

Application for Zoning Variation

The Village of Oak Park 123 Madison Oak Park, IL 60302-4272 708.358.5430 Fax: 708.358.5441 TTY 708.383.0048 building@oak-park.us

Address of 329 S. EUCLID AVE	Date: 09-13-23
Subject Property:	
Owner/Applicant Information	Vanish 197 W
Applicant's Name: MICHAEL + KATHERINE MCDONALD	Telephone No.: 312 459-1864
Applicant's Address: 329 S. EUCLID AVE	Facsimile No.: N/A
Owner's Name: (Same as applicants)	Telephone No.: 312 . 454 . 1864
Owner's Address:	Facsimile No.:
Authorized Agent: N/A	Telephone No.:
Agent's Address: N/A	Facsimile No.: No.:
Property Information	
Property Type: 1-2 Family Residential Multiple-Family Commercial Mis	xed-Use Hospital
Zoning District: R-1 R-2 R-3 R-4 R-5 R-6 R-7 H B-1/2 B-3 B-4 C	
Are there any original covenants, conditions, or deed restrictions concerning this property in the type of improvements, set backs, area, or neight	
Yes (If yes, attach explanation)	
Are there any contracts or agreements of any nature in existence with regard to the sale or disposal of this property that are contingent upon the decision made pursuant to this application?	
Yes (If yes, attach explanation)	
The present owner acquired legal title to these premises on: 01-23-2012	
Case Information	
Pursuant to law, application is hereby made for a variation from the regulations of the Zoning Ordinance with regard to:	
Area Yard Use Height Off-street Parking Other: detached garage	
The Applicant seeks a variation from the following requirements of the Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Oak Park: Article 9 Section 9.3 Paragraph Paragraph Paragraph Paragraph	
Article Section Paragraph	
The subject property is presently used as: Vehicle 5-for age	
Certification	
I hereby depose and say that all the above statements, as well as any statements contained in the item	CYNTHIA BETH HANSEN ns of interpation authorited in support of this
application submitted herewith, are true.	
Sworn to me this 21st day of September, 2023. Applicant/Authorized A	ngent (circle one) Katherine McDo
	se side of this application form for
My commission expires: 120 27 additional Inform	ation.
Office use only:	
ZBA Cal. No. Fee Pald: Received	By: Date:

Michael & Katherine McDonald 329 S Euclid Ave Oak Park, IL 60302 312-459-1864

The Village of Oak Park Zoning Board of Appeals 123 Madison Oak Park, IL 60302

September 13, 2023

RE: Application for Zoning Variation

To Members of Oak Park Zoning Board of Appeals:

We have owned the property commonly known as 329 S. Euclid Ave in Oak Park since January 23, 2012. We purchased the property with two detached garages. Based on information collected from The Village of Oak Park, we have learned:

- Our garage on the south side of the property was constructed in the 1950's and
- Our garage on the north side of the property was constructed in the 1970's.

It is our desire to replace the **south garage only** due to its dilapidated condition; we respectfully request a zoning variance to do so. If approved, we will reconstruct a garage similar to the size of the existing south garage, but matching the aesthetic of the north garage.

This variation petition is necessary because the Village Zoning Ordinance indicates "one detached garage is permitted per lot" in Article 9, Section 9.3, Paragraph N2a.

The south garage has issues with rotting wood due to its age, and has sustained structure and water damage, as the elevation of the garage is lower than the alley and collects water routinely with rain.

In the following pages, we will outline additional reasons for the variation request and the hardships created if the strict application of the ordinance were applied.

CHECKLIST OF ITEMS NECESSARY FOR THE ZONING VARIATION:

- ✓ Application for Zoning Variance attached; Exhibit A
- ✓ Copy of Zoning Officer's Decision **not applicable.** Per the guidance of Mr. Michael Bruce, this is not necessary, as we are aware a building permit request (to raze and rebuild our south garage only) would not be approved.
- ✓ Proof of Ownership deed attached; Exhibit B
- ✓ Disclosure of Beneficiaries of Land Trust not applicable
- ✓ Project Summary: enclosed in this letter
- ✓ Response to Standards: **enclosed in this letter**
- ✓ Plat of survey: attached; Exhibit C
- ✓ Location map: attached; Exhibit D
- ✓ Site plan & Floor plans/Elevations: attached from Stanley Garages (proposed builder); Exhibits E
- ✓ Photographs of Surrounding Properties and Buildings: enclosed
- ✓ Appraisal Report not applicable
- ✓ Other Submittal Items letters from neighbors; attached; Exhibits F

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Request to raze the south garage and replace with similarly sized garage. Newly constructed south garage (if approved) would have stucco exterior to match our house and north garage, and pitch of roof would be the same (7/12). Color and finishes would strive to match north garage as closely as possible.

Difficulties / hardships and alternatives which we considered:

- Peculiar to the property are two garages which have been **grandfathered in**. Note: If we were to replace the south garage with either a parking pad or replace both south and north garage with one larger garage that spans the property, it changes the look of our historic property.
- The south and north garages both house our personal vehicles, among other things. Failure to rebuild the south garage would result in **inadequate vehicle storage** and would require street parking and create excess parking demand in the Village.

<u>Difficulties / hardships to consider if variance not granted and parking pad or concrete slabinstalled in lieu of the south garage:</u>

- **Insufficient personal storage** for bicycles, lawn tools, snow removal equipment and such would result if we were to install a parking pad only in lieu of the south garage. Note: One of the homeowners is a wood-working enthusiast and **requires covered garage space** for his wood shop, including tools/saws, lumber, etc.

<u>Difficulties / hardships to consider if variance not granted and one larger garage to replace two existing garages were built "as of right":</u>

- **Financial** hardship if variance is not approved, and we are required to construct one larger garage which complies with the required Zoning Ordinance regulation. This will add substantial construction costs and creates financial difficulty. Construction of a new 3 car garage is **greater than twice the cost** of replacing the smaller garage. Note: Several builders whom we interviewed explained that the incremental expense of a larger garage is primarily driven by foundation. According the 2018 Edition of the International Building Code in Section 1809.5, our requested one-story garage (replacement) qualifies for an exception to having a foundation below the 42" frost line. We save \$12,000 to \$15,000 in concrete costs by pursuing the shallow, "single pour" concrete slab.
- **Significant and unnecessary environmental waste** to remove the north garage—which is perfectly functional, structurally sound, and matches the aesthetic of our stucco home. We are vigilant with recycling and always striving to minimize waste in landfills.

RESPONSE TO STANDARDS:

1a. The strict application of the terms of this Ordinance will result in undue hardship unless the specific relief requested is granted.

Confirmed; please see hardships outlined above if strict letter of the regulations were to be carried out.

1b. The particular physical surroundings, shape or topographical conditions of the specific property impose a particular hardship upon the owner, as distinguished from a mere inconvenience, if the strict letter of the regulations were to be carried out.

Confirmed; the particular physical surrounding that necessitates the variation and creates the hardship is our second detached garage to the north. Construction of both garages pre-dates our ownership by many decades.

1c. The plight of the owner is due to unique circumstances inherent to the subject property and not from the personal situation of the owner and has not been created by any person presently having a proprietary interest in the property in question.

Confirmed; we purchased the property with two garages on January 23, 2012 – years before the regulation requiring only one garage per lot was modified (in 2017) to limit one garage per lot.

Also, confirmed: this is not a personal situation of ours and nor are there others who have proprietary interests.

2a. The granting of the variation will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare in the neighborhood in which the property is located.

Confirmed; proposed variation is to replace and enhance existing garage only.

2b. The proposed variation will not impair an adequate supply of light and air to adjacent property, substantially increase congestion in the public streets, increase the danger of fire,

endanger the public safety, or impair property values within the neighborhood.

Confirmed; proposed variation is to replace and enhance existing garage only.

Construction assumes the addition of a firewall to the south (not in place today, despite being less than 3" from the property line as shown on the plat) to enhance safety. We believe the project will not impact property values, except to improve them.

2c. The proposed variation is consistent with the spirit and intent of this Ordinance and the adopted land use policies.

Confirmed; we believe the spirit of the Zoning Ordinance which cites, "one detached garage is permitted per lot" is intended for single-family homes in Oak Park which only have one garage on premises. We feel that the Village's Zoning Ordinance was not written to contemplate the Oak Park properties with two garages grandfathered in. Note: There are several other properties nearby and on our block who have similar garage circumstances, including our neighbors located at 325 S. Euclid and 315 S. Euclid.

PHOTOGRAPHS:



View from back yard, south garage on the left and north garage (larger, stucco) on the right.



Alternative view from back yard, south garage on the left and north garage on the right.



View from alley, south garage on the right and north garage (larger, stucco) on the left.



Alternate view from alley, south garage on the right and north garage on the left.



Alternate view from alley, south garage on the right and north garage on the left.



Water pools in south garage with rain/snow, and has caused rotting wood and structure damage.



View from south garage—showing lower elevation, and collection of water from alley.







Significant rotting wood, warpage and damage need to be addressed urgently (in our opinion).

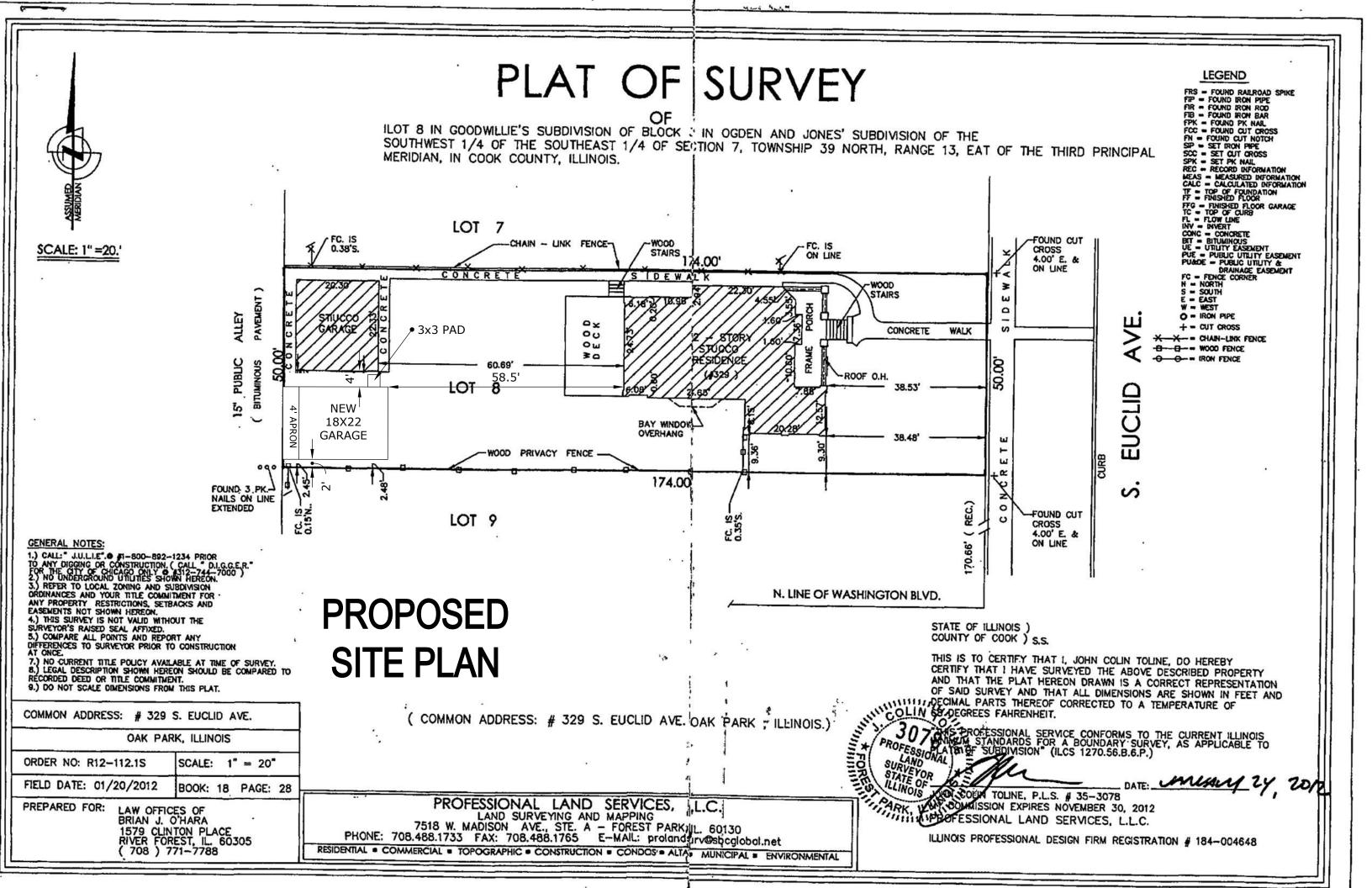
In closing, part of the stated purpose of the Village's zoning regulations is to "conserve the values of property throughout the Village and to protect the character and stability of the residential, business and industrial areas". Our requested deviation is only meant to do that: conserve our property values, enhance the structure, and maintain the character of the neighborhood. We respectfully request a variation and thank you in advance for your consideration.

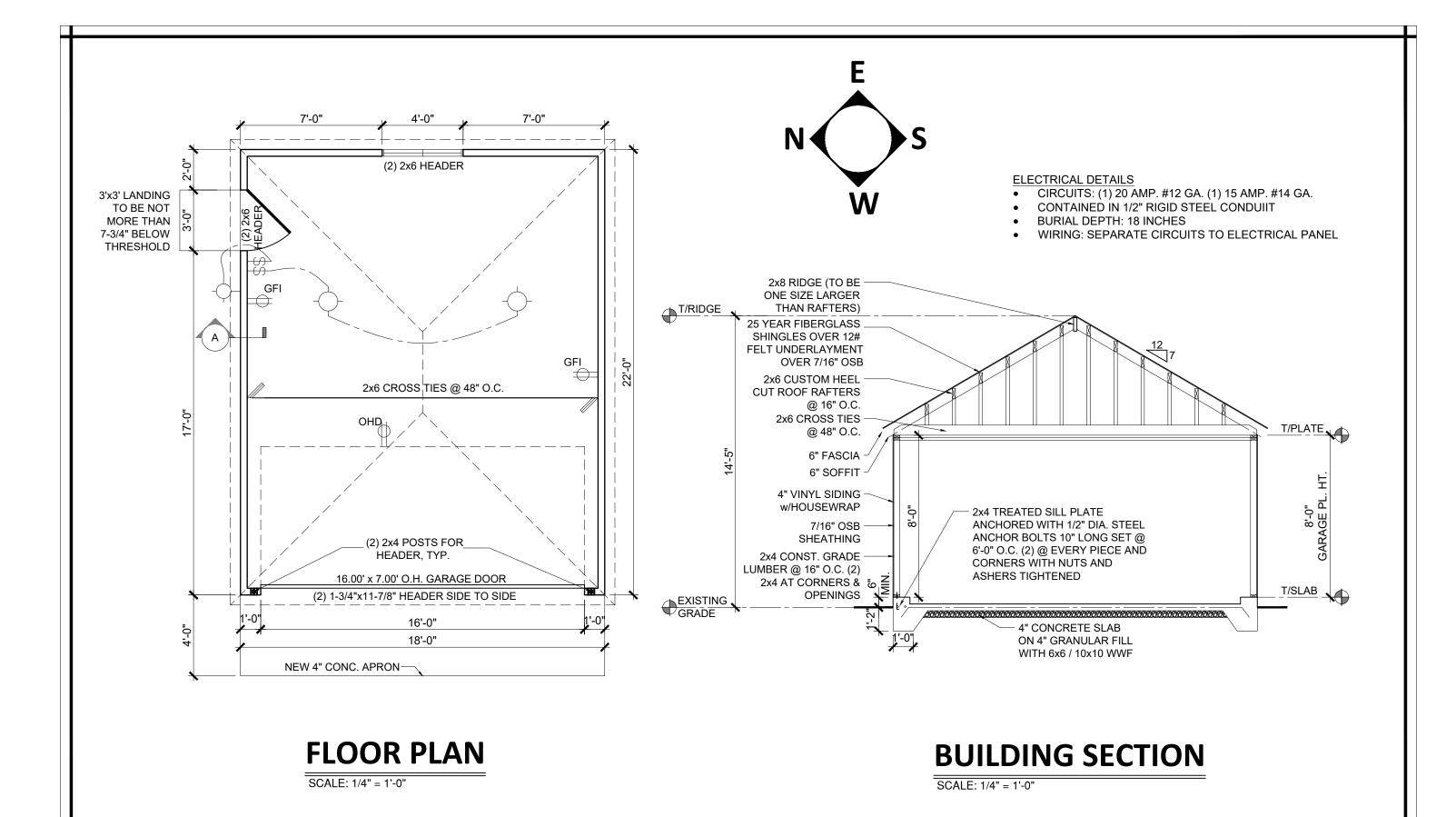
Warm Regards,

Michael McDonald

Michael McDonald Homeowner Katherine McDonald

Katherine McDonald Homeowner





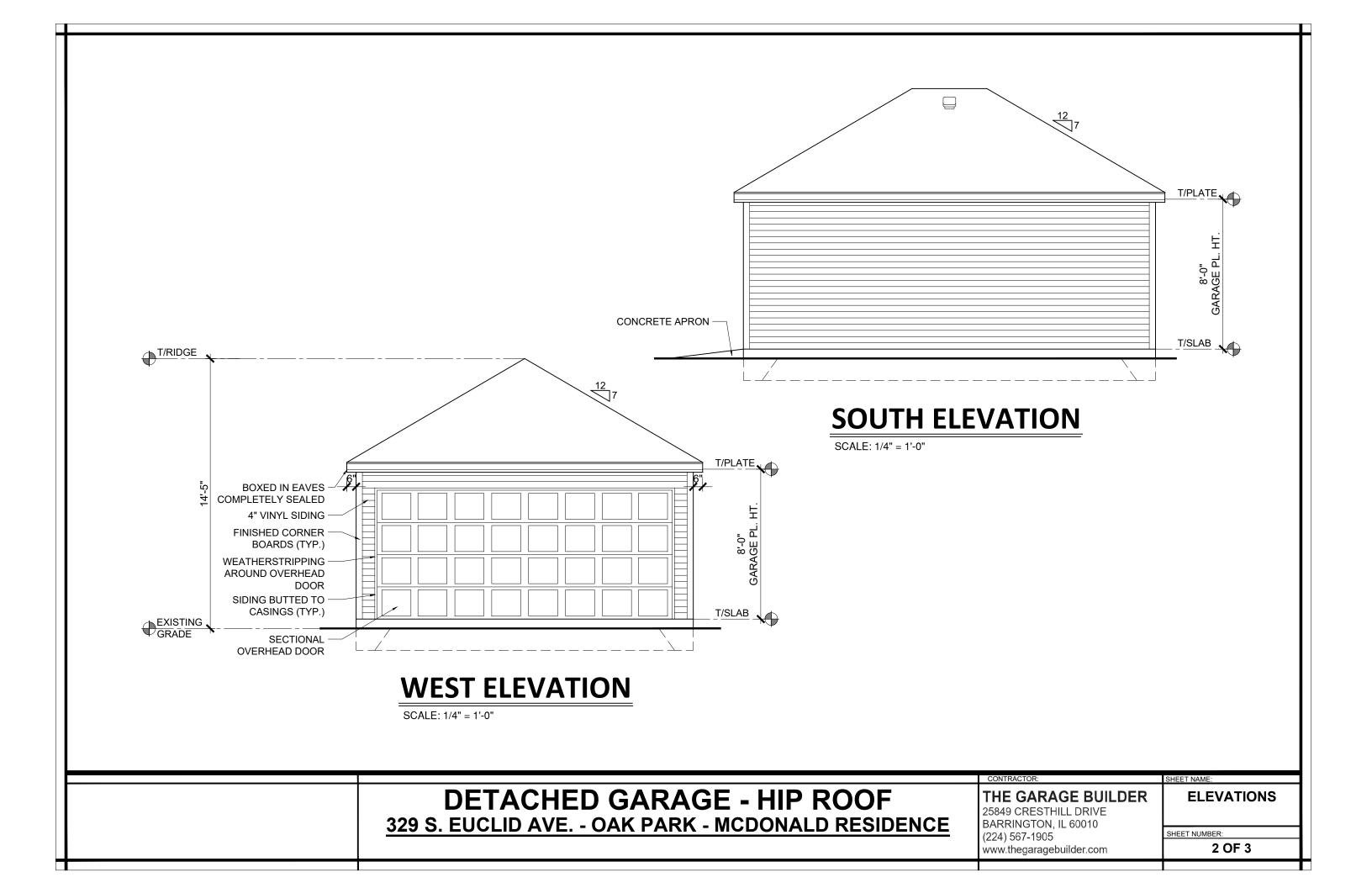
DETACHED GARAGE - HIP ROOF
329 S. EUCLID AVE. - OAK PARK - MCDONALD RESIDENCE

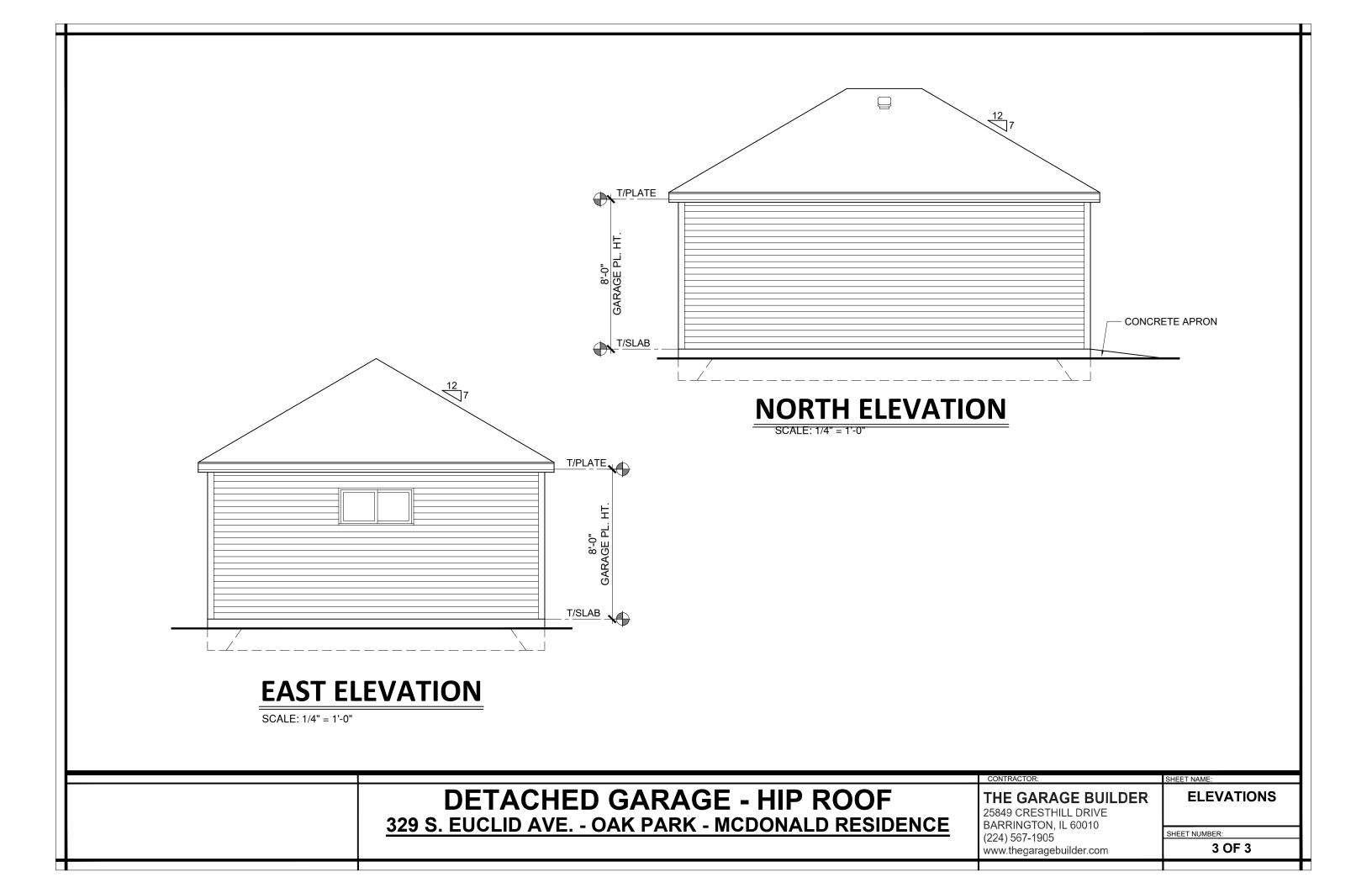
THE GARAGE BUILDER 25849 CRESTHILL DRIVE

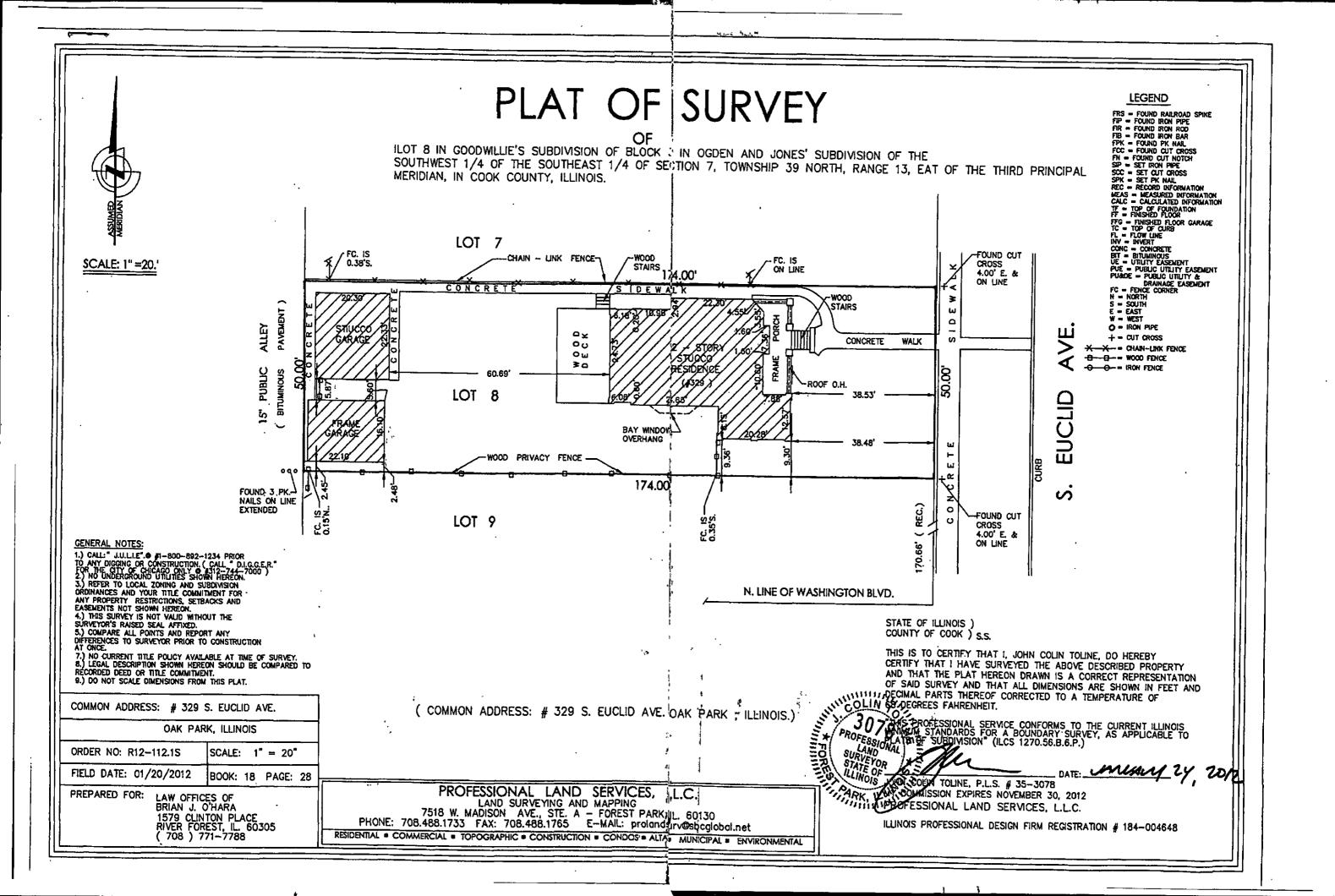
BARRINGTON, IL 60010 (224) 567-1905 www.thegaragebuilder.com FLOOR PLAN & BUILDING SECTION

SHEET NUMBER:

1 OF 3









McDonald, Katie L 390

From: Katie McDonald <kmcdonald76@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, September 15, 2023 9:06 AM

To: McDonald, Katie L 390

Subject: [External] Fwd: Support/Approval requested to rebuild our garage

Categories: External Mail

Katie

Begin forwarded message:

From: Emily Tower <emily.tower@gmail.com> **Date:** September 15, 2023 at 6:05:05 AM CDT **To:** Katie McDonald <kmcdonald76@yahoo.com>

Cc: Christa Van Ermen <squiggysmom@sbcglobal.net>, Lisa P Weisman <weiswoman@me.com>

Subject: Re: Support/Approval requested to rebuild our garage

As owners to the west of you, we wholeheartedly support this decision. Less waste, less damage to our environment, and a more efficient build make total sense to us.

On Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 4:40 PM Katie McDonald < kmcdonald76@yahoo.com> wrote: Dear Neighbors:

We believe it's time to replace the smaller, dilapidated garage on the south side of our property. To be clear: our goal is to rebuild just the one garage to the south and keep the north garage—which is in decent condition.

Before we can pursue permits to rebuild the small garage, we need to petition the OP Zoning Board of Appeals and request a variance to *continue* to have two detached garages on our property. This is due to a new Zoning Ordinance from a few years ago which only allows "only one detached garage per property."

I'm writing because it would help our case if you replied to this email and supported the variance and replacement of our rundown garage in early 2024.

Request: Can you please simply **reply to this email** and indicate your support or opposition? We will include your responses with our petition & exhibits to the Village.

If you have any concerns or questions, please let me know! Happy to talk live of course.

Thank you! Katie & Mike McDonald

McDonald, Katie L 390

From: Katie McDonald < kmcdonald76@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 10:48 AM

To: McDonald, Katie L 390

Subject: [External] Fwd: Support/Approval requested to rebuild our garage

Categories: External Mail

Katie

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christa Van Ermen <squiggysmom@sbcglobal.net>

Date: September 13, 2023 at 10:17:55 AM CDT **To:** Katie McDonald kmcdonald76@yahoo.com

Subject: Re: Support/Approval requested to rebuild our garage

Of course! We support it! Christa and Thom Van Ermen 325 S Euclid

On Sep 13, 2023, at 9:40 AM, Katie McDonald kmcdonald76@yahoo.com wrote:

Dear Neighbors:

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If you have any concerns or questions, please let me know! Happy to talk live of course.

Thank you! Katie & Mike McDonald

McDonald, Katie L 390

From: Katie McDonald < kmcdonald76@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 2:34 PM

To: McDonald, Katie L 390

Subject: [External] Fwd: Support/Approval requested to rebuild our garage

Categories: External Mail

Katie

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lisa Weisman <weiswoman@me.com> **Date:** September 13, 2023 at 2:05:37 PM CDT **To:** Katie McDonald <kmcdonald76@yahoo.com>

Cc: Christa Van Ermen <squiggysmom@sbcglobal.net>, Emily Tower <emily.tower@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Support/Approval requested to rebuild our garage

SUPPORT! Unadulterated and effusive! Especially now that you and the schlubs to your south have foxy fencing!!!

On Sep 13, 2023, at 9:40 AM, Katie McDonald kmcdonald76@yahoo.com wrote:

Dear Neighbors:

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