



**Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Department**

March 26, 2003

Janyce L. Putnam Revocable Living Trust  
14149 E. Pinnacle Dr.  
Wichita, KS 67230

**RE: BZA2003-05 – Variance to Section 24.04.200(g) of the Sign code to permit an off-site sign to be located within 605 feet of public park. Generally located north of Harry and east of Kansas Turnpike (1-35).**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a signed copy of the above-referenced BZA Resolution approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals on **March 25, 2003**, this resolution reflects the official action of the Board to grant your requests and sets out the conditions of approval. It is forwarded to you for your information and files.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call our office at 268-4421

Sincerely,

Scott Knebel  
Assistant BZA Secretary

SK/rms

CC: Ferris Consulting, %Greg Ferris, P O Box 573, Wichita, KS 67201  
Gemini Outdoor Advertising, %Don Jernigan, 7500 E. 151<sup>st</sup> #139, Bixby OK 74008  
Joe Pisciotte, WCC, District II, Mail Stop 1-13  
Donte Martin, N.A. II, Mail Stop 1-13  
Sharon Dickgrafe, Law Department, Mail Stop 1-132  
J. R. Cox, OCI, 1-72

**BZA RESOLUTION NO. 2003-00005**

**WHEREAS**, Janyce L. Putnam Revocable Living Trust and Gemini Outdoor Advertising (owner/applicant) Ferris Consulting c/o Greg Ferris, (agent) pursuant to Section 2.12.590.B, Code of the City of Wichita, requests variances to Section 24.04.200(g) of the Sign Code to permit an off-site sign to be located within 605 feet of a public park on property zoned "LC" Limited Commercial and "GO" General Office and legally described as follows:

Lot 1, except the east 44.03 feet, Putnam Addition, Wichita, Kansas, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Generally located north of Harry and east of the Kansas Turnpike (I-35).

**WHEREAS**, proper notice as required by ordinance and by the rules of the Board of Zoning Appeals has been given; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Zoning Appeals did, at the meeting of March 25, 2003, consider said application; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Zoning Appeals has proper jurisdiction to consider said request for a variance under the provisions of Section 2.12.590.B, Code of the City of Wichita; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Zoning Appeals has found that the variance arises from such condition which is unique. It is the opinion of the Board that this property is unique, inasmuch as the property is separated from the park property by a freeway, which provides a major barrier between the two properties. Additionally, the freeway and commercial properties along the freeway frontage existed prior to the dedication of the park property; therefore, the uniqueness of the property was not created by an action of the property owner.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Zoning Appeals has found that the granting of the permit for the variance will not adversely affect the rights of adjacent property owners or residents. It is the opinion of the Board that the granting of the variance requested will not adversely affect the rights of adjacent property owners, inasmuch as six billboards are located in the immediate vicinity, including two pre-existing billboards located closer to Cottonwood Park than the billboard proposed by the applicant, without any noticeable detrimental impacts on adjacent properties or the park.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Zoning Appeals has found that the strict application of the provisions of the zoning ordinance of which variance is requested will constitute unnecessary hardship upon the property owners represented in the application. It is the opinion of the Board that the strict application of the provisions of the sign regulations will constitute an unnecessary hardship upon the applicant, inasmuch as requiring the billboard to be located more than 660-feet from the park will decrease the amount of developable land on the subject property without any corresponding benefit to the public good.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Zoning Appeals has found that the variance desired will not adversely affect the public health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity or general welfare. It is the opinion of the Board that the requested variance would not adversely affect the public interest, inasmuch as billboard signs are common along freeway frontages and in this general vicinity, and the proposed billboard meets all Sign Code requirements except for the required

separation from a public park. Since the public park has no improvements, is utilized primarily as open space for community drainage, and is separated from the proposed location of the billboard by a major barrier, the principles of public interest will not be adversely impacted by granting the variance.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Zoning Appeals has found that the granting of the variance desired will not be opposed to the general spirit and intent of the zoning ordinance. It is the opinion of the Board that the granting of the variance requested would not oppose the general spirit and intent of the Sign Code inasmuch as a stated intent of the Sign Code is to provide an opportunity to achieve a reasonable balance between the need for a sign and preserving the visual qualities of the community. In this instance, the need for a locating the billboard within the southwest portion of the subject property in order to preserve as much developable land as possible on the site will provide a reasonable balance with the visual qualities of the community, especially since the sign will be separated from the park by a major barrier.

**WHEREAS**, each of the five conditions required by Section 2.12.590.B, Code of the City of Wichita, to be present before a variance can be granted has been found to exist.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Zoning Appeals, pursuant to Section 2.12.590.B, Code of the City of Wichita, that a variance to Section 24.04.200(g) of the Sign Code to permit an off-site sign to be located within 605 feet of a public park on property zoned "LC" Limited Commercial and "GO" General Office and legally described as follows:

Lot 1, except the east 44.03 feet, Putnam Addition, Wichita, Kansas, Sedgwick County, Kansas. Generally located north of Harry and east of the Kansas Turnpike (I-35).

The variance is hereby **GRANTED**, subject to the following conditions:

1. The off-site sign shall comply with all regulations of the Sign Code, except that one off-site sign shall be permitted on the subject property a minimum of 605 feet from a public park.
2. The off-site sign on the subject property shall be limited in size to 14-feet by 48-feet and to maximum total height of 30 feet.
3. The applicant shall obtain all permits necessary to construct the signage, and the signage shall be erected within one year of the granting of the variance, unless such time period is extended by the Board.
4. The resolution authorizing the variance may be declared null and void upon findings by the Board that the applicant has failed to comply with any of the foregoing conditions.

ADOPTED AT WICHITA, KANSAS, this 24th DAY of MARCH, 2003.

  
James B. Skelton, BZA Board 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President

ATTEST:

  
Scott Knebel, BZA Secretary

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

CASE NUMBER: BZA2003-00005

OWNER/APPLICANT: Janyce L. Putnam Revocable Living Trust and Gemini Outdoor Advertising

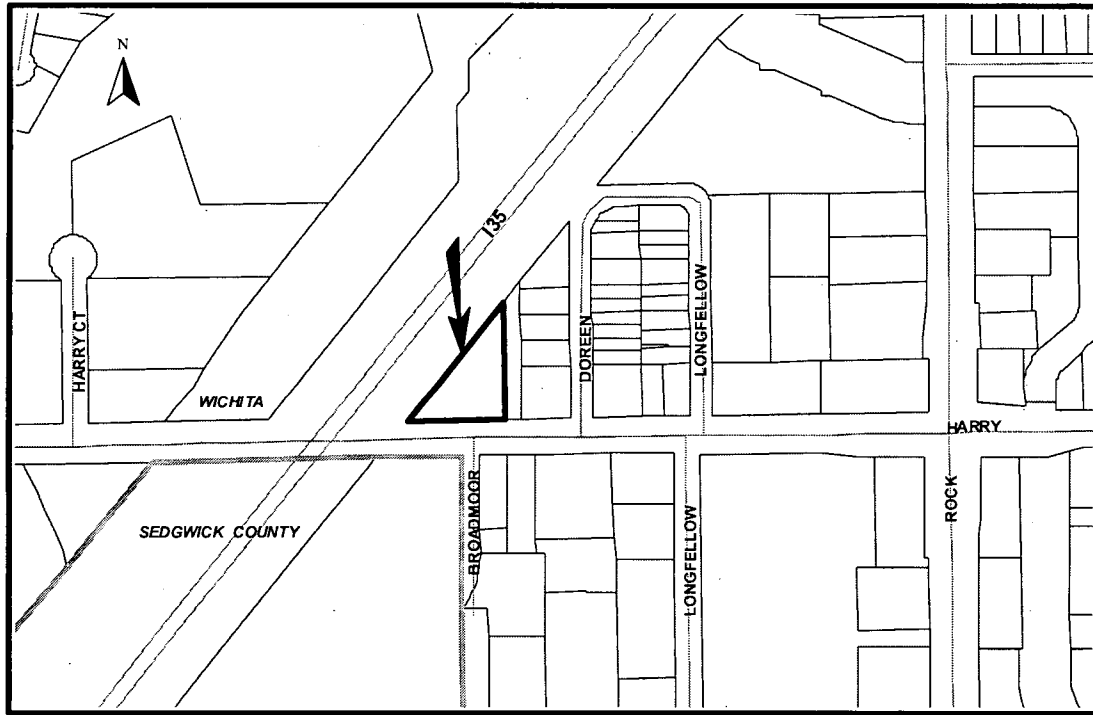
AGENT: Ferris Consulting c/o Greg Ferris

REQUEST: Variance to Section 24.04.200(g) of the Sign Code to permit an off-site sign to be located within 605 feet of a public park

CURRENT ZONING: "LC" Limited Commercial & "GO" General Office

SITE SIZE: 0.96 Acres

LOCATION: North of Harry and east of the Kansas Turnpike (I-35)



**JURISDICTION:** The Board has jurisdiction to consider the variance request under the provisions outlined in Section 2.12.590.B, Code of the City of Wichita. The Board may grant the request when all five conditions, as required by State Statutes, are found to exist.

**BACKGROUND:** The applicant is requesting a variance to Section 24.04.200(g) of the Sign Code to permit an off-site sign (billboard) to be located within 605 feet of a public park. The subject property is located north of Harry and east of the Kansas Turnpike (I-35) at 7602 E. Harry. The subject property is zoned "LC" Limited Commercial and "GO" General Office and is undeveloped.

The applicant proposes to construct a 14-foot by 48-foot billboard in the southwest corner of the subject property as illustrated on the attached site plan. The billboard is proposed to be oriented such that it faces the direction of travel along the Kansas Turnpike. The billboard is proposed to be a maximum of thirty feet in height.

The Sign Code permits a billboard on property zoned "LC" Limited Commercial under restricted circumstances. The Sign Code requires at least 1,500 feet of commercial or industrial frontage along a roadway's direction of travel between mile section lines, and only one billboard is permitted on property zoned "LC" Limited Commercial for each 1,500 of commercial or industrial frontage between mile section lines. For the Kansas Turnpike between the Harry and Rock mile section lines, staff estimates that there is slightly more than the required 1,500 feet of commercial frontage. If the variance is granted, the applicant will be required to submit an exhibit providing exact measurements of commercial frontage, which is a standard requirement for off-site sign permit applications.

The Sign Code also prohibits billboards in certain locations. One of the prohibited locations is within 660 feet of a public park. The proposed location of the billboard is within 605-feet of Cottonwood Park, which is located across the Kansas Turnpike northwest of the subject property as illustrated on the attached aerial photograph. A portion of the subject property is more than 660 feet from Cottonwood Park, and a billboard could be located on this portion of the subject property. However, the applicant states in the attached letter that the proposed location of the billboard was selected because placing the billboard at least 660 feet from the park would make the property extremely difficult, if not impossible, to develop. Therefore, the applicant requested a variance to allow the billboard to be placed 605-feet from Cottonwood Park.

**ADJACENT ZONING AND LAND USE:**

NORTH	"MF-29" & "SF-5"	Cottonwood Park, single family
SOUTH	"GC"	Horse stable and riding academy
EAST	"LC" & "MF-29"	Medical Office, duplex
WEST	"LC"	Call center

**UNIQUENESS:** It is the opinion of staff that this property is unique, inasmuch as the property is separated from the park property by a freeway, which provides a major barrier between the two properties. Additionally, the freeway and commercial properties along the freeway frontage existed prior to the dedication of the park property; therefore, the uniqueness of the property was not created by an action of the property owner.

**ADJACENT PROPERTY:** It is the opinion of staff that the granting of the variance requested will not adversely affect the rights of adjacent property owners, inasmuch as six billboards are located in the immediate vicinity, including two pre-existing billboards located closer to Cottonwood Park than the billboard proposed by the applicant, without any noticeable detrimental impacts on adjacent properties or the park.

**HARDSHIP:** It is the opinion of staff that the strict application of the provisions of the sign regulations will constitute an unnecessary hardship upon the applicant, inasmuch as requiring the billboard to be located more than 660-feet from the park will decrease the amount of developable land on the subject property without any corresponding benefit to the public good.

**PUBLIC INTEREST:** It is the opinion of staff that the requested variance would not adversely affect the public interest, inasmuch as billboard signs are common along freeway frontages and in this general vicinity, and the proposed billboard meets all Sign Code requirements except for the required separation from a public park. Since the public park has no improvements, is utilized primarily as open space for community drainage, and is separated from the proposed location of the billboard by a major barrier, the principles of public interest will not be adversely impacted by granting the variance.

**SPIRIT AND INTENT:** It is the opinion of staff that the granting of the variance requested would not oppose the general spirit and intent of the Sign Code inasmuch as a stated intent of the Sign Code is to provide an opportunity to achieve a reasonable balance between the need for a sign and preserving the visual qualities of the community. In this instance, the need for locating the billboard within the southwest portion of the subject property in order to preserve as much developable land as possible on the site will provide a reasonable balance with the visual qualities of the community, especially since the sign will be separated from the park by a major barrier.

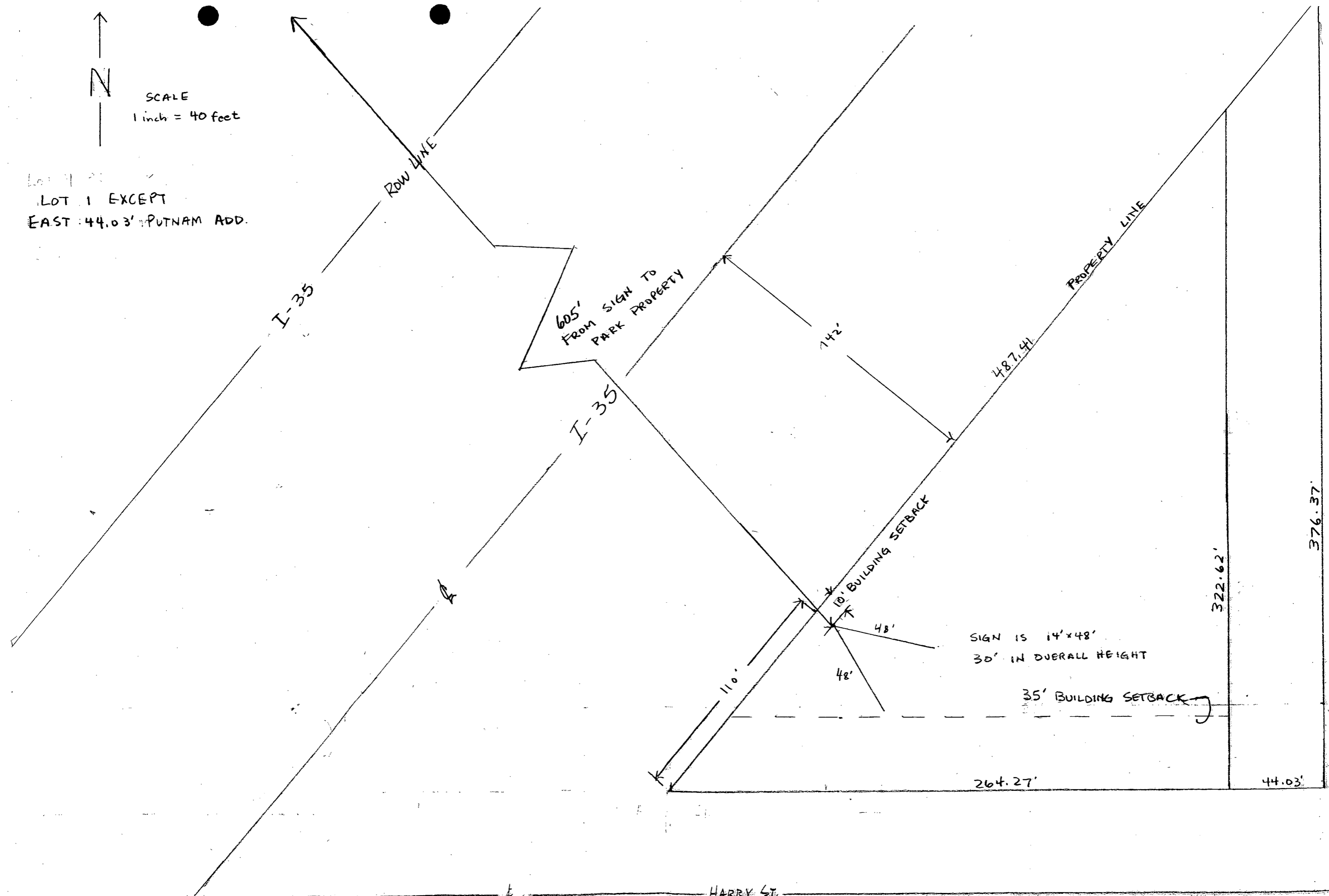
**RECOMMENDATION:** It is staff's opinion that the variance requested is appropriate. Should the Board determine that the five conditions necessary for granting the variance exist, then it is the recommendation of the Secretary that the variance be GRANTED, subject to the following conditions:

1. The off-site sign shall comply with all regulations of the Sign Code, except that one off-site sign shall be permitted on the subject property a minimum of 605 feet from a public park.
2. The off-site sign on the subject property shall be limited in size to 14-feet by 48-feet and to maximum total height of 30 feet.
3. The applicant shall obtain all permits necessary to construct the signage, and the signage shall be erected within one year of the granting of the variance, unless such time period is extended by the Board.
4. The resolution authorizing the variance may be declared null and void upon findings by the Board that the applicant has failed to comply with any of the foregoing conditions.



SCALE  
1 inch = 40 feet

LOT 1 EXCEPT  
EAST 44.03' PUTNAM ADD.



605'  
FROM SIGN TO  
PARK PROPERTY

PROPERTY LINE

I-35

I-35

10' BUILDING SETBACK

SIGN IS 14'x48'  
30' IN OVERALL HEIGHT

35' BUILDING SETBACK

HARRY ST.

376.37'

322.62'

264.27'

44.03'

742'

487.41'

110'

48'

48'