



Agenda Item # 12
BOA-003035-2024

View additional details on this proposal and all application materials using the following link:

[Applicant Materials for Consideration](#)

DETAILS

Location:

5101 Government Boulevard

Applicant / Agent (as applicable):

Wrico Signs / Stormy Rutledge

Property Owner:

Our Savior Lutheran Church

Current Zoning:

R-1, Single-Family Suburban District

Future Land Use:

Mixed Commercial Corridor

Case Number(s):

6617

Unified Development Code (UDC) Requirement:

- The Unified Development Code (UDC) does not allow digital electronic message signs in an R-1, Single-Family Residential Suburban District.

Board Consideration:

- Sign Variance to allow a digital electronic message sign at a church in an R-1, Single-Family Residential Suburban District.

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BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
VICINITY MAP - EXISTING AERIAL



The site is surrounded by residential units.

APPLICATION NUMBER 6617 DATE September 9, 2024
APPLICANT Wrico Signs / Stormy Rutledge
REQUEST Sign Variance



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SITE HISTORY

The subject site was included in an Administrative Planned Unit Development request approved in 2011 to allow shared access between two (2) building sites.

The site has never been before the Board of Zoning Adjustment or Planning Commission.

STAFF COMMENTS

Engineering Comments:

No comments.

Traffic Engineering Comments:

No traffic impacts anticipated by this variance request.

Urban Forestry Comments:

Property to be developed in compliance with state and local laws that pertain to tree preservation and protection on both city and private properties [Act 929 of the 1961 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature (Acts 1961, p. 1487), as amended, and City Code Chapters 57 and 65]. Private removal of trees in the right-of-way will require approval of the Mobile Tree Commission. Removal of heritage trees from undeveloped residential sites, developed residential sites in historic districts, and all commercial sites will require a tree removal permit.

Fire Department Comments:

All projects within the City Limits of Mobile shall comply with the requirements of the City of Mobile Fire Code Ordinance (2021 International Fire Code). Fire apparatus access is required to be within 150' of all non-sprinklered commercial buildings and within 300' of all sprinklered commercial buildings. Fire water supply for all commercial buildings will be required to meet the guidance of Appendices B and C of the 2021 International Fire Code. The minimum requirement for fire hydrants is to be within 400' of non-sprinkled commercial buildings, within 600' of sprinkled commercial buildings, and within 100' of fire department connections (FDC) for both standpipes and sprinkler systems.

Planning Comments:

The applicant is requesting a Sign Variance to allow a digital electronic message sign at a church in an R-1, Single-Family Residential Suburban District; the Unified Development Code (UDC) does not allow digital electronic message signs in an R-1, Single-Family Residential Suburban District.

The entire application packet is available via the link on Page 1.

The purpose of the Sign Regulations is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Mobile and the general aesthetics of the city by providing for uniform standards for the locations, spacing, height, setback, lighting, and other regulation of off-premise and on-premise signs within the city.

Section 64-4-14.O.1(c) of the Zoning Ordinance states: *“electronic or digital signs are allowed only... if sign is placed a distance of not less than 300 feet from any residential zoned property. The distance shall be measured in a straight line, without regard to intervening structures or objects, from the proposed location of the sign to the nearest*

property line of any residential zoned property”. Additional requirements further state that *“on- premise electronic message board or digital signs may display animation and effects, so long as they do not flash or constitute a flashing sign as defined in this Chapter”.*

As mentioned, the applicant is seeking relief from the Zoning Ordinance to allow a digital sign on, and within 300’ of residentially zoned property. The site is currently used for a church. An existing monument sign is located on the property, along Government Boulevard. A portion of the sign is proposed to be replaced with an internally illuminated sign with a digital message center.

No information was submitted regarding any specifications of the proposed digital display and how it will comply with the other requirements of Article 4, Section 64-4-14.O.1(c) (e.g. illumination standards).

The subject site has frontage along Government Boulevard. It is zoned R-1, Single-Family Residential Suburban District, and is surrounded by properties zoned B-3, Community Business Suburban District, to the North, East, and South. Property to the West is zoned B-1, Buffer Business Suburban District.

Approving the request for digital signage within 300’ of residentially zoned property may increase visibility of the church, but no hardship associated with the site has been identified by the applicant that would preclude standard signage, especially since the existing sign appears to be adequately visible from the roadway. Additionally, the applicant has not demonstrated that a literal enforcement of the Sign Regulations of the Zoning Ordinance would result in an undue hardship.

VARIANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Standards of Review:

Variances are not intended to be granted frequently. The applicant must clearly show the Board that the request is due to very unusual characteristics of the property and that it satisfies the variance standards. What constitutes unnecessary hardship and substantial justice is a matter to be determined from the facts and circumstances of each application.

Article 5 Section 10-E. 1. of the Unified Development Codes states that the Board of Adjustment may grant a variance if:

- The Applicant demonstrates that the variance shall not be contrary to the public interest;
- Where, owing to special conditions a literal enforcement of the provision of this Chapter will result in unnecessary hardship; and
- The spirit of this Chapter will be observed and substantial justice done.

Article 5 Section 10-E.2. states; no variance shall be granted:

- (a) In order to relieve an owner of restrictive covenants that are recorded in Mobile County Probate Court and applicable to the property;
- (b) Where economic loss is the sole basis for the required variance; or
- (c) Where the variance is otherwise unlawful.

Considerations:

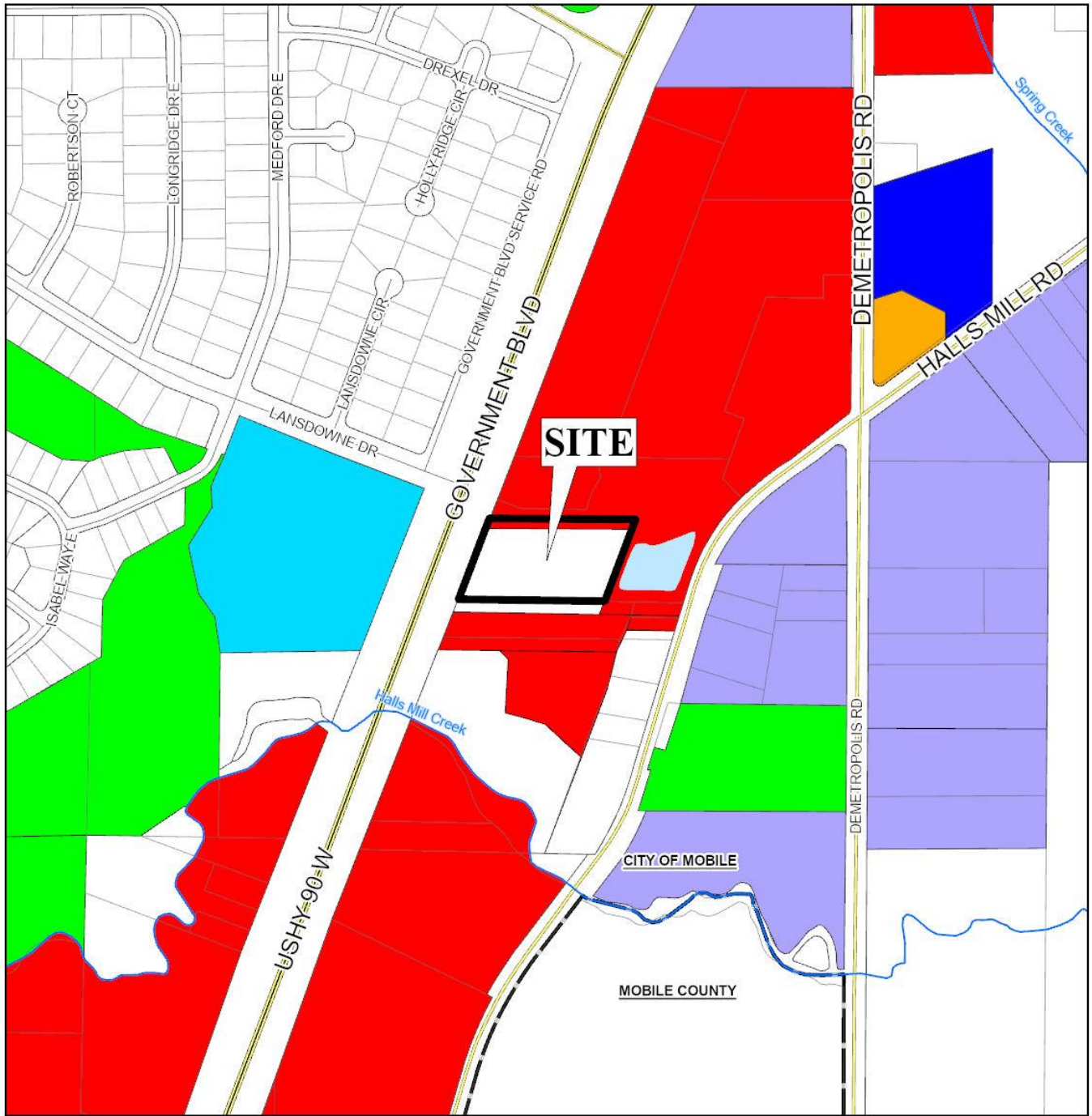
Based on the requested Variance application, if the Board considers approval of the request, the following findings of fact must be presented:

- A. The variance **will not** be contrary to the public interest;
- B. Special conditions **exist** such that a literal enforcement of the provisions of the chapter **will** result in unnecessary hardship; and
- C. The spirit of the chapter **shall** be observed and substantial justice **done** to the applicant and the surrounding neighborhood by granting the variance.

If approved, the following conditions should apply:

- 1. Acquisition of an Electrical Permit for the proposed electrical connection;
- 2. Acquisition of a Sign permit for the proposed sign; and
- 3. Full compliance with all other codes and ordinances.

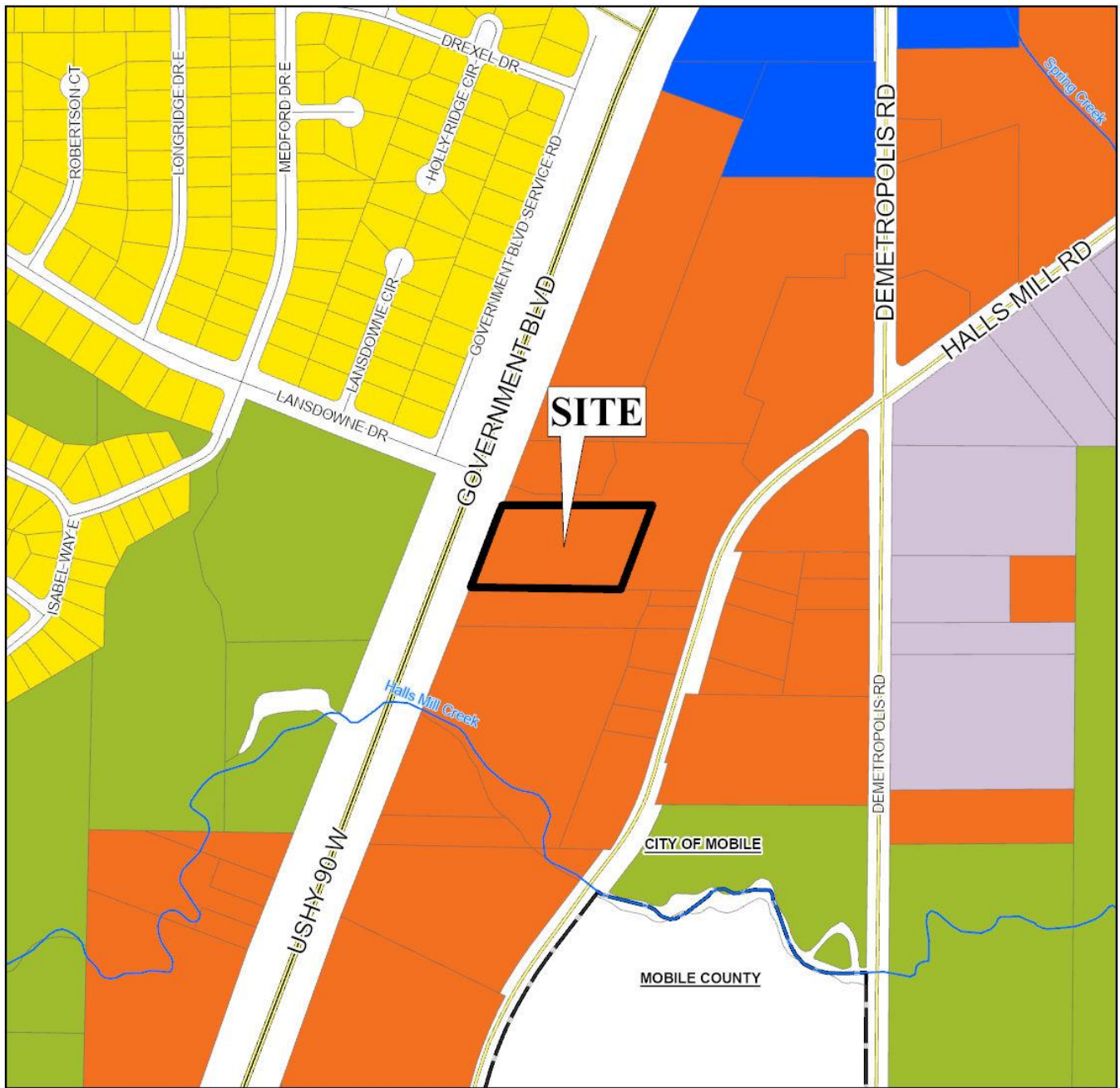
LOCATOR ZONING MAP



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FLUM LOCATOR MAP



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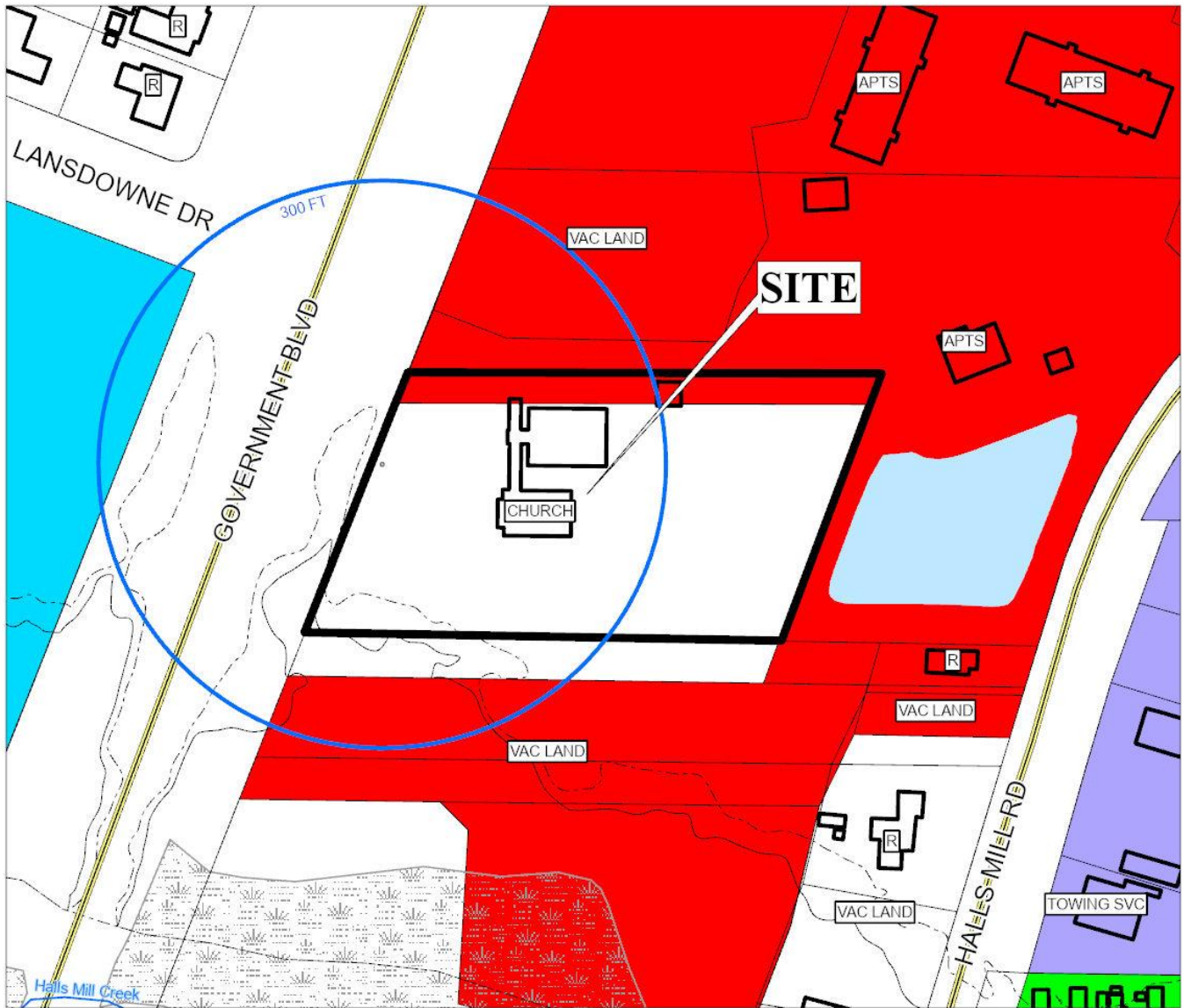
REQUEST Sign Variance

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ■ Low Density Residential | ■ Neighborhood Center - Traditional | ■ Downtown Waterfront | ■ Parks & Open Space |
| ■ Mixed Density Residential | ■ Neighborhood Center - Suburban | ■ Light Industry | ■ Water Dependent |
| ■ Downtown | ■ Traditional Corridor | ■ Heavy Industry | |
| ■ District Center | ■ Mixed Commercial Corridor | ■ Institutional | |



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BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VICINITY MAP - EXISTING ZONING



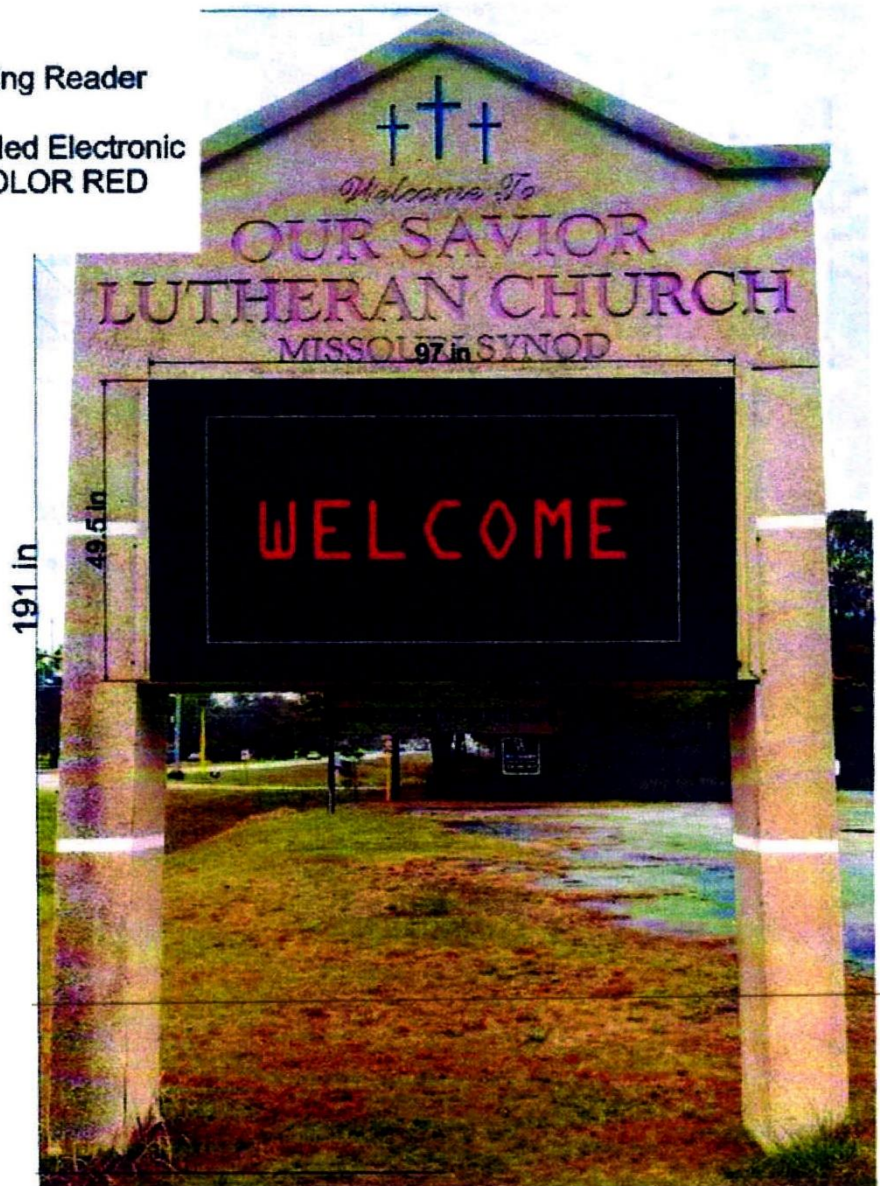
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<table style="width: 100%; font-size: small;"> <tr> <td> R-A</td> <td> R-3</td> <td> B-1</td> <td> B-2</td> <td> B-5</td> <td> ML</td> <td> I-2</td> <td> OPEN</td> <td> T-3</td> <td> T-5.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td> R-1</td> <td> R-B</td> <td> T-B</td> <td> B-3</td> <td> CW</td> <td> MH</td> <td> PD</td> <td> SD</td> <td> T-4</td> <td> T-6</td> </tr> <tr> <td> R-2</td> <td> H-B</td> <td> LB-2</td> <td> B-4</td> <td> MM</td> <td> I-1</td> <td> MUN</td> <td> SD-WH</td> <td> T-5.1</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			 R-A	 R-3	 B-1	 B-2	 B-5	 ML	 I-2	 OPEN	 T-3	 T-5.2	 R-1	 R-B	 T-B	 B-3	 CW	 MH	 PD	 SD	 T-4	 T-6	 R-2	 H-B	 LB-2	 B-4	 MM	 I-1	 MUN	 SD-WH	 T-5.1	
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 R-2	 H-B	 LB-2	 B-4	 MM	 I-1	 MUN	 SD-WH	 T-5.1																								

DETAIL SITE PLAN

Remove and Dispose of Existing Reader Board Cabinet
 Install (1) 19.8 MM Double Sided Electronic Message Center with ONE COLOR RED Display- TEXT ONLY

Active Area : 3'1" x 6'6"
Cabinet : 4' x 8"



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ZONING DISTRICT CORRESPONDENCE MATRIX			LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (LDR)	MIXED DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (MXDR)	DOWNTOWN (DT)	DISTRICT CENTER (DC)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - TRADITIONAL (NC-T)	NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER - SUBURBAN (NC-S)	TRADITIONAL CORRIDOR (TC)	MIXED COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (MCC)	LIGHT INDUSTRIAL (LI)	HEAVY INDUSTRY (HI)	INSTITUTIONAL LAND USE (INS)	PARKS & OPEN SPACE (POS)	DOWNTOWN WATERFRONT (DW)	WATER DEPENDENT USES (WDWU)
RESIDENTIAL - AG	R-A															
ONE-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-1	■				■		■						□		
TWO-FAMILY RESIDENCE	R-2	■				■		■						□	○	
MULTIPLE-FAMILY	R-3	○	■			■	■							□	○	
RESIDENTIAL-BUSINESS	R-B		○			■		■						□	○	
TRANSITIONAL-BUSINESS	T-B		○		■	■	■	■						□		
HISTORIC BUSINESS	H-B			■		■		■						□		
VILLAGE CENTER	TCD					■	■							□		
NEIGH. CENTER	TCD					■	■							□		
NEIGH. GENERAL	TCD					■								□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-6			■										□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.1			■		■		□						□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-5.2			■		■		□						□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-4			■		■		□						□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	T-3			■		■								□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DDD	SD-WH										○	○		□		
DOWNTOWN DEV. DD	SD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○			○	○		□		
BUFFER BUSINESS	B-1		□			□	■	■	■					□	○	
NEIGH. BUSINESS	B-2		○			□	■	■	■					□	○	
LIMITED BUSINESS	LB-2		○			□	■	■	■					□	○	
COMMUNITY BUSINESS	B-3				■				■				○	□	○	
GEN. BUSINESS	B-4			■					■				○	□	○	
OFFICE-DISTRIBUTION	B-5								■	■				□	□	
LIGHT INDUSTRY	I-1									■				□	□	□
HEAVY INDUSTRY	I-2										■			□		□

Zoning District Correspondence Matrix

- Directly Related
- Elements of the zoning category are related to the future LU category, but with qualifications (such as a development plan with conditions)
- Land use category is appropriate, but the district does not directly implement the category (e.g., open space in an industrial district)

MIXED COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR (MCC)

This land use designation mostly applies to transportation corridors west of I-65 serving primarily the low-density (suburban) residential neighborhoods. MCC includes a wide variety of retail, services and entertainment uses.

This designation acknowledges existing commercial development that is spread along Mobile's transportation corridors in a conventional strip pattern or concentrated into shorter segments of a corridor.

Over time, new development and redevelopment in Mixed Commercial Corridors is encouraged to raise design quality, improve connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods; improved streetscapes; and improve mobility and accessibility for all users of the corridor.