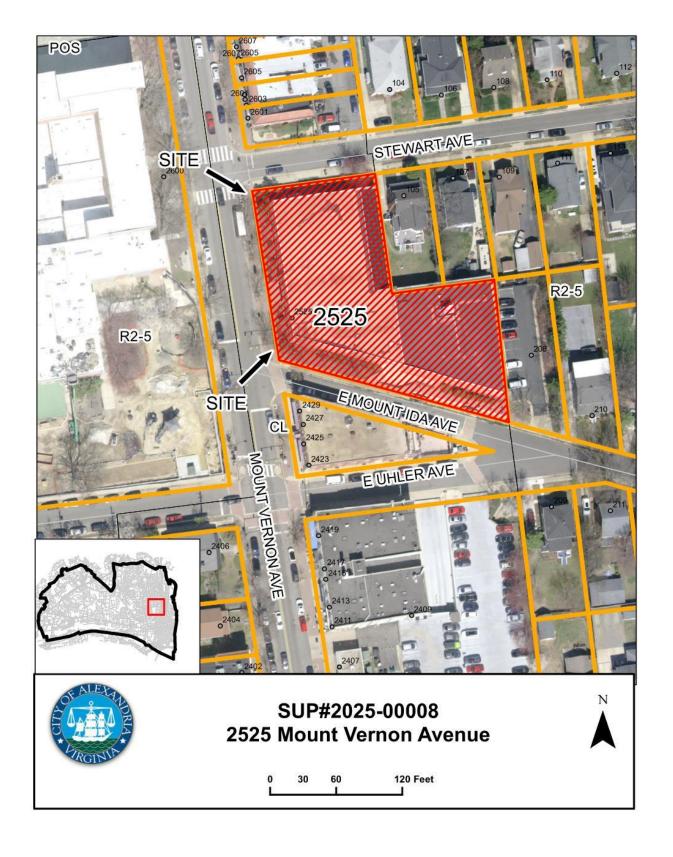


DOCKET ITEM #14 Special Use Permit #2025-00008 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue

| Application | General Data | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Public hearing and consideration of | Planning Commission | May 6, 2025 |
| a request for a special use permit for | Hearing: | |
| a parking reduction with yard and | City Council | May 17, 2025 |
| open space modifications. | Hearing: | |
| | | |
| Address: | Zone: | CL/Commercial Low |
| 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue | | |
| | | |
| Applicant: Ganges Property Group, | Small Area Plan: | Potomac West & Mount Vernon |
| LLC represented by M. Catharine | | Avenue Business Area Plan |
| Puskar, attorney | | |
| | | |

Staff Recommendation: *APPROVAL* subject to compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances and the recommended permit conditions found in Section III of this report.

Staff: Catherine McDonald, <u>catherine.mcdonald@alexandriava.gov</u> Sam Shelby, <u>sam.shelby@alexandriava.gov</u>



I. DISCUSSION

The applicant, Ganges Property, LLC, represented by M. Catharine Puskar, attorney, requests special use permit (SUP) approval for a parking reduction with yard and open space modifications. The request would allow for conversion of the building's second floor to residential.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The subject property is one lot of record with 158.38 feet of frontage along Mount Vernon Avenue, 220.85 feet of frontage along East Mount Ida Avenue, and 115.02 feet of frontage along Stewart Avenue. Its size is 29,749 square feet. The two-story building that occupies the subject property is currently vacant; it was formerly used by the City's Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS). A mix of commercial and residential uses surround the subject property.



Figure 1 – Subject property

BACKGROUND

Prior to 1984, the property operated as a commercial building which for many years contained the retail furniture store, C.L. Barnes. On January 21, 1984, the City Council voted to award a contract with Poladian Construction Corporation to rehabilitate the former furniture store as the Alexandria Human Services office building. Subsequent approvals for the rehabilitation of the building are as follows:

- On March 8, 1984, the Board of Zoning Appeals approved a variance from the then-required zone transition setback (BZA Case #5031);
- On May 1, 1984, Planning Commission approved Site Plan #84-00015 to expand the existing building for the new Alexandria Human Services office building; and
- On May 12, 1984, City Council approved Special Use Permit #1666 for a request to extend off-street parking into a residential zone.

The building operated as one of the City's DCHS offices from 1985 until early 2023.

PROPOSAL

The applicant proposes converting the existing office building to a mixed-use building with daycare and retail/restaurant uses on the ground floor and residential uses on the upper floor. The residential portion of the building would provide 30 dwelling units which the applicant intends to use as short-term rentals. To facilitate this conversion, the applicant requests SUP approval, with yard and open space modifications, for a 38 space parking reduction.

PARKING

The recently adopted Short-Term Residential Rental Regulations require 0.25 parking spaces per bedroom for sites within the Enhanced Transit Area. The applicant proposes 34 bedrooms total, four two-bedroom units and 26 one-bedroom units. Therefore, nine off-street parking spaces would be required for the proposed short-term residential rental use on site or within 500 feet of the property. However, because the applicant would like flexibility to offer long-term rentals in the future, the parking requirement for multi-unit dwellings will be applied for the purposes of this application.

Zoning Ordinance section 8-200(A)(2(a)(i) requires one off-street parking space per bedroom for multi-unit dwellings outside the metro walkshed. The parking requirement is reduced by 10 percent because the subject property is within the Bus Rapid Transit Half-Mile Walkshed. Additionally, the parking requirement is reduced by five percent because the subject property has a walkability index score of 85. The final parking requirement is 0.85 spaces per bedroom. Given that the applicant proposes 34 total bedrooms, 29 off-street parking spaces would be required for the proposed residential use. The ground floor daycare use would require three off-street parking spaces. The ground floor restaurant/retail uses would require an additional nine spaces and one loading space. Overall, the applicant's proposal would require a minimum of 41 off-street parking spaces.

The subject property currently provides four off-street parking spaces on site along Stewart Avenue. The applicant intends to remove these spaces and utilize this area as a loading zone. There are also currently four handicapped parking spaces on East Mount Ida Avenue that are located partially on the subject property. There is also a parking garage across East Mount Ida and Uhler Avenues in the 2400 block of Mount Vernon Avenue. The applicant would provide 20 parking spaces for the proposed daycare use. The applicant therefore requests a 38-space parking reduction for the proposed residential and ground floor retail/restaurant uses pursuant to 8-100(A)(4).

ZONING/MASTER PLAN DESIGNATION

The subject property is zoned CL/Commercial Low. The applicant's proposed addition of residential uses to the building requires compliance with the CL zone's bulk and open space requirements. The existing building is not subject to bulk or open space requirements because the CL zone exempts nonresidential uses from bulk and open space requirements.

The CL zone requires multi-unit dwellings to provide 35 percent of the total lot size as open space. Because the building covers almost the entire site, only providing small front yards along each of its frontages, it cannot meet the CL zone requirement to provide 10,412 square feet of open space.

The applicant proposes 5,289 square feet, or approximately 17.7 percent of the total lot size, of open space. 3,359 square feet of ground level open space would be provided within the subject property's two secondary front yards along Stewart and East Mount Ida Avenues. An additional 1,930 square feet of open space would be provided in the form of open terraces. The applicant requests a modification to reduce the open space requirement from 35 to 17.7 percent.

The existing building provides 39,993 square feet of non-residential floor area or a floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.34. When the building was expanded in the 1980s, the subject property was zoned C-2/Commercial. The C-2 zone allowed a maximum FAR of 3.0. Along with the City's 1992 comprehensive Zoning Ordinance re-write, the subject property was rezoned to CL/Commercial Low. The CL zone permits a maximum FAR of 0.50 for non-residential uses and 0.75 for residential uses. The existing building became noncomplying with regard to FAR with the 1992 rezoning.

With the proposed renovations, the building would provide 19,414 square feet of non-residential floor area or a non-residential FAR of 0.65. It would also provide 19,864 square feet of residential floor area or a residential FAR of 0.67. The proposed residential floor area would comply with the CL zone's maximum residential FAR. The proposed non-residential floor area would significantly decrease the building's noncompliance with regard to non-residential FAR.

The CL zone would also require the building to provide front yards, as well as side yards based on height-to-setback ratios of 1:2 and each with a minimum depth of 16 feet. The existing building provides a primary (west) front yard of 13.2 feet on Mount Vernon Ave. and two north and south secondary front yards of 15.8 feet and 18.1 feet on Stewart (north) and East Mount Ida (south) Avenues, respectively. To accommodate the conversion, although no expansion to the building's footprint is proposed, the applicant requests modifications from the CL zone's north front and north and east side yard requirements.

The Potomac West Small Area Plan (SAP) and the Mount Vernon Avenue Business Area Plan (BAP) identify the subject property for low-density commercial and medium-density residential. Additionally, the BAP specifically encourages first floor retail uses and second floor residential or office uses along Mount Vernon Ave. As such, the proposed mixed-use of the building would be consistent with the SAP and the BAP.

II. STAFF ANALYSIS

Staff supports the applicant's proposal to convert the existing building from commercial office use to restaurant/retail and daycare uses on the ground floor and to residential uses on the second floor, and recommends approval of the SUP for the parking reduction and yard modifications. The applicant's proposal would be consistent with the Mount Vernon Avenue BAP which encourages second floor residential uses with retail and restaurant uses concentrated on the ground floor to provide a "...level of activity desirable for a successful retail environment." Conversion of the existing ground floor office spaces to restaurant/retail and daycare space would increase the site's consistency with the Mount Vernon Avenue BAP by activating the ground floor.

PARKING REDUCTION

Staff recommends approval of the parking reduction SUP. Providing the required parking spaces on site would not be feasible without demolishing the existing building. The parking garage, located across East Mount Ida and Uhler Avenues, would also not be a feasible location for the required parking. It contains a total of 138 off-street parking spaces with 28 standard and 109 compact spaces. 79 percent of the total spaces are compact. Section 8-200(E)(1) only allows up to 75 percent of spaces to be compact so providing complying off-street parking spaces in the garage would not be feasible. Further, parking for the multi-unit residential use in the garage would not technically comply with section 8-200(C)(2) which requires multi-unit parking to be located directly across a single street. Users would have to cross both East Mount Ida and Uhler Avenues to access the parking garage from the subject property.

Staff does not expect the parking reduction to have an adverse impact on the neighborhood. The subject property is located in an amenity-rich neighborhood with a walk score of 85, providing easy access to shops, restaurants, parks, schools, and grocery stores. There are also two Capital Bike Share stations within one-half mile of the subject property. Further, the site is well served by public transit with a bus stop directly in front of the building on Mount Vernon Avenue. The DASH 33 and 10A and 10B Metrobuses all serve this bus stop.

The subject property is also a half mile to the National Landing – Potomac Yard Metroway Bus Rapid Transit Lane and about a mile to both the Potomac Yard-VT and Braddock Road metro stations. Given the walkability and transit accessibility of the site, many visitors and residents could easily access the site without a car.

Although the residential blocks surrounding Mount Vernon Avenue are not currently within a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) district, staff has included Condition #3 which would preclude residents of the building from obtaining RPPs if one were to be established. Staff has also included Condition #4 which requires the applicant to notify residents about alternative forms of transportation and locations of off-street parking facilities in lease or purchase agreements.

MODIFICATIONS

Staff also recommends approval of the applicant's modification requests. These requests are technical in nature as the building would not be physically expanded. Staff supports the requested yard and open space modifications because they are necessary to allow for residential use of the upper floor of the building. If the modifications were not granted, the building would have to be demolished and rebuilt to provide side yards and open space in compliance with the CL zone's requirements for residential uses. The demolition of existing buildings is not desirable in this case as it would adversely impact the fabric and character of the street, harming the existing streetscape and detracting from the qualities that make Mount Vernon Avenue an attractive street.

The applicant's requested front yard modification would be to accommodate a proposed fence located in the required yard along Stewart Avenue. This fence would provide screening of the off-street loading space from the residential properties along Stewart Avenue.

Section 2-180 states that "the purpose of open and usable space is to provide areas of trees, shrubs, lawns, pathways and other natural and manmade amenities which function for the use and enjoyment of residents, visitors and other persons." Given that some on-site open space would be provided, staff finds the purpose of the open space requirement to be upheld.

Overall, none of the requested modifications would impact the surrounding neighborhood because no expansion to the building is proposed. All are necessary to facilitate the conversion of the building. The applicant has also proposed additional screening to mitigate any potential impacts that the proposed second-floor residential patios could have on adjacent neighbors.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Staff attended a meeting with the Del Ray Citizens Association's Land Use Committee and the applicant on March 25, 2025. Attendees expressed concerns regarding the proposed short-term residential rentals specifically possible noise, trash, and safety issues. The applicant's representative and City staff explained that the short-term residential rentals proposed must adhere to the City's recently adopted Short-Term Residential Rental regulations. Additionally, there were concerns regarding the requested parking reduction for the residential use. The applicant's representative explained that their client intends to reserve spaces, as needed, for renters in the parking garage located in the 2400 block of Mount Vernon Avenue. Further, staff explained that, considering the walkability and access to public transit, renters would have multiple options to get around.

The Del Ray Citizens Association (DRCA) also sent a letter of support for the project on April 17, 2025. In the letter, the DRCA requests a traffic study to analyze overlap in pick up and drop off times of the existing school and proposed future day care use.

The 2020/21 Housing Contributions Policy Update established a new voluntary monetary contribution policy for commercial to residential building conversions. The contribution to the City's Housing Trust Fund is based on existing floor area proposed to be converted from commercial to residential use. The subject property is converting 19,865 square feet of commercial floor area, as defined by Section 2-145(B), to residential use. The contribution resulting from the proposed conversion totals \$36,353 based on a 2025 contribution rate of \$1.83 per square foot.

Subject to the conditions stated in Section III of this report, staff recommends approval of the Special Use Permit request.

III. RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS

Staff recommends **approval** subject to compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances and the following conditions:

- 1. A minor site plan amendment to Site Plan #1984-00015 is required. (P&Z)
- 2. Prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, contribute \$36,353 to the City's Housing Trust Fund. Make out all payments to the City of Alexandria and submit them to

the Office of Housing with a cover letter to include the project name, case number, and explanation of the contribution amount, if phased. (Housing)

- 3. If a Residential Parking Permit (RPP) district is established in the vicinity of the subject property and if the proposal includes more than 10 dwelling units at the time of building permit submission, based on the City's RPP for New Development Policy, residents and guests would not be eligible to obtain City-issued residential parking permits. (P&Z)
- 4. The applicant shall provide information regarding alternative transportation options and nearby off-street parking facilities with lease or purchase agreements. (P&Z)

STAFF: Tony LaColla, AICP, Division Chief, Department of Planning and Zoning Sam Shelby, Principal Planner, Department of Planning and Zoning Catherine McDonald, Urban Planner, Department of Planning and Zoning

<u>Staff Note:</u> In accordance with section 11-506(c) of the zoning ordinance, construction or operation shall be commenced and diligently and substantially pursued within 18 months of the date of granting of a special use permit by City Council or the special use permit shall become void.

IV. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F - finding

Transportation & Environmental Services:

- F-1 DROW, SWM, OEQ, and Resource Recovery have no comments.
- R-1 Provide a copy of a lease agreement, or similar, for the three off-street spaces for the day care use. (Transportation Planning)
- R-2 Provide a pick up and drop off plan for the day care use. (Transportation Planning)

Code Administration:

C-1 A building permit is required.

Fire:

No comments or concerns.

Office of Housing:

Health:

Food Facilities:

- C-1 An Alexandria Health Department Permit is required for all regulated facilities. A permit shall be obtained prior to operation, and is not transferable between one individual, corporation or location to another. Permit application and fee are required.
- C-2 Construction plans shall be submitted to the Health Department located at 4850 Mark Center Drive and through the Multi-Agency Permit Center. Plans shall be submitted and approved by the Health Department prior to construction. There is a \$200.00 plan review fee payable to the City of Alexandria- fee must be paid separate from any other departmental fees.
- C-3 Construction plans shall comply with Alexandria City Code, Title 11, Chapter 2, The Food Safety Code of the City of Alexandria. Plans shall include a menu of food items to be offered for service at the facility and specification sheets for all equipment used in the facility, including the hot water heater.
- C-4 A Food Protection Manager shall be on-duty during all operating hours.
- C-5 The facility shall comply with the Virginia Indoor Clean Air Act and the Code of Alexandria, Title 11, Chapter 10, Smoking Prohibitions.
- C-6 In many cases, original wooden floors, ceilings and wall structures in historical structures may not be suitable for food service facilities. Wood materials shall be finished in a manner that is smooth, durable, easily-cleanable, and non-absorbent.
- C-7 Facilities engaging in the following processes may be required to submit a HACCP plan and/or obtain a variance: Smoking as a form of food preservation; curing/drying food; using food additives to render food not potentially-hazardous; vacuum packaging, cookchill, or sous-vide; operating a molluscan shellfish life-support system; sprouting seeds or beans; and fermenting foods.
- F-1 Starting on 1/1/2023, The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is the point of contact for the following type of establishments: grocery stores, convenience stores, ice cream stores, wine shops, or bakeries. The divisions of Food Safety can offer further guidance. Please use the following contact information:

VDAC's Food Safety Program 804.786.3520 804.371.7792 foodsafety@vdacs.virginia.gov

Child Care Facility:

C-8 An Alexandria Health Department Permit is required for all regulated facilities that are serving and/or preparing food. A permit shall be obtained prior to operation, and is not transferable between one individual, corporation or location to another.

- C-9 Construction plans shall be submitted to the Health Department located at 4850 Mark Center Drive and through the Multi-Agency Permit Center. Construction plans shall be submitted and approved by the Health Department prior to construction. There is a \$200.00 plan review fee payable to the City of Alexandria.
- C-10 Construction plans shall comply with Alexandria City Code, Title 11, Chapter 2, The Food Safety Code of the City of Alexandria. Plans shall include a menu of food items to be offered for service at the facility and specification sheets for all equipment used in the facility, including the hot water heater.
- C-11 A Food Protection Manager shall be on-duty during all operating hours.
- C-12 The facility shall comply with the Virginia Indoor Clean Air Act and the Code of Alexandria, Title 11, Chapter 10, Smoking Prohibitions.

Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities:

C-1 Confirm the proposed building is consistent with the design guidelines of the Mount Vernon Urban Overlay District in order for the requested modification to open space standards to be granted.

Police Department:

No comments received.

Historic Alexandria (Archaeology):

No comments.

APPLICATION SPECIAL USE PERMIT

| SPECIAL USE PER | MIT # | _ |
|---|---|---|
| PROPERTY LOCATION: 2525 Mt. Vernor | n Avenue | |
| TAX MAP REFERENCE: 024.04-05-01 | ZONE: | CL |
| APPLICANT: | | |
| Name: Ganges Property Group LLC | | |
| Address: | | |
| PROPOSED USE: SUP for a reduction in | required parking spaces, | |
| with modifications to the front and side yard se within a secondary front yard | etbacks, open space, and to perm | nit a 6-ft fence |
| THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby applies for a S Article XI, Section 4-11-500 of the 1992 Zonir | | |
| THE UNDERSIGNED, having obtained per permission to the City of Alexandria staff photograph the building premises, land etc., of | f and Commission Members to | |
| THE UNDERSIGNED, having obtained p permission to the City of Alexandria to post p is requested, pursuant to Article IV, Section 4 of Alexandria, Virginia. | lacard notice on the property for wl | hich this application |
| THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby attests that a including all surveys, drawings, etc., required accurate to the best of their knowledge and b materials, drawings or illustrations submitted representations made to the Director of Planthe applicant unless those materials or repillustrative of general plans and intentions, s Section 11-207(A)(10), of the 1992 Zoning Or | I to be furnished by the applicant a belief. The applicant is hereby notif d in support of this application an ning and Zoning on this application resentations are clearly stated to subject to substantial revision, pur | free true, correct and fied that any written and any specific oral in will be binding on be non-binding or resuant to Article XI, |
| Ganges Property Group LLC By: M. Catharine Puskar Attorney/Agent | m/ Quellan | Revised: 4/8/2025 |
| Print Name of Applicant or Agent | Signature | 2/10/2025 Date |
| gon | (| 24.0 |
| Mailing/Street Address | Telephone # | Fax# |
| Arlington, VA 22201 | | |
| City and State Zip Code | Email address | 3 |

| PROPE | ERTY OWNER'S AUTHORIZATION | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| As the | property owner of See attached | | , I hereby |
| | (Property Address) | | |
| grant th | ne applicant authorization to apply for the | | use as |
| الم م م ما | (use) | | |
| describ | ed in this application. | | |
| Name [.] | | Phone | |
| | Please Print | | |
| Address | s: | Email: | |
| | | | |
| Signat | ure: | _ Date: | |
| | | | |
| 1. | Floor Plan and Plot Plan. As a part of this applic site plan with the parking layout of the proposed floor and site plans. The Planning Director may verequest which adequately justifies a waiver. [/] Required floor plan and plot/site plan attack | use. The SUP applicatio vaive requirements for pl | n checklist lists the requirements of the |
| | [] Requesting a waiver. See attached written | request. | |
| 2. | The applicant is the (check one): | | |
| | [] Owner | | |
| | [/] Contract Purchaser | | |
| | [] Lessee or [] Other: of the | subject property | |
| | [] Outer. | e subject property. | |
| unless | ne name, address and percent of ownership of an the entity is a corporation or partnership, in which o attached. | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

OWNERSHIP AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Use additional sheets if necessary

| 1. Applicant. | State the name | , address and | I percent of | ownership | of any p | erson o | or entity ow | ning an |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------|
| interest in the | applicant, unless | the entity is | a corporati | on or partn | ership, in | which | case ident | ify each |
| owner of more | than three perce | nt. The term o | wnership int | erest shall ir | nclude an | y legal o | or equitable | interest |
| held at the time | of the application | in the real prop | erty which is | the subject | of the app | olication. | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

| Name | Address | Percent of Ownership |
|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Ganges Property Group LLC | | See attached |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |
| | | |

| 2. Property. St | ate the name, address and | d percent of ownership of any person or entity | owning an |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---|----------------|
| interest in the pro | operty located at | 2525 Mount Vernon Avenue | (address), |
| unless the entity | is a corporation or partners | ship, in which case identify each owner of more | than three |
| percent. The terr | n ownership interest shall i | include any legal or equitable interest held at the | ne time of the |
| application in the | real property which is the | subject of the application. | |

| Name | Address | Percent of Ownership |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|
| ¹ DE Mt. Vernon Ave LLC | | See attached |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |

3. Business or Financial Relationships. Each person or entity indicated above in sections 1 and 2, with an ownership interest in the applicant or in the subject property are require to disclose **any** business or financial relationship, as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance, existing at the time of this application, or within the12-month period prior to the submission of this application with any member of the Alexandria City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals or either Boards of Architectural Review. All fields must be filled out completely. Do not leave blank. (If there are no relationships please indicated each person or entity and "None" in the corresponding fields).

For a list of current council, commission and board members, as well as the definition of business and financial relationship, click here.

| Name of person or entity | Relationship as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance | Member of the Approving Body (i.e. City Council, Planning Commission, etc.) |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. Ganges Property Group LL | None | None |
| DE Mt. Vernon Ave LLC | None | None |
| 3. | | |

NOTE: Business or financial relationships of the type described in Sec. 11-350 that arise after the filing of this application and before each public hearing must be disclosed prior to the public hearings.

| As the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent, | I hereby attest to the best of my ability that |
|---|--|
| the information provided above is true and correct. | • |
| | 700 (Quella C |

| 2/10/2025 | Ganges Property Group LLC By: M. Catharine Puskar Attorney/Agent | MICGASKAN |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| Date | Printed Name | Signature |

Last updated: 10.21.2020

DE Mount Vernon Ave, LLC

Alexandria, VA 22314

Karl Moritz 301 King Street City Hall, Room 2100 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Re: Consent to File for a Special Use Permit 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301, Tax Map No. 024.04-05-01 (the "Property")

Dear Mr. Moritz:

DE Mt. Vernon Ave LLC, as owner of the above-reference Property, hereby consents to the filling of a Special Use Permit on the Property and any related requests by Ganges Property Group, LLC.

Very truly yours,

DE Mt. Vernon Ave LLC

| | — DocuSigned by: |
|--------|------------------|
| By: | Duylidate |
| Бу.С | C8E6741CD5B8403 |
| Its: F | Founder/CEO |
| Date | 2/10/2025 |

APPLICANT OWNERSHIP BREAKDOWN

Owner of 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue (TM No. 024.04-05-01)

DE Mt. Vernon Ave LLC (Title Owner)

Alexandria, VA 22314

Member(s): Percent Ownership:

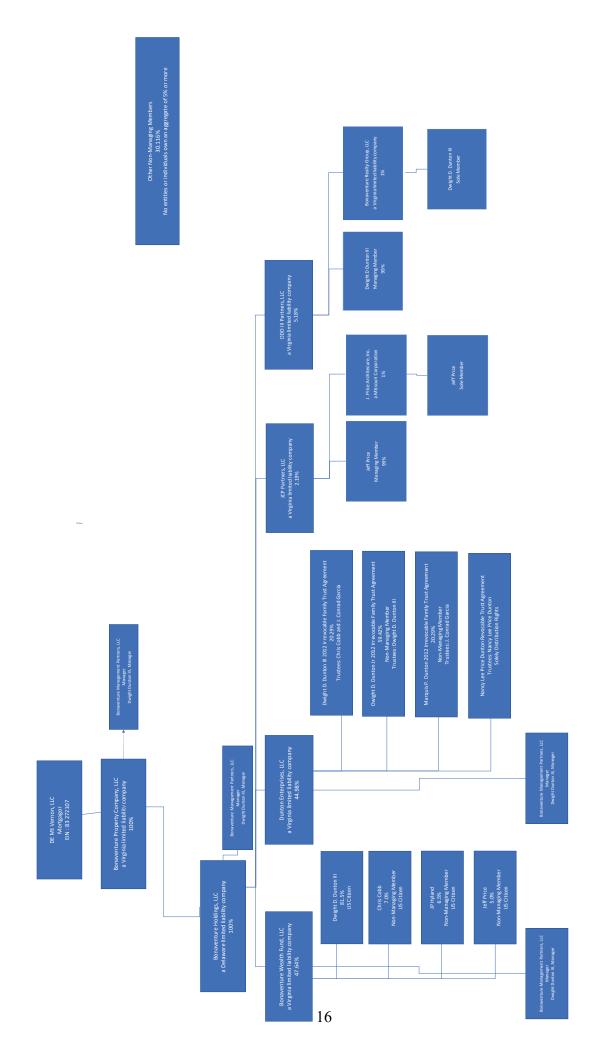
See attached org chart

<u>Note</u>: None of the people or entities listed above have a business or financial relationship with any member of the Board of Architectural Review, Board of Zoning Appeals, City Council, or Planning Commission as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance.

DocuSigned by:

Pupus Bit & C8E6741CD5B8403...

2/10/2025



Ganges Property Group LLC

Ashburn, VA 20147

Karl Moritz 301 King Street City Hall, Room 2100 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Re:

Authorization to File for a Special Use Permit

2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301, Tax Map No. 024.04-05-01

(the "Property")

Dear Mr. Moritz:

Ganges Property Group LLC, hereby authorizes Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, & Walsh, P.C. to act as agent on its behalf for the filling and representation of an application for a Special Use Permit on the Property and any related requests.

Very truly yours,

Ganges Property Group LLC

By:

ts:

MALPANI, MG. MEMBER

Date:

02.07.2025

APPLICANT OWNERSHIP BREAKDOWN

Contract Purchaser/Applicant of 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue (TM No. 024-04-05-01)

Ganges Pronerty Group LLC (Contract Purchaser/Applicant)

Ashburn, VA 20147

Member(s): Percent Ownership:

MAN OJ GANDIH 50%

AJAY MALPANI 50%

Note: None of the people or entities listed above have a business or financial relationship with any member of the Board of Architectural Review, Board of Zoning Appeals, City Council, or Planning Commission as defined by Section 11-350 of the Zoning Ordinance.

| If property owner or applicant is being represented by an authorized agent such as an attorney, realtor, or which there is some form of compensation, does this agent or the business in which the agent is employed business license to operate in the City of Alexandria, Virginia? | |
|--|--|
| [] Yes. Provide proof of current City business license N/A | |
| [] No. The agent shall obtain a business license prior to filing application, if required by the City Code. | |
| NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION | |
| 3. The applicant shall describe below the nature of the request in detail so that the Planning Commouncil can understand the nature of the operation and the use. The description should fully discuss the activity. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.) See attached. | |
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USE CHARACTERISTICS

| 4. | [] a n [] an [⁄] an | roposed special use permit request is for (new use requiring a special use permit, expansion or change to an existing use we expansion or change to an existing use wer. Please describe: | ithout a special use permit, ith a special use permit, |
|---------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| 5. | Please | e describe the capacity of the proposed us | e: |
| | A. | How many patrons, clients, pupils and o Specify time period (i.e., day, hour, or sl N/A | nift). |
| | В. | How many employees, staff and other p Specify time period (i.e., day, hour, or sl N/A | nift). |
| 6. | Please | e describe the proposed hours and days o | f operation of the proposed use: |
| | Day: Resider | ntial: Sunday - Saturday | Hours: 24/7 |
| | Comme | ercial: to be determined | to be determined |
| | | | |
| 7. | Please | e describe any potential noise emanating f | from the proposed use. |
| A. Describe t | | Describe the noise levels anticipated fro | m all mechanical equipment and patrons. |
| | | N/A | |
| | | | |
| | В. | How will the noise be controlled? | |
| | | N/A | |
| | | | |

| Pleas | se provide information regarding trash and litter generated by the use. |
|-------|---|
| A. | What type of trash and garbage will be generated by the use? (i.e. office paper, food wrappers) N/A |
| B. | How much trash and garbage will be generated by the use? (i.e. # of bags or pounds per day or powers) N/A |
| C. | How often will trash be collected? N/A |
| D. | How will you prevent littering on the property, streets and nearby properties? N/A |
| | any hazardous materials, as defined by the state or federal government, be handled, stored, or general roperty? |

| 11. | | ny organic compounds, for example paint, ink, lacquer thinner, or cleaning or degreasing solvent, be ed, stored, or generated on the property? |
|-----|---------------------|--|
| | [_/] Ye | es. [] No. N/A |
| | If yes, | provide the name, monthly quantity, and specific disposal method below: |
| | | |
| 12. | What i | methods are proposed to ensure the safety of nearby residents, employees and patrons? |
| | | |
| | | |
| | OHOL | SALES |
| 13. | A. | Will the proposed use include the sale of beer, wine, or mixed drinks? |
| | | [] Yes [] No N/A |
| | | If yes, describe existing (if applicable) and proposed alcohol sales below, including if the ABC license vinclude on-premises and/or off-premises sales. |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

PARKING AND ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

| 14. | A. | How many parking spaces of each type are provided for the proposed use: |
|--------|---------|---|
| | | 0 Standard spaces |
| | | Compact spaces |
| | | Handicapped accessible spaces. |
| | | Other. |
| | | Planning and Zoning Staff Only |
| | Red | quired number of spaces for use per Zoning Ordinance Section 8-200A |
| | Do | es the application meet the requirement? [] Yes [] No |
| | В. | Where is required parking located? (check one) |
| | | [] on-site [] off-site |
| | | If the required parking will be located off-site, where will it be located? |
| | | |
| | | OTE: Pursuant to Section 8-200 (C) of the Zoning Ordinance, commercial and industrial uses may provide off |
| or ind | ustrial | within 500 feet of the proposed use, provided that the off-site parking is located on land zoned for commercia uses. All other uses must provide parking on-site, except that off-street parking may be provided within 300 se with a special use permit. |
| | C. | If a reduction in the required parking is requested, pursuant to Section 8-100 (A) (4) or (5) of the Zoning Ordinance, complete the PARKING REDUCTION SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION. |
| | | [√] Parking reduction requested; see attached supplemental form |
| 15. | Plea | ase provide information regarding loading and unloading facilities for the use: |
| | A. | How many loading spaces are available for the use? 1 |
| | | Planning and Zoning Staff Only |
| | I | Required number of loading spaces for use per Zoning Ordinance Section 8-200 |
| | I | Does the application meet the requirement? |
| | 200000 | |

[] Yes [] No

| | B. | Where are off-street loading facilities located? | | | |
|------|---------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| | | An on-site surface loading space is proposed to be accessed from | n Stewart Avenu | ue | _ |
| | C. | During what hours of the day do you expect loading/unloa | • . | | _ |
| | D. | How frequently are loading/unloading operations expect | ed to occur, p | er day or per week, as ap | propriate′ |
| | | As often as necessary to serve the residential an uses. | d the to be | determined commercia | ll — |
| 16. | | et access to the subject property adequate or are any stressary to minimize impacts on traffic flow? | et improveme | nts, such as a new turnino | g lane, |
| | The | existing street access is adequate. | | | |
| | | | | | |
| SITE | CHA | RACTERISTICS | | | |
| 17. | Will the | e proposed uses be located in an existing building? | [/] Yes | [] No | |
| | Do you | u propose to construct an addition to the building? | [] Yes | [/] No | |
| | How la | arge will the addition be? square feet. | | | |
| 18. | What v | will the total area occupied by the proposed use be? | | | |
| | 39,993 | sq. ft. (existing) + sq. ft. (addition if any) = | <u>39,279</u> sq. | ft. (total) | |
| 19. | []ast []ah | roposed use is located in: <i>(check one)</i> tand alone building touse located in a residential zone warehouse | from the amo | t in a reduction ount of existing | |
| | | hopping center. Please provide name of the center: office building. Please provide name of the building: | | | |
| | | er. Please describe: | | | |

End of Application

| SUP# | |
|------|--|
|------|--|



APPLICATION - SUPPLEMENTAL

PARKING REDUCTION

Supplemental information to be completed by applicants requesting special use permit approval of a reduction in the required parking pursuant to section 8-100(A)(4) or (5).

| location) |
|---|
| The applicant is requesting a reduction of 38 parking spaces. Currently 0 parking spaces |
| are allocated for the proposed residential and retail/restaurant uses, which would require a |
| minimum of 38 parking spaces. |
| 2. Provide a statement of justification for the proposed parking reduction. See attached. |
| |
| |
| |
| 3. Why is it not feasible to provide the required parking? See statement of justification. |
| |
| |
| |
| 4. Will the proposed reduction reduce the number of available parking spaces below the number of existing parking spaces?Yes №. |
| 165 INU. |
| 5. If the requested reduction is for more than five parking spaces, the applicant must submit a Parking |

- 5. If the requested reduction is for more than five parking spaces, the applicant must submit a **Parking Management Plan** which identifies the location and number of parking spaces both on-site and off-site, the availability of on-street parking, any proposed methods of mitigating negative affects of the parking reduction.

 See statement of justification.
- 6. The applicant must also demonstrate that the reduction in parking will not have a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

The Applicant, Ganges Property Group LLC, is the contract purchaser of Property located at 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue (the "Property"), which is currently improved with a two-story office building constructed in 1985. The Property contains approximately 29,747 SF (0.68 ac) and is located in the CL zoning district, which permits a number of uses by-right. The Applicant proposes to convert the existing office building to a mixed-use building including daycare and retail/restaurant uses on the ground floor with a multi-unit dwelling on the second floor. The proposed uses are permitted by-right in the CL zone. However, the Applicant is requesting an SUP for a parking reduction associated with the retail/restaurant and multi-unit dwelling uses, with modifications to the side yard setback and open space requirements associated with the multi-unit dwellings. With the proposed conversion, the building will contain approximately 10,914 SF for daycare use, approximately 8,500 SF for retail and/or restaurant uses on the ground floor and thirty (30) multi -unit dwellings on the second floor, including 26 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom units.

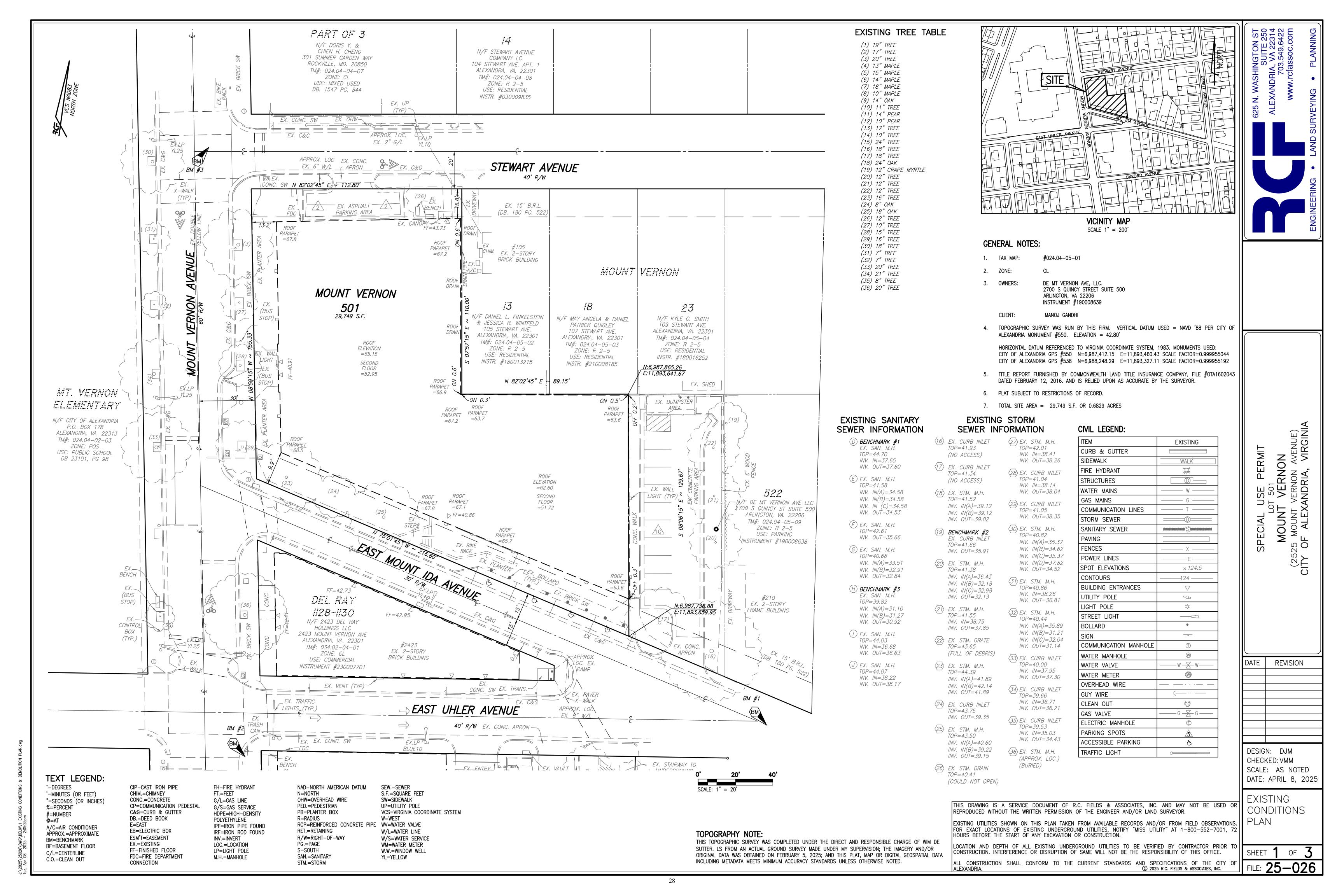
The Applicant requests an SUP for a reduction in the required parking spaces for the retail/restaurant and multi-unit dwelling uses. Pursuant to the Zoning Ordinance, a minimum of 29 parking spaces are required to be provided for the proposed multi-unit dwelling use and a minimum of 9 parking spaces are required for the restaurant/retail uses (the higher restaurant parking ratio has been used given that the tenants are to be determined) for a total of a minimum of 38 required parking spaces for the proposed uses.

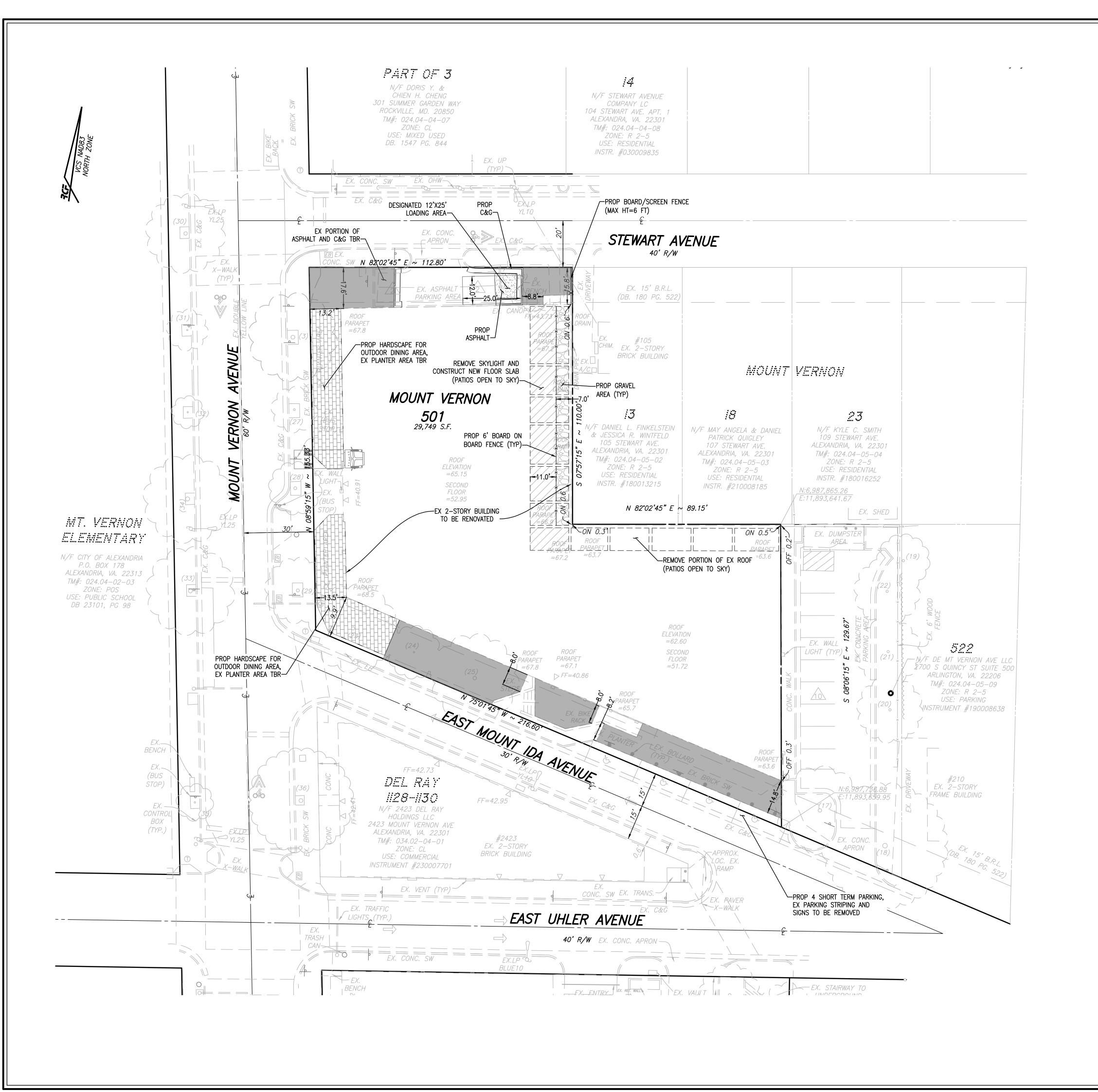
Given that the Applicant intends to retain the existing building and provide an off-street loading space on Stewart Avenue, there are no parking spaces on site. There is an adjacent parking lot located at 208 E. Mt Ida Ave., which is not part of this Application, that will be removed to accommodate play equipment accessory to the day care use, so long as the day care is a tenant of the building. There is also a parking lot across E. Mt. Ida Ave in the 2400 block of Mt. Vernon Avenue. Dedicated parking spaces for the day care use will be provided in this lot, as permitted by the Zoning Ordinance, given the fact that many individuals drop off and pick up children via single occupancy vehicles. However, the Applicant does not intend to dedicate parking spaces for the proposed retail/restaurant uses or multi-unit dwelling in the 2400 lot, given the walkability of the neighborhood and the fact that, given the smaller size of the units and the flexibility for the multi-unit dwelling to be for typical rentals or short term residential rentals, there will either be renters who are carless by choice or who will access the property via other transit modes such as uber, taxi, metro, bus, walking or biking.

While there will not be any dedicated spaces for the multi-unit dwelling or restaurant/retail uses in the 2400 lot, spaces will be available in the lot, for a fee, for those who need them. In addition, there will be short term parking spaces dedicated on E. Mt Ida for pick up/drop off and deliveries. Given that there is on street public parking adjacent to the building and available parking in the neighboring lot, there will be no negative impact on the neighborhood from the parking reduction.

The Applicant also requests a modification to the required front and side yard setback for the multiunit dwelling use as the existing building layout prevents compliance with the residential requirements of the CL zoning district. The existing office building is located on the adjoining side yard property lines. The CL zone does not have any side yard setback requirements for non-residential components, but with the proposed residential conversion on the second floor, the residential use would be unable to meet the side yard setback ratio of 1:2. As the Applicant is retaining the existing building it is not possible to increase the setbacks. Finally, the Applicant requests a modification of the open space requirement. Given that the existing building footprint covers a majority of the Property it is not possible for the Applicant to provide the required 35% (10,411 SF) open space. In addition, although there is open area along Mt Vernon Avenue, it cannot technically be counted as open space as the Applicant intends to use that area as accessory dining or other outdoor area for the restaurant/retail tenants. There will be some outdoor space created on the second level of the building for occupants of the multi-unit dwellings. Finally, in response to a request from the neighbors regarding screening for the loading area, the Applicant is requesting a modification to permit a 6-ft tall fence in the secondary front yard along Stewart Avenue.

The proposed conversion of this Property will facilitate the adaptive re-use of an existing vacant office building to provide child care, restaurant, retail and residential uses that will provide 24/7 activity, enhance the pedestrian experience along this portion of Mt. Vernon Avenue, and add to the overall vibrancy of the neighborhood. Furthermore, this proposal is in keeping with the vision expressed by the community during previous conversations regarding the reuse of this building.





| TAX MAP 70NF 0F | P #: 024.04-05-01 OF SITE:CL (COMMERCIAL LOW ZONE) | , |
|--|---|------------|
| | EXISTING: GOVERNMENT BUILDING PROPOSED: RETAIL/RESTAURANT, DAY CARE | • |
| 4. TOTAL LO | MULTI-UNIT DWELLING | |
| | | SM LIMIT |
| | R OF DWELLING UNITS: 30 UNITS (26 STUDIO/ONE-BEDROOM UNITS AND 4 2-BEDROO | |
| | PER ACRE: REQUIRED: <u>N/A</u> PROPOSED: <u>44.0 UNITS/AC</u> | <u>CRE</u> |
| 7. FLOOR A | AREA: SEE ARCHITECTURAL PLANS | |
| 8. OPEN SF | SPACE (RESIDENTIAL): REQUIRED: 10,412 SF (35% LOT AREA) | |
| | PROPOSED: GROUND FLOOR:3,400 SF | |
| | SECOND FLOOR: 1,100 SF TOTAL: 4,500 SF (15.1%) | |
| 9 HEIGHT | • | |
| J. TILIOTTI. | PERMITTED: 45' EXISTING/PROPOSED: ±29' | |
| 10. AVERAGI | GE FINISHED GRADE: 42.8' | |
| 11. YARDS: | · | |
| | FRONT: CONTEXTUAL BLOCK FACE FRONT: 13.2'(W)/18.1'(S)/15.8'(SIDE: 1:2 HEIGHT RATIO (16.0') SIDE: 0' | <u>N)</u> |
| | REAR: N/A REAR: N/A | • |
| 12. FRONTA | AGE: REQUIRED: 50.0' PROPOSED: 371.93' | |
| 13. PARKING | G TABULATION (WITHIN ENHANCED TRANSIT AREA): | |
| RESTA | TAURANT/RETAIL*: | |
| | REQUIRED MIN: 1.00 SPACES/1,000 SF = 1.00(8,500/1,000) = 9 SPACES | |
| | MAX: $3.00 \text{ SPACES}/1,000 \text{ SF} = 3.00(8,500/1,000) = 26 \text{ SPACES}$ | |
| | STAURANT ASSUMED AS MOST CONSERVATIVE PARKING REQUIREMENT. | |
| <u>DAY</u> | CARE CENTER: REQUIRED | |
| | MIN: $0.25 \text{ SPACES}/1,000 \text{ SF} = 0.25(10,914/1,000) = 3 \text{ SPACES}$ MAX: $3.00 \text{ SPACES}/1,000 \text{ SF} = 3.00(10,914/1,000) = 33 \text{ SPACES}$ | |
| MIIIT | TI-UNIT DWELLING: | |
| MOLI | REDUCTIONS: 10%-WITHIN BRT, 5%-WALKSCORE OF 80-90 | |
| | REQUIRED: 1 SPACE/BEDROOM - 15% REDUCTIONS = 0.85 SPACE/BEDROOM BEDROOMS: 34 BEDROOMS REQUIRED: 0.85 SPACE/BEDROOM = 29 SPACES | |
| | REQUIRED: 0.85 SPACE/BEDROOM = 29 SPACES | |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | AL PARKING REQUIRED: MIN = 41 SPACES | |
| | MAX: = 88 SPACES | |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | AL PARKING PROVIDED: O SPACES (LOT 501) | |
| 4005 | | |
| <u>ACCE</u> | ESSIBLE PARKING: REQUIRED: 2 ADA SPACES (1 VAN ACCESSIBLE) (25–50 PARKING SPACES) | |
| | PROVIDED: 0 SPACES | |
| 14. LOADIN | NG SPACES: REQUIRED:1 PROVIDED:1 | |
| REQUEST | STED APPLICATIONS/MODIFICATIONS: | |
| SPECIA | AL USE PERMIT FOR PARKING REDUCTION FROM A MINIMUM 38 SPACES REQUIRED T | 0 |
| | ACES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND RESTAURANT/RETAIL USES. | |
| | TICATION OF FRONT AND SIDE YARD SETBACK | |
| • MODIFIC | TICATION OF OPEN SPACE | |
| • MODIFIC | TICATION TO PERMIT 6' FENCE WITHIN A SECONDARY FRONT YARD | |
| | | |
| HATCH | I LEGEND: | |
| | — PROPOSED HARDSCAPE | |
| | | |
| | PROPOSED GROUND LEVEL OPEN SPACE | |
| | | |
| | - PROPOSED ABOVE GRADE OPEN SPACE | |
| K)()(| PROPOSED CRAVEL | |
| | — PROPOSED GRAVEL AREA | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

O' 20' 40SCALE: 1" = 20'

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LOCATION AND DEPTH OF ALL EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES TO BE VERIFIED BY CONTRACTOR PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION. INTERFERENCE OR DISRUPTION OF SAME WILL NOT BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS OFFICE.

ALL CONSTRUCTION SHALL CONFORM TO THE CURRENT STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA.

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PROPOSED CONDITIONS PLAN

DESIGN: DJM

CHECKED: VMM

SCALE: 1"=20'

DATE: APRIL 8, 2025

DATE REVISION

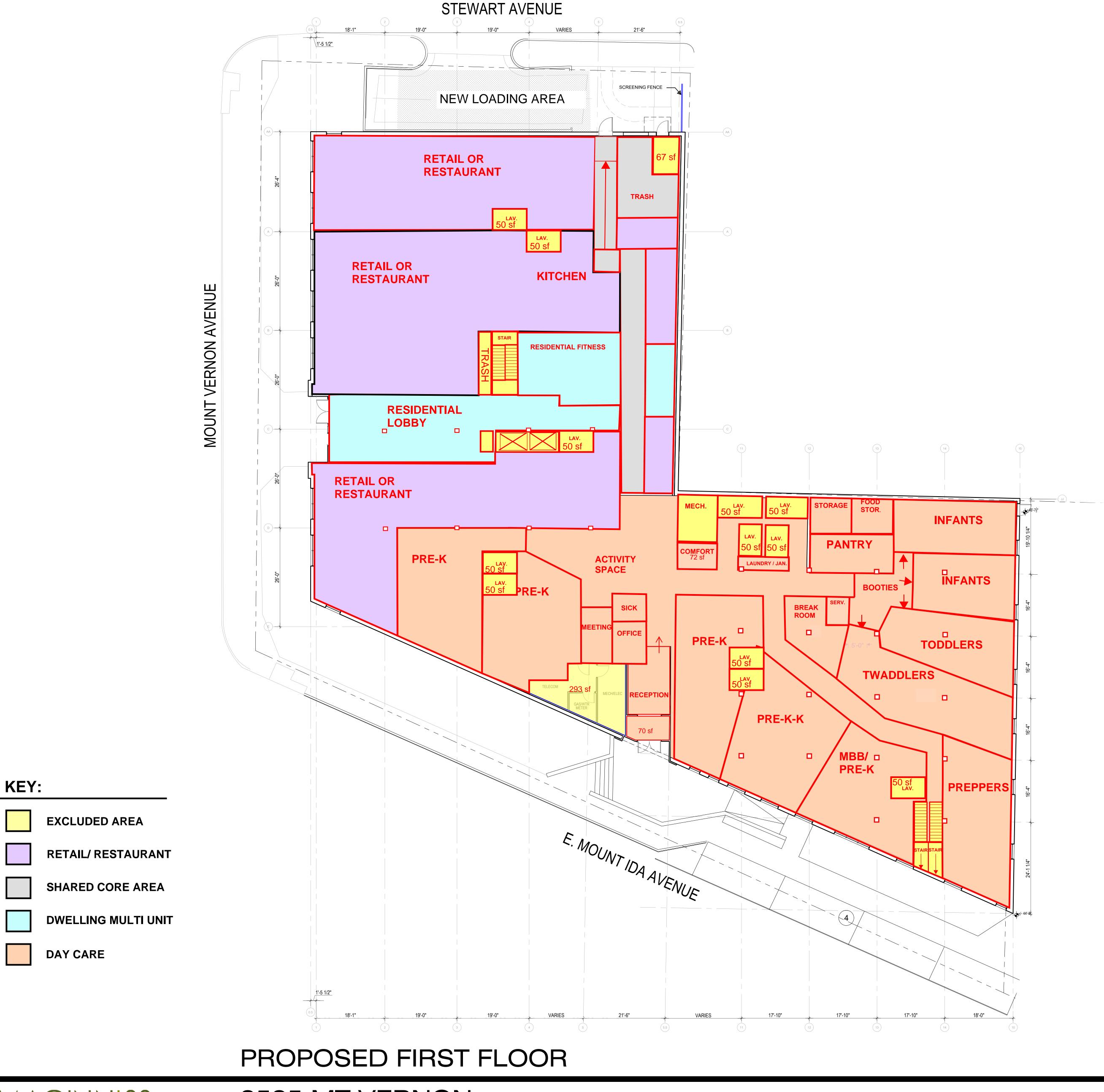
ION AVENUE) VIRGINIA

SPECIAL USE PEF

LOT 501

MOUNT VERNO
(2525 MOUNT VERNON /
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA,

SHEET 2 OF 3
FILE: 25-026

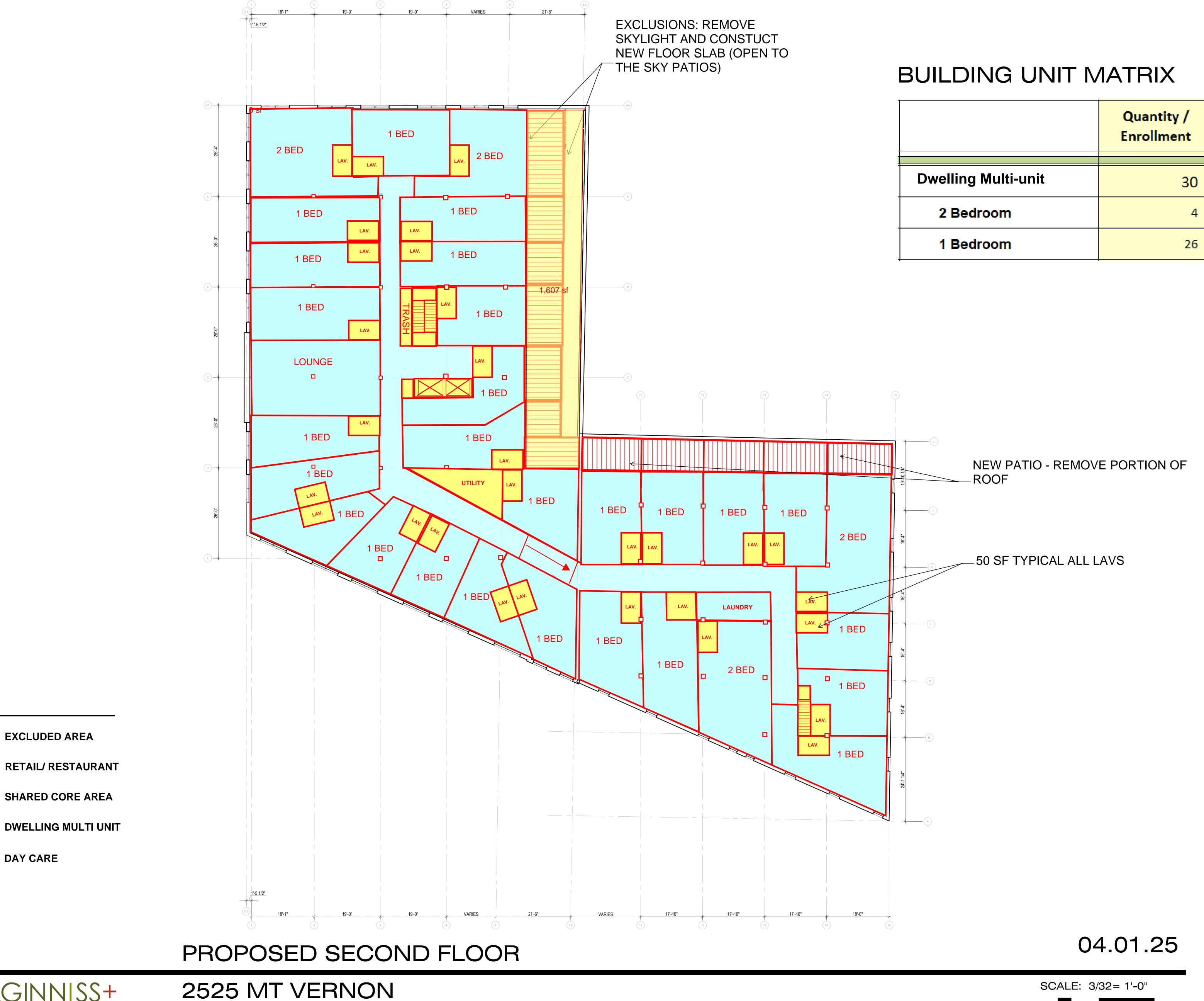


04.01.25

SCALE: 3/32= 1'-0"

N

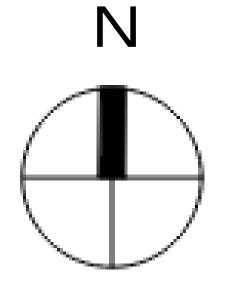
2525 MT VERNON

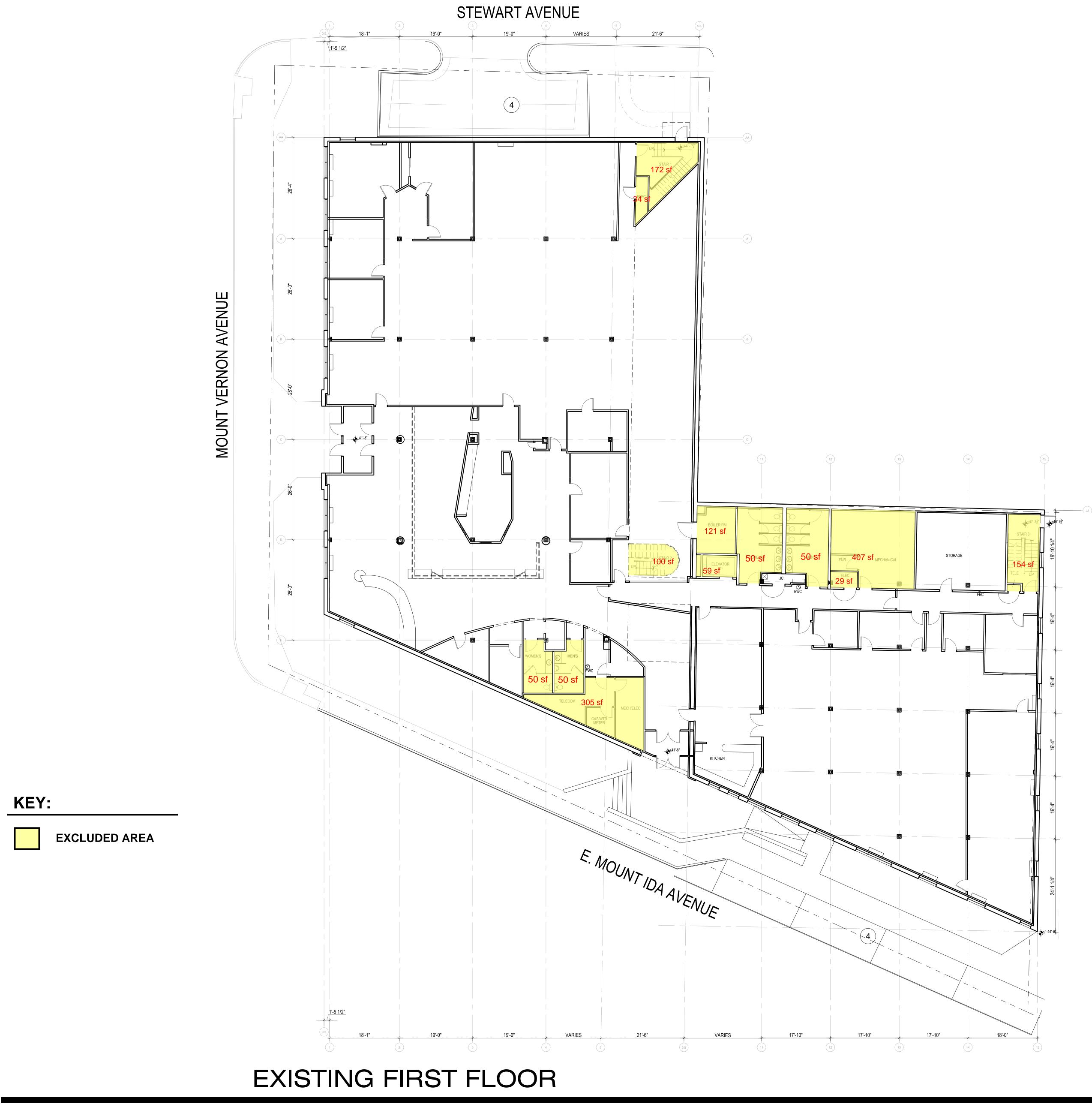


EXCLUDED AREA

DAY CARE

KEY:



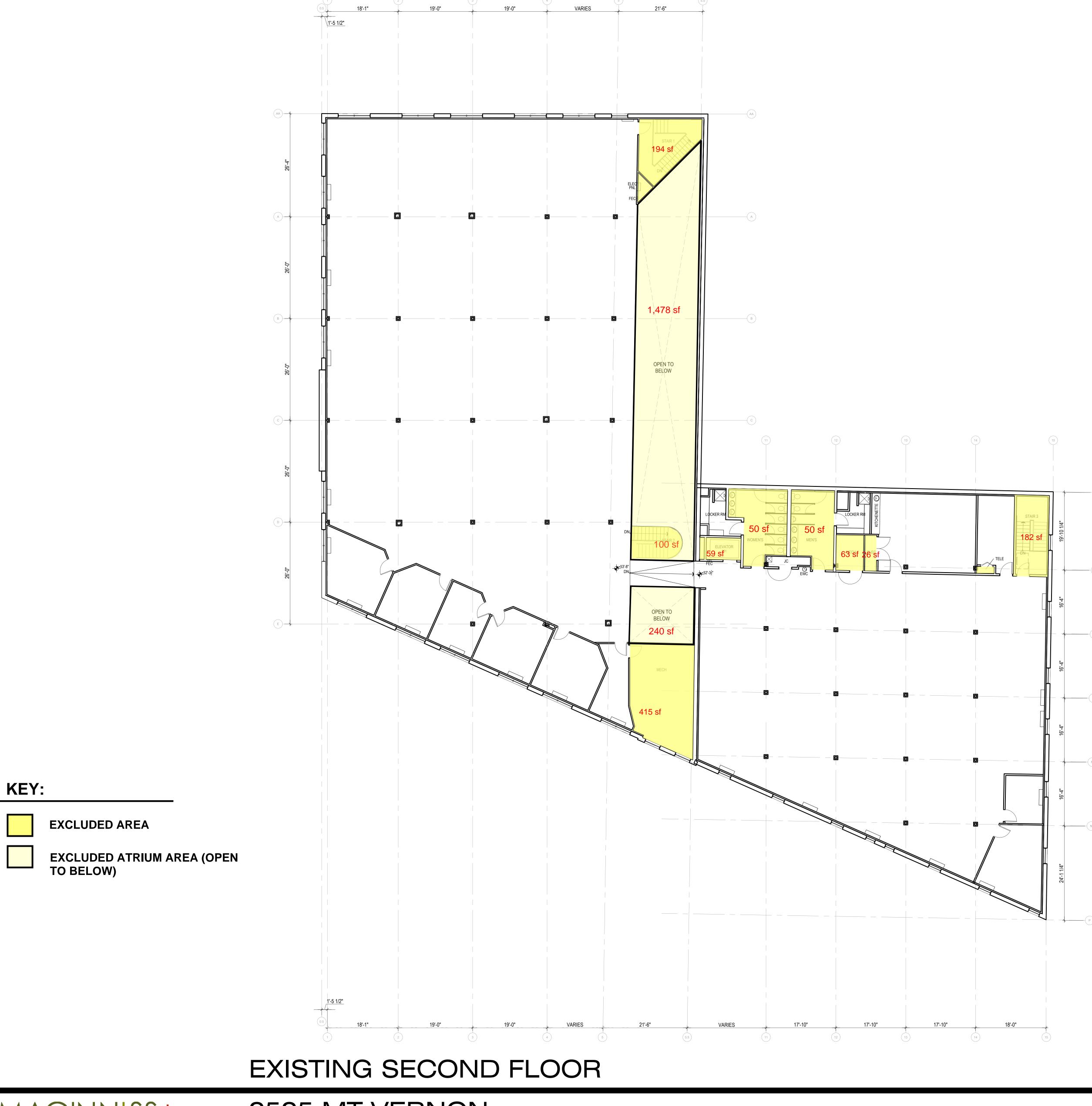


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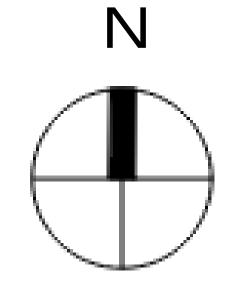
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MAGINNISS+ DELNINDO 2525 MT VERNON

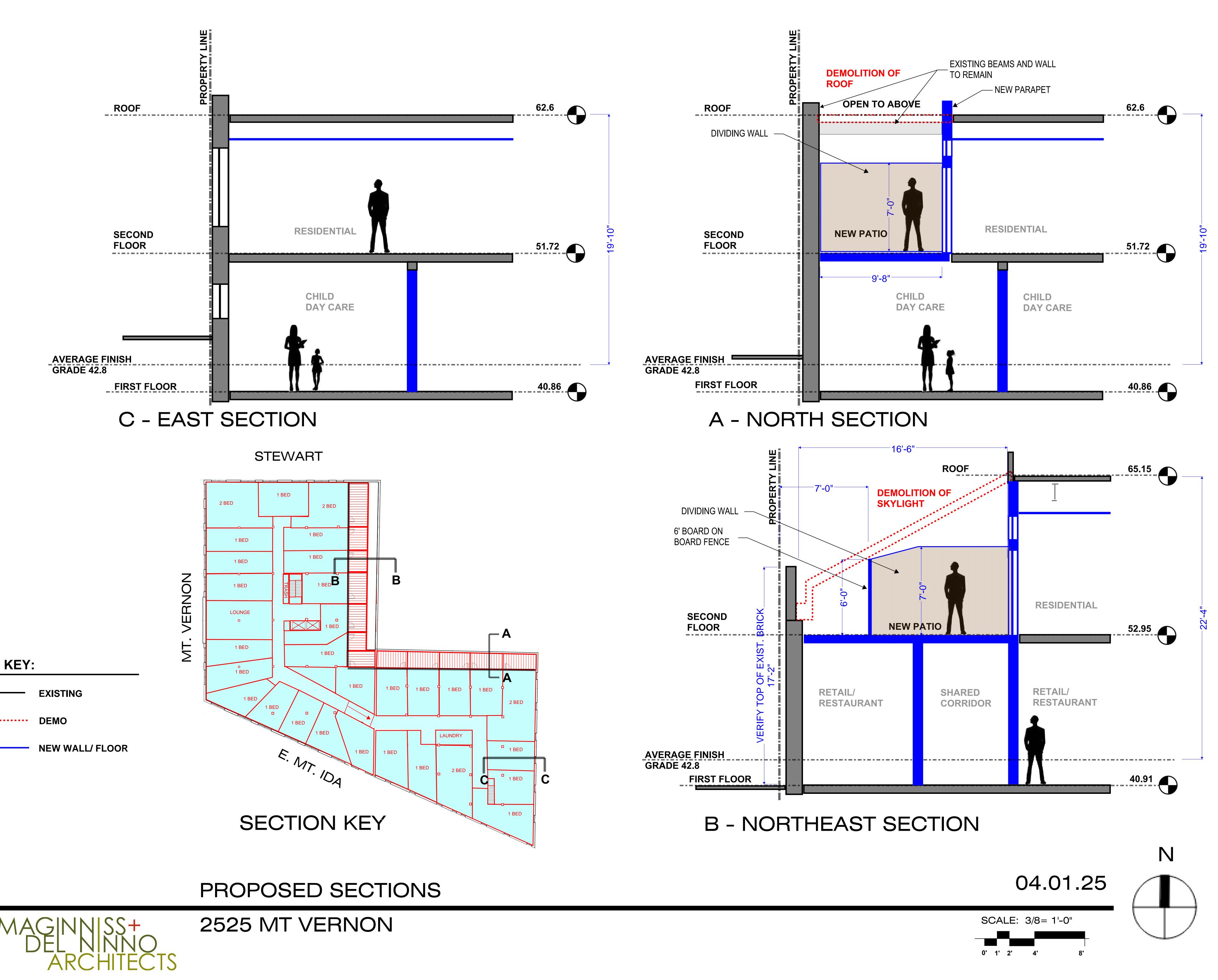


04.01.25

SCALE: 3/32= 1'-0"



2525 MT VERNON



| 2525 MOUNT VERNON AVE | SF of site | FAR | Total Allowable Area | FAR existing | Total Existing Building GSF |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| TOTAL A | ALLOWABLE SF C | L ZONE | | | |
| LOT 501 - 2525 Mt Vernon Ave | 29,749 | 0.75 | 22,311 | | 44,359 |
| TOTAL | 29,749 | 0.75 | 22,311 | 1.49 | 44,359 |
| | | | GSF | Exclusions | Floor Area |
| TOTAL EXISTING | | | 44,359 | 4,366 | 39,993 |
| TOTAL PROPOSED | | | | | |
| 2-133 - Day care center | | | 11,855 | 941 | 10,914 |
| 2-137 - Dwelling, multi-unit | | | 23,798 | 3,933 | 19,865 |
| 2-190 - Restaurant 2 - 191 Retail | | | 8,706 | 206 | 8,500 |
| TOTAL | | | 44,359 | 5,080 | 39,279 |

04.01.25