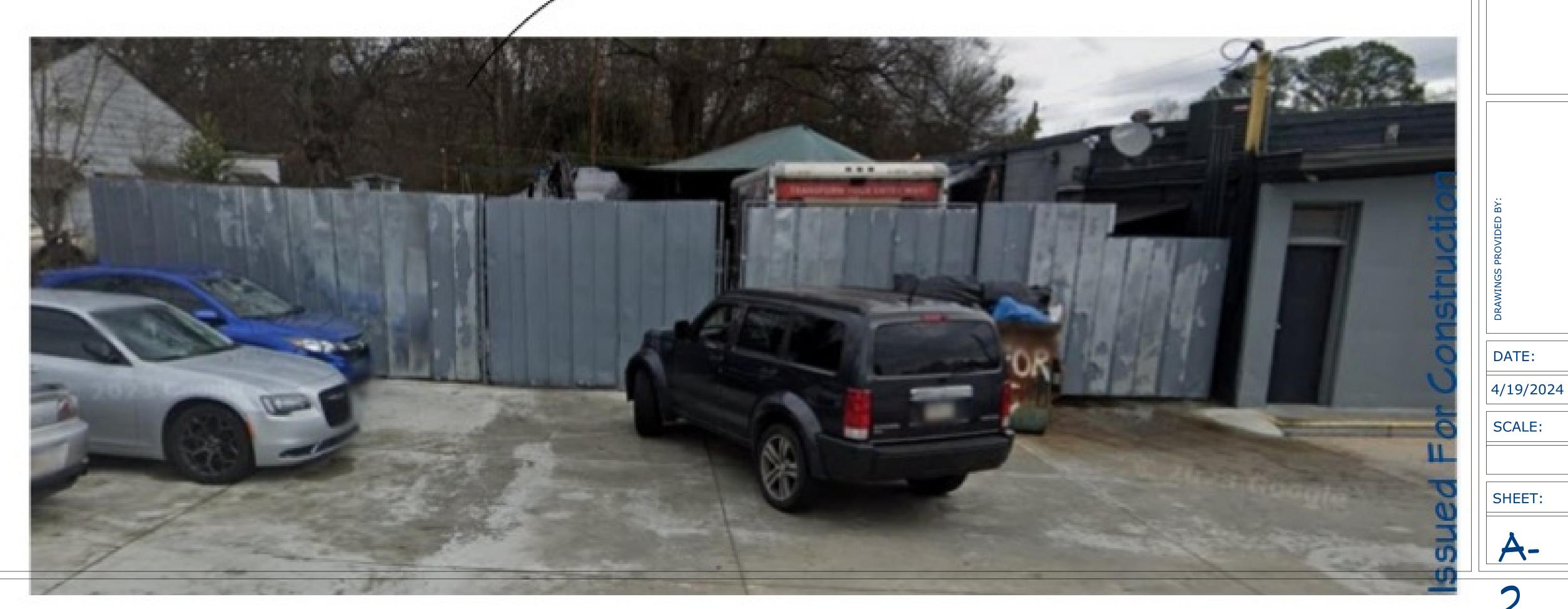


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# Existing left elevation

# -Existing rear space



DATE:

SCALE:

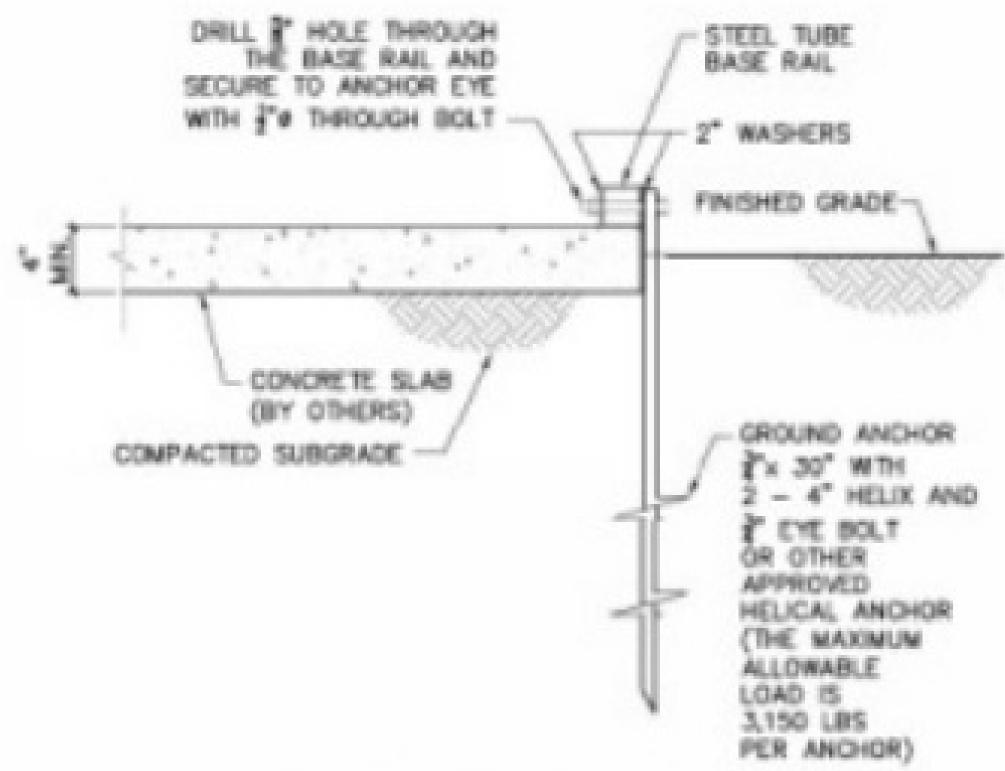




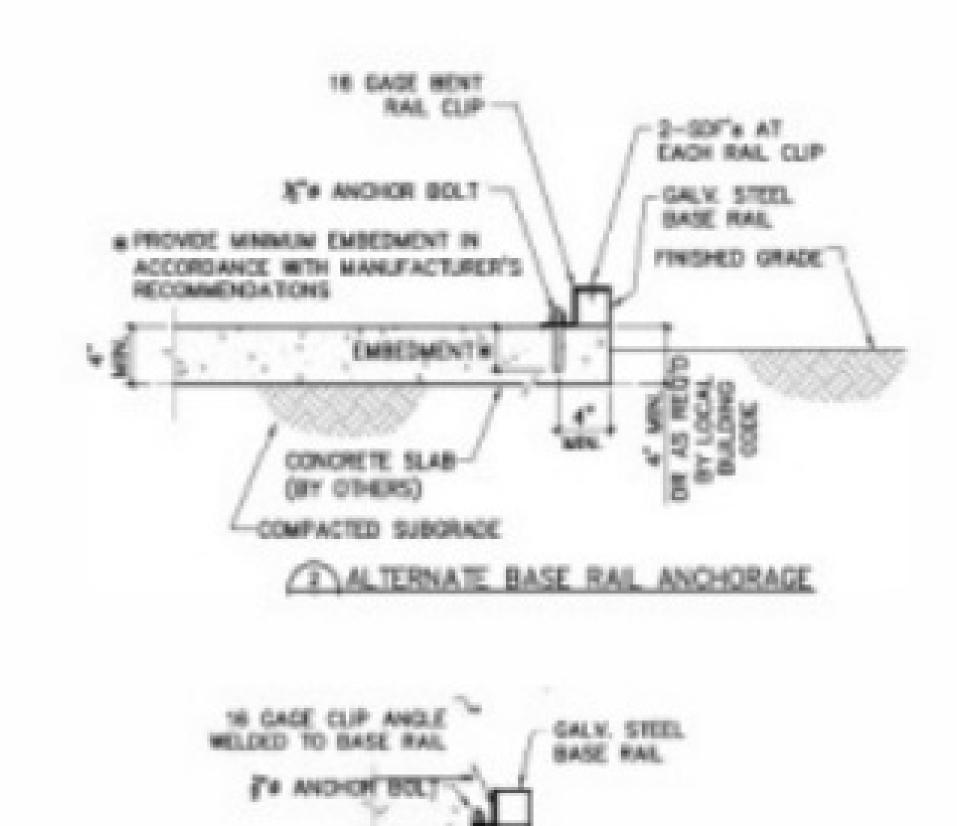
Elevation 1

# new metal building roll up door exit door

## new metal building ALTERNATE ANCHORAGE OF HONS

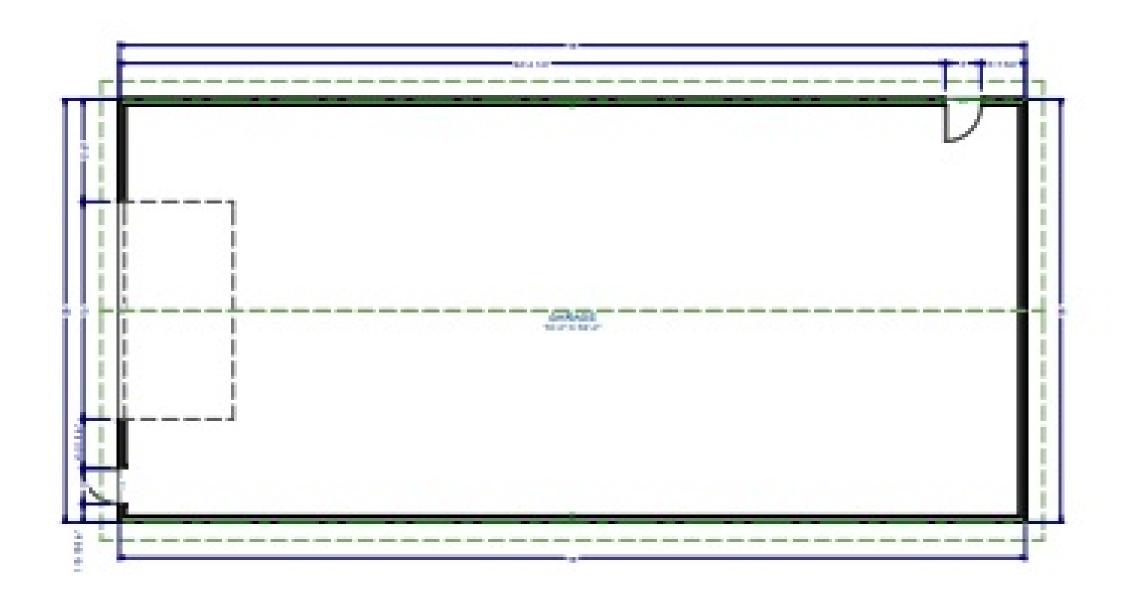


ALTERNATE BASE RAIL ANCHORAGE



ALTERNATE BASE RAIL CLIP

Elevation 2



garage Floor plan



DATE:

4/19/2024

SCALE:

SHEET:

The request is for. a Variance asking for the rear set back line to be reduce to 9-0" and the right side to 20-0" DATE: 12/14/2023 SCALE: SHEET:



#### **GB GENERAL CONTRACTING LLC**

Interior Design – Drywall Installation Specializing in Electrical & Plumbing

George Booker 1681 Wellborn Road Lithonia, GA 30058 Phone: (770) 484-4278

Fax: (770) 484-4225 Cell: (678) 613-8902

**Dekalb County Zoning** 

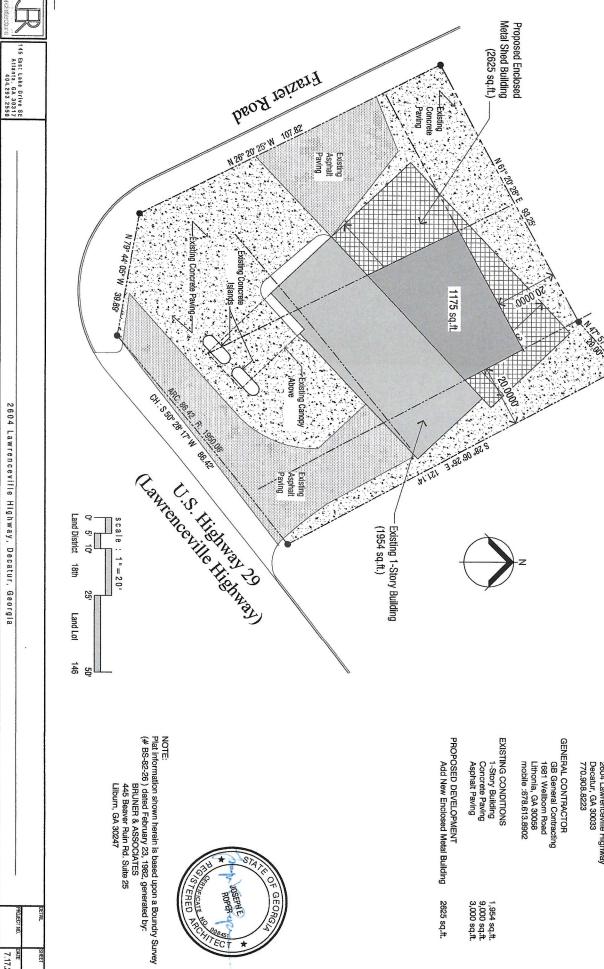
Permit #: 3129754 2604 Lawrenceville Hwy Decatur, Ga. 30033

Re: (18 146 05 025) Variance of Dekalb County Ordinance to reduce rear yard and side yard setbacks and increase lot coverage to construct new building within the C1 zoning district.

#### Intent:

- 1. The proposed development will be to add a new 2625 sq. ft. Pre-Engineered building set on an existing 6 in concrete slab.
- 2. The single gabled building will be 12' at the eave with a 12" overhang. The pitch of the metal roof will be 3/12.
- 3. The building will be enclosed on all four sides; the Frazier Road elevation will be equipped with an 8'x8' roll up metal door.
- 4. The finished height of the completed building will be +/- 13'-0".
- 5. Decatur Pro Auto Repair (built in 1966 at 1,954 SF per tax digest) AP # 3129754 at 2604 Lawrenceville Hwy.
- 6. All minor automotive repairs and established operations including the servicing of vehicles, storage of materials and similar activities connected with the use shall be conducted entirely within an enclosed building. Cars awaiting service shall be stored inside an enclosed building or on the side or rear yard for the security of the vehicles.

Regards,
George H Booker
G B General Contracting LLC.



OWNER / DEVELOPER
Chu Phoung
2604 Lawrenceville Highway
Decatur, GA 30033
770.908.8223

7.17.2023

