

April 11, 2024

ITEM NO.: 26

FILE NO.: Z-9962

NAME: King (1) STR-2 – PD-C

LOCATION: 5208 Lee Avenue

AGENT:

Tara Masiello (Agent)
612 Tweed Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76131
(817) 602-0113

OWNER:

Sarah King
5921 Ampersand St
Little Rock, AR 72207
(479) 445-4767

SURVEYOR/ENGINEER:

Brooks Surveying, Inc.
20820 Arch Street Pike
Hensley, AR 72065
(501) 888-5336

AREA: .16-acre

NUMBER OF LOTS: 1

FT. NEW STREET: 0 LF

WARD: 3

PLANNING DISTRICT: 4

CENSUS TRACT: 15.01

CURRENT ZONING: R-2

VARIANCE/WAIVERS: None requested.

A. PROPOSAL/REQUEST/APPLICANT'S STATEMENT:

The applicant proposes to rezone a .16-acre property located at 5208 Lee Avenue from R-2 to PD-C to allow use of the property as Short-Term Rental-2 with a maximum stay of twenty-nine (29) days. The owner will not reside in the residence. The entire structure will be rented as one unit.

B. EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The property is occupied by a 1,354 square foot, one story, three bedroom, and two bath house. The request is in the Heights/Hillcrest Planning District as well as being located in the Hillcrest Residence Association. This property is located in the Hillcrest Historic District and is also located in the Hillcrest Design Overlay District. The Land Use Plan shows Residential Low Density (RL) for the requested area. The driveway runs all the way from Lee Avenue to the back alleyway which is ample parking for at least five vehicles.

C. NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENTS:

All owners of property located within 300 feet of the site and all neighborhood associations registered with the City of Little Rock were notified of the public hearing.

D. ENGINEERING COMMENTS: No comments.

E. UTILITIES/FIRE DEPARTMENT/PARKS/COUNTY PLANNING:

Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority: No comments.

Entergy: No comments received.

Summit Utilities: No comments.

AT & T: No comments received.

Central Arkansas Water: No comments.

Fire Department: Life Safety Inspection required.

Parks and Recreation: No comments received.

County Planning: No comments.

F. BUILDING CODES/LANDSCAPE:

Building Code: No comments received.

Landscape: No comments.

G. TRANSPORTATION/PLANNING:

Rock Region Metro: No comments received.

Planning Division:

The request is in the Heights/Hillcrest Planning District. The Land Use Plan shows Residential Low Density (RL) for the requested area. The Residential Low Density (RL) category provides for single family homes at densities not to exceed 6 dwelling units per acre. Such residential development is typically characterized by conventional single family homes but may also include patio or garden homes and cluster homes, provided that the density remains less than 6 units per acre. The application is to rezone from R-2 to PD-C for STR-2.

The Land Use surrounding the application is Residential Low Density (RL).

The application site and all surrounding properties are zoned Single Family (R-2).

This property is located in the Hillcrest Residence Association.

The subject site is located in the Hillcrest Design Overlay District (Ord. 20223).

Master Street Plan:

Lee Avenue is a Collector on the Master Street Plan. Collectors are designed to connect traffic from Local Streets to Arterials or to activity centers, with the secondary function of providing access to adjoining property. The standard Right of way is 60'. Sidewalks are required on one side of Collectors. This street may require dedication of right-of-way and may require street improvements.

Bicycle Plan:

Lee Avenue is on the Master Bike Plan as a Proposed Class 3 Bike Route. Class 3 Bike Routes require no additional right-of-way, but either a sign or pavement marking to identify and direct the route.

Historic Preservation Plan:

This property is located in the Hillcrest Historic District.

H. ANALYSIS:

The applicant proposes to rezone a .16-acre property located at 5208 Lee Avenue from R-2 to PD-C to allow use of the property as Short-Term Rental-2 with a maximum stay of twenty-nine (29) days. The owner will not reside in the residence. The entire structure will be rented as one unit.

The STR-2 has been in operation since April of 2022. The property is not currently under enforcement by the City of Little Rock Planning and Development. There has been no police reports at this property.

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On June 20, 2023, the City Board of Directors passed an ordinance regulating short-term rentals within the City of Little Rock. The new ordinance establishes “development standards” for short-term rentals. If approved, the applicant must comply with the newly established development standards as follows, in addition to all other requirements of the new ordinance:

b.) Development Standards.

1. Hosting of private parties and special events such as weddings, receptions, and other similar gatherings is not allowed in Short-Term Rentals.
2. Tours for a fee are not allowed to anyone other than an Occupant.
3. The Occupancy Fee may include any meal to be served to paying guests; no other meal service is permitted.
4. Allowable signage is that as permitted by the Single-Family Residential Standard.
5. Parking plan must be provided with permit application. Off-Street Standard for STRs shall be provided in accordance with Little Rock Arkansas Code, Chapter 36 36-54 (e) (1). If on-street parking is proposed as an alternative to meet the above requirements, parking must be available for guest use within 330 feet of the STR and parking plan must address neighborhood impact. If the STR is proposed within a Design Overlay District, any alternate parking requirements, as provided in Little Rock, Arkansas Rev. Code, Chapter 36. Zoning, Article V. District Regulations shall be applicable.
6. Applicants shall provide a scaled floor plan that includes all of the rooms available for rent with location of windows, doors, and smoke detectors identified. Smoke detectors (certified) are required in all sleeping areas, in every room in the path of the means of egress from the sleeping area to the exit, and in each story with sleeping unit, including basements.
7. All sleeping areas must have two (2) ways of egress, one of which can be an operable window.

8. Proof of homeowner's fire, hazard, and liability insurance. Liability coverage shall have limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence.
9. All persons operating a Bed and Breakfast House/Short-Term Rental (Type I & 2) shall meet all applicable requirements of the City of Little Rock's Municipal Code, Chapter 12, Fire Prevention and Protection, Article II. Arkansas Fire Prevention Code. Prior to use as a Bed and Breakfast House/Short-Term Rental (Type 1 & 2), the annual City of Little Rock, Building Code and Fire Marshal inspection fee must be paid, and payment of annual Business License received.
10. Smoke alarms shall be installed, all smoke alarms shall meet local and state standards (current Fire Code). Smoke alarms shall be installed in all sleeping areas and every room in the path of the means of egress from the sleeping area to the door leading from the sleeping unit.
11. Carbon monoxide detectors shall be installed as directed by City Staff if there are fuel-fired appliances in the unit or the unit has an attached garage.
12. Five (5)-pound ABC-type extinguisher shall be mounted where readily accessible.
13. No recreational vehicles, buses, or trailers shall be visible on the street or property in conjunction with the Bed and Breakfast House/Short-Term Rental use.
14. Principal renter shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
15. Maximum occupancy. Maximum occupancy of any room or structure as a whole shall be determined by the Arkansas Fire Prevention Code.
16. Simultaneous rental to more than one party under separate contracts shall not be allowed.
17. The owner shall not receive any compensation or remuneration to permit occupancy of a STR for a period of less than a one (1)-day rental.

All trash pick-up shall comply with requirements for residential one-and two-family residential zones.

The applicant provided responses and additional information to all issues raised during staff's review of the application. The applicant is requesting no variances with the PD-C zoning request.

Staff is in support the requested PD-C rezoning. Staff believes the request is reasonable and that the proposed STR-2 use is appropriate for this location.

Currently the City of Little Rock Department of Planning and Development has eighty-two (82) short-term rentals (STR-1 and STR-2) listed within the database for approved short-term rentals in the City of Little Rock. The City's new short-term rental ordinance allows a maximum of 500 short-term rentals within the corporate boundary of the City of Little Rock. There are five approved and one pending STR application within 1/4 mile of the application site.

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the PD-C zoning request subject to compliance with the comments and conditions noted in paragraph E and the staff analysis of the agenda staff report.