FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPLICANT: Jason & Julie Nogueira

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT: 2nd

CASE NUMBER: 2025-0011-V

COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT: 6th

HEARING DATE: March 20, 2025

PREPARED BY: Joan A. Jenkins

<u>REQUEST</u>

The applicants are requesting a variance to allow an accessory structure (pool) in the front yard of a nonwaterfront lot on property located at 115 Bay Drive in Annapolis.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF SITE

The subject site is a through lot consisting of 22,622 square feet of land and is located with frontage on the northwest side of Bay Drive, northeast of Lawrence Avenue and frontage on the southeast side Barry Avenue, northeast of Decatur Avenue. It is identified as part of Lot 6 on Parcel 30 in Block 10 on Tax Map 57 in the Bay Ridge subdivision.

The property is zoned R2 – Residential District. The site is not waterfront, but it is located entirely within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and is designated as LDA – Limited Development Area. It is improved with a single-family dwelling, a shed, a playset, a putting green, a trampoline over a gravel pad, and associated facilities. The property is served by a private well and public sewer system.

PROPOSAL

The applicants propose to remove the existing shed, playset, putting green, and trampoline, and to construct an inground pool, 16' by 36' with a surround measuring overall 19' by 39', including a 7'6" by 7'6" spa within the pool area, and a 4' by 19' pool deck.

REQUESTED VARIANCES

§ 18-2-204(3)(i) of the Anne Arundel County Zoning Code provides that an accessory structure may be located in the front yard of a through lot or corner through lot provided that the accessory structure is located in the front yard that does not provide access to the lot. § 18-1-101 defines a "lot line, front" as the boundary of a lot that abuts the road right-of-way. In the case of the subject property, the lot fronts both Bay Drive to the southeast and Barry Avenue to the northwest, resulting in what is considered to be two front yards. The pool would be located in the "front yard" as it relates to Barry Avenue, necessitating a variance to this provision. The proposal meets all setback requirements for a pool in the R2 - Residential District and therefore, does not require a variance to setbacks.

FINDINGS

The subject property is rectangular in shape and exceeds the minimum 80-foot width and the minimum 15,000 square foot area required for lots served by public sewer in an R2 District.

The existing critical area lot coverage is 6,472 square feet, which is over the maximum 5,445 square feet allowed. The proposed coverage with reduction from removal of the shed, playset, and several gravel areas would be 6,369 square feet. The final lot coverage appears to meet the 10% reduction required by Code. If approved, the actual coverage would be calculated at permitting.

A review of the County 2024 aerial photograph shows that the orientation of the existing and proposed development on the subject lot is consistent with the pattern of development of many nearby lots along Bay Drive. According to State tax assessment records, the existing dwelling was built in 2006. Most nearby houses face the water, with Bay Drive functioning as the front yard and with Barry Avenue functioning as the rear yard. However, a majority of the through lots gain access from Barry Avenue. Other properties nearby also have pools on the Barry Avenue side of their through lots.¹

The applicants' letter explains that the location of the proposed accessory structures would comply with the minimum setbacks. The letter describes the Barry Avenue frontage as being screened by dense vegetation which gives the functional and visual characteristics of a traditional rear yard despite the legal classification as a front yard.

While every application must stand on its own merit, there have been other variances in the area relating to accessory structures in the front yard due to the double frontage nature of the neighborhood. Several variances have been granted for 107 Bay Drive (a detached garage in the front yard with less setbacks than required, a pool in the front yard, and a time extension for the pool variance). The property at 87 Bay Drive was also granted variances (a pool in the front yard², and a detached garage with an accessory dwelling unit).

The **Health Department** has determined that the proposal does not adversely affect the well water supply systems and has no objection to the request.

For the granting of a zoning variance, a determination must be made as to whether, because of certain unique physical conditions peculiar to or inherent in the particular lot or because of exceptional circumstances, strict implementation of the Code would result in practical difficulties or an unnecessary hardship. The front yard that does not provide access is located on Bay Drive. There isn't adequate space in that yard for a pool of the requested size and furthermore, a pool in what is considered the front yard would be awkward despite zoning regulations.

¹ 123 Bay Drive and 85 Bay Drive

² The pool was never constructed per the variance and was moved to the side yard in the subsequent variance.

Approval of the variance would not alter the essential character of the neighborhood, as the proposal would be consistent with the existing pattern of development of other nearby properties. Were it not for the dual frontage situation the pool would be permitted in this location and no variances would be required.

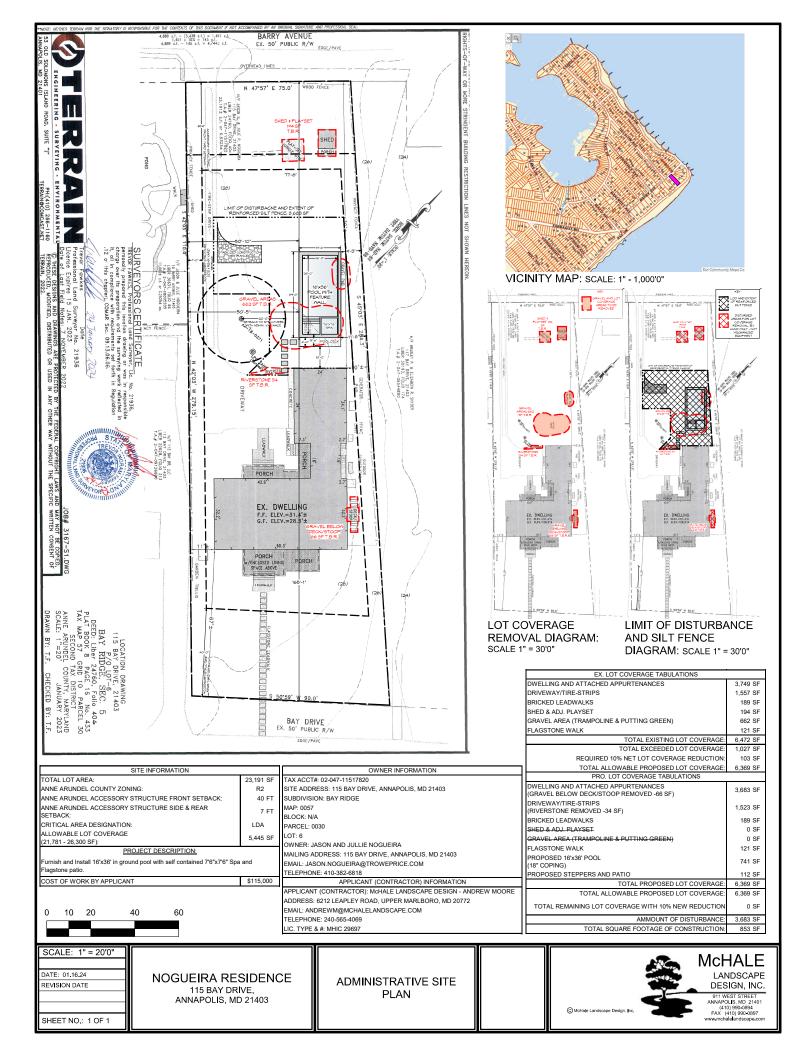
The variance would not substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property, as the structures would meet the minimum setback requirements from shared lot lines. The variance would not reduce forest cover in the limited development area, would not be contrary to acceptable clearing and replanting practices, and would not be detrimental to the public welfare.

Given the dual road frontage practical difficulties do exist. The front yard variance is unavoidable, the structure is not considered to be excessive in size and given the existing pattern of development on this portion of Bay Drive the variance is deemed to be the minimum necessary to afford relief in this case.

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the standards set forth in § 18-16-305 of the Code under which a variance may be granted, this Office recommends *approval* of a zoning variance to § 18-2-204(b) to allow the proposed pool to be constructed in the front yard of a nonwaterfront lot, as shown on the site plan submitted by the applicants.

DISCLAIMER: This recommendation does not constitute a building permit. In order for the applicant(s) to construct the structure(s) as proposed, the applicant(s) shall apply for and obtain the necessary building permits and obtain any other approvals required to perform the work described herein. This includes but is not limited to verifying the legal status of the lot, resolving adequacy of public facilities, and demonstrating compliance with environmental site design criteria.





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mchalelandscape.com info@mchalelandscape.com

LETTER OF EXPLANATION

115 BAY DR ANNAPOLIS MD 21403 Owners – Jason and Julie Nogueira Applicant – McHale Landscape Design – Matthew Rhoderick

(410) 990-0894

The following letter of explanation is for the Pre-File application for a Variance Request for 115 Bay Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403 by McHale Landscape Design (*Applicant*) on the behalf of Jason and Julie Nogueira (*Owner*). This project was submitted previously via permit application AACO Record# **B02432233**. On 12/16/24 we received a comment made by **Deepa Sapkota** referencing § 18-2-204 (4) informing us that a variance was required. This application in response to that comment copied below:

It's a water view site. Per code Accessory structures § 18-2-204 (4) an accessory structure may not be located in the front yard of a non-waterfront lot. So Barry Ave is considered as front side lot line. You cannot have a pool in front yard of a non-waterfront lot without approved variance. Please contact the Office of Planning and Zoning, Zoning Division at (410) 222-7437 for additional information concerning the variance process and or any questions you may have concerning the setback requirements or you may contact Sterling Seay at 410 222-6761 for variance process.

Property Description:

The property at 115 Bay Drive is a 22,622-square-foot rectangular lot with dual front yard classifications along Barry Ave and Bay Drive. These dual frontages create two designated front yards for the property. Access to the site is provided by a two-track driveway from Barry Ave.

The Barry Ave frontage is screened by dense vegetation, giving it the functional and visual characteristics of a traditional rear yard despite its legal classification as a front yard. The property contains an existing two-story residence with a total above-grade living area of 4,838 square feet and an attached garage located near the center of the lot.

Setbacks for the Existing Residence

- 10' from the north side property line.
- 11' from the south side property line.
- 130' from the Barry Ave front property line.
- 70' from the Bay Drive front property line.
- 295' from the Mean High-Water Line.

The lot features a relatively flat area along the Barry Ave frontage, transitioning into a gentle slope toward the Bay Drive frontage, which opens to scenic water views of the Chesapeake Bay. The surrounding Bay Ridge neighborhood is characterized by similarly configured lots with dual front yard classifications, including properties on Bay Drive with pools (e.g., 123 Bay Drive, 42 River Drive, and 85 Bay Drive).

The proposed pool would be situated in the Barry Ave frontage, positioned to minimize its impact on the property's natural features and character. The proposed setbacks for the pool are as follows:

Setbacks to Proposed Pool

- 9'3" from the north side property line.
- 50'10" from the south side property line.
- 77'6" from the Barry Ave front property line.
- 165'1" from the Bay Drive front property line.
- 295' from the Mean High-Water Line.



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Project Description:

The proposed project seeks a variance to § 18-2-204(4) to permit the construction of a 16' x 36' swimming pool within the front yard of the property. The proposed pool location will comply with all other applicable zoning requirements, including standard yard setbacks and lot coverage limitations (Net 10% Reduction).

Requirements For All Variances:

§ Article 18-16-305(c)

i.

- 1) the variance is the minimum variance necessary to afford relief; and
 - i. The requested variance is the minimum necessary to afford relief because the property's unique layout and constraints, primarily the presence of two front yards (Barry Ave and Bay Drive), make it impractical to locate the pool in a different area while maintaining compliance with zoning regulations. After careful consideration, the Barry Ave front yard was selected as the most suitable location for the proposed 16' x 32' pool. This decision was made to minimize impacts on the property's overall appearance and functionality while respecting neighborhood compatibility. Additionally, the proposed 16' x 32' pool is a modestly sized pool compared to the standard 20' x 40' pools commonly installed in similar residential neighborhoods. This demonstrates that the request is reasonable and proportionate, ensuring that the pool is appropriately scaled to the property and surrounding context. This solution minimizes the extent of the variance by limiting it solely to the location of the pool, without requiring additional deviations from other zoning standards.

2) the granting of the variance will not

- alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district in which the lot is located
 - The granting of the variance will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood or district in which the lot is located. There are several examples of pools located on comparable dual front yard lots, such as 123 Bay Drive, 42 River Drive, and 85 Bay Drive, demonstrating that the presence of a pool in this location is consistent with the neighborhood's existing character. Additionally, the neighborhood features numerous pools, further supporting that this aligns with the established pattern of development in the area. Moreover, the selected front yard along Barry Ave is sufficiently and naturally screened, ensuring that the pool will not create any visual disruption or negatively impact the character or aesthetics of the neighborhood.
- *ii. substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property*
 - The proposed pool will not substantially impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent properties. (10 Barry Ave, 113 Bay Drive, 117 Bay Drive, and 1 Decatur Ave) The pool will adhere to all standard yard setback requirements for pools within the R2 zoning district, with the sole exception of the requested variance to build in the front yard due to the property's dual front yard configuration. Furthermore, the Barry Ave front yard, where the pool is proposed to be located, is naturally screened, ensuring that the pool will not intrude upon or negatively impact the use, enjoyment, or development potential of neighboring properties.
- iii. <u>reduce forest cover in the limited development and resource conservation areas of the critical area;</u>
 - 115 Bay Drive is located within the Limited Development Area of the Critical Area. No forest cover will be removed or disturbed as part of this project. Additionally, the scope of work is entirely located outside the 100-foot Critical Area Buffer, ensuring compliance with all relevant environmental protection standards.
- *iv.* <u>be contrary to acceptable clearing and replanting practices required for development in the critical area or a bog protection</u> <u>area; nor</u>
 - The proposed work will not, in any manner, be contrary to acceptable clearing and replanting practices required for development in the Critical Area. The only clearing proposed involves turfgrass and existing lot coverage. (Artificial putting green, gravel, etc.) No forested or environmentally sensitive areas will be impacted by the project.



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- v. be detrimental to the public welfare.
 - The proposed scope of work will not be detrimental to public welfare. As noted in responses to 2.i. and 2.ii., there are at least three examples of pools located in front yards within the neighborhood, as well as numerous other pools throughout the area. This demonstrates that the project is consistent with existing neighborhood characteristics and does not pose any harm to the public welfare.

Requirements for critical or bog protection area variances:

- § Article 18-16-305(b)
 - i. <u>Because of certain unique physical conditions, such as exceptional topographical conditions peculiar to and inherent in the</u> particular lot or irregularity, narrowness, or shallowness of lot size and shape, strict implementation of the County's critical area program or bog protection program would result in an unwarranted hardship, as that term is defined in the Natural Resources Article, § 8-1808, of the State Code, to the applicant;
 - The requested variance to § 18-2-204(4) does not conflict with the Natural Resources Article, § 8-1808, of the State Code, nor does this application seek a variance under that section. The variance request pertains solely to the local zoning regulations and is not related to the provisions of the Natural Resources Article, which govern critical areas and bog protection. As such, there is no unwarranted hardship created by strict adherence to the County's critical area program or bog protection program in relation to this request.
 - *A literal interpretation of COMAR, Title 27, Criteria for Local Critical Area Program Development or the County's critical area program and related ordinances will deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in similar areas as permitted in accordance with the provisions of the critical area program within the critical area of the County; or*
 - The requested variance to § 18-2-204(4) is within the critical area; however, it does not seek a variance from COMAR, Title 27, Criteria for Local Critical Area Program Development, or the County's critical area program. The variance request pertains solely to local zoning regulations and does not seek to alter or waive any provisions of the critical area program that would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in similar areas under the established program.
 - *The granting of a variance will not confer on an applicant any special privilege that would be denied by COMAR, Title 27, the* <u>County's critical area program to other lands or structures within the County critical area, or the County's bog protection</u> <u>program to other lands or structures within a bog protection area;</u>
 - The requested variance to § 18-2-204(4) is within the critical area; however, it does not seek a variance from COMAR, Title 27, Criteria for Local Critical Area Program Development, or the County's critical area program. The variance request pertains solely to local zoning regulations and does not seek to alter or waive any provisions of the critical area program that would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in similar areas under the established program.
 - iv. <u>The variance request is not based on conditions or circumstances that are the result of actions by the applicant, including the</u> <u>commencement of development before an application for a variance was filed, and does not arise from any condition</u> <u>relating to land or building use on any neighboring property;</u>
 - No development related to this variance request has commenced prior to the submission of this application.
 Additionally, the request does not arise from any condition related to the land or building use of any neighboring property, nor has it been caused by any actions taken by the applicant.



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- v. <u>The granting of a variance will not adversely affect water quality or adversely impact fish, wildlife, or plant habitat within</u> <u>the County's critical area or a bog protection area and will be in harmony with the general spirit and intent of the County's</u> <u>critical area program or bog protection program;</u>
 - The granting of this variance will not adversely affect water quality or negatively impact fish, wildlife, or plant habitat within the County's Critical Area or a bog protection area. No development will occur on steep slopes, within the 100foot buffer, or in environmentally sensitive areas. Additionally, the property's lot coverage exceedance will be reduced by a net 10% reduction. Best management practices (BMPs) will be fully implemented to ensure minimal environmental impact, maintaining compliance with all relevant regulations and promoting the protection of water quality and habitat.
- vi. <u>The applicant for a variance to allow development in the 100-foot upland buffer has maximized the distance between the</u> bog and each structure, taking into account natural features and the replacement of utilities, and has met the requirements of § 17-9-208 of this Code;
 - No development will occur within the 100-foot upland buffer. The proposed project is fully compliant with the requirements of § 17-9-208 of this Code, and no structures or activities will impact this protected area.
- vii. <u>The applicant, by competent and substantial evidence, has overcome the presumption contained in the Natural Resources</u> <u>Article, § 8-1808, of the State Code; and</u>
- viii. <u>The applicant has evaluated and implemented site planning alternatives in accordance with § 18-16-201(c).</u>
 - The requested variance to § 18-2-204(4) does not impact or conflict with the provisions of the Natural Resources Article, § 8-1808, of the State Code, nor does it impede compliance with § 18-16-201(c) regarding site planning alternatives. The variance request is in alignment with all applicable regulations and has been carefully considered to ensure compliance with relevant environmental and zoning standards.

We would like to express our gratitude to all parties involved in the review of this variance application. We look forward to your continued review and to working alongside you throughout this process.

Sincerely,

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Applicant Information:

- McHale Landscape Design MHIC #29697
 - o 911 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401
 - o **(410)-990-0894**
 - Matthew Rhoderick Registered Landscape Architect, #3731
 - o **(301)-512-8234**
 - Mattr@mchalelandscape.com

CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS 1804 WEST STREET, SUITE 100 ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

PROJECT NOTIFICATION APPLICATION

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Jurisdiction: Anne Arundel County					Date:	01.16.25	
						FOR RESUBMITTAL ONLY	
Tax Map #	Parcel #	Block #	Lot #	Section		Corrections	
0057	0030		6	5		Redesign	
			-			No Change	
						Non-Critical Area	
		20			*	Complete Only Page 1	
Tax ID: 02	2-047-115178	20				General Project Information	
					Ļ	5	
Project Name	(site name, sub	division name	or other)	NOGUEIRA		DENCE	
r rojeet r taine	(bite nume, suc		, or other)				
Project location	n/Address	115 BAY DRI	VE				
			·				
City ANNA	APOLIS				Zip 21403		
					<u> </u>		
Local case nu	mber						
	L.						
Applicant: Last name MOORE First name ANDREW						ne ANDREW	
Company McHALE LANDSCAPE DESIGN							
Application 7	Гуре (check al	that annly).					
Application 1	гуре (спеск аг	i that apply):					
Duilding Dom	.:.			Variance			
Building Perm				Variance	찀		
Buffer Management Plan Rezoning							
Conditional U				Site Plan			
Consistency R				Special Exception			
Disturbance >	5,000 sq ft			Subdivision			
Grading Perm	it			Other			
Local Jurisdiction Contact Information:							
Last name	AACo Zoning	Administration	n Section	First name			

Phone #	410-222-7437	Response from Commission Required By	TBD
Fax #		Hearing date TBD	

SPECIFIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Describe Proposed use of project site:					
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL - FURNISH AND INSTALL POOL					
Intra-Family Transfer Grandfathered Lot	Yes	Growth Allocation Buffer Exemption Area	Yes		
Project Type (check a	ll that apply)				
Commercial Consistency Report Industrial Institutional Mixed Use Other		Recreational Redevelopment Residential Shore Erosion Control Water-Dependent Facility			

SITE INVENTORY (Enter acres or square feet)

	Acres	Sq Ft	Acres Sq Ft Total Disturbed Area 0.085 3,683
IDA Area			0.000 0,000
LDA Area	0.519	22,622	
RCA Area			# of Lots Created
Total Area	0.519	22,622]

	Acres	Sq Ft		Acres	Sq Ft
Existing Forest/Woodland/Trees	0	0	Existing Lot Coverage	0.149	6,472
Created Forest/Woodland/Trees	0	0	New Lot Coverage	0	0
Removed Forest/Woodland/Trees	0	0	Removed Lot Coverage	0.002	103
			Total Lot Coverage	0.146	6,369

VARIANCE INFORMATION (Check all that apply)

	Acres	Sq Ft		Acres	Sq Ft
Buffer Disturbance	0	0	Buffer Forest Clearing	0	0
Non-Buffer Disturbance	0.085	3,683	Mitigation	0	0
Variance Type Buffer Forest Clearing			Structure cc. Structure Addition		

Forest Clearing		Barn	
HPA Impact		Deck	
Lot Coverage		Dwelling	
Expanded Buffer		Dwelling Addition	
Nontidal Wetlands	\Box	Garage	
Setback	[X]	Gazebo	
Steep Slopes		Patio	
Other	[X] variance to § 18-2-204(4)	Pool	[X]
		Shed	
		Other	



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CRITICAL AREA NARRATIVE

115 BAY DR ANNAPOLIS MD 21403 Owners – Jason and Julie Nogueira Applicant – McHale Landscape Design – Matthew Rhoderick

Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 990-0894

The subject property located at 115 Bay Drive, Annapolis, MD, is designated for **residential use**. The proposed project involves the request of a variance to install a pool in the front yard of the property, as the subject property has 2 designated front yards. The intent of the project is to enhance the livability and functionality of the property while adhering to environmental regulations and minimizing impacts on the critical area. Efforts will be made to ensure compliance with local ordinances, including the incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures to protect the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area.

The predominant trees and shrubs on the subject property include, but are not limited to, the following species: Crape Myrtle, Hydrangea, Boxwood, Japanese Maple, Sweetbay Magnolia, Arborvitae, Viburnum, Spruce, and Silver Maple. The property currently features approximately **3,100 square feet of tree canopy and shrub vegetation**. The proposed Limit of Disturbance (L.O.D.) for this project is **3,683 square feet**, which will primarily affect areas covered by turfgrass. No significant vegetation, including trees or shrubs, will be disturbed during the construction process. To mitigate potential impacts from the disturbance, the following Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented:

- 1. **Reinforced Silt Fence** A reinforced silt fence will be installed around the entire L.O.D. to prevent sediment runoff and protect adjacent areas.
- 2. **Construction Entrance** A stabilized construction entrance will be established to minimize the transport of sediment onto adjacent roadways.

These methods are designed to minimize impacts on water quality and nearby habitats, ensuring compliance with local environmental regulations and critical area standards.

The total existing lot coverage (impervious surface) on the site is 6,472 square feet. The proposed scope of work includes the removal of an artificial turf putting green, a shed, a playset, and gravel areas to offset the additional lot coverage associated with the construction of a pool and a modest pool deck. These removals will result in a net reduction of impervious surface by 103 square feet, bringing the total lot coverage to 6,369 square feet. This represents an approximate 10% decrease in exceeded lot coverage.

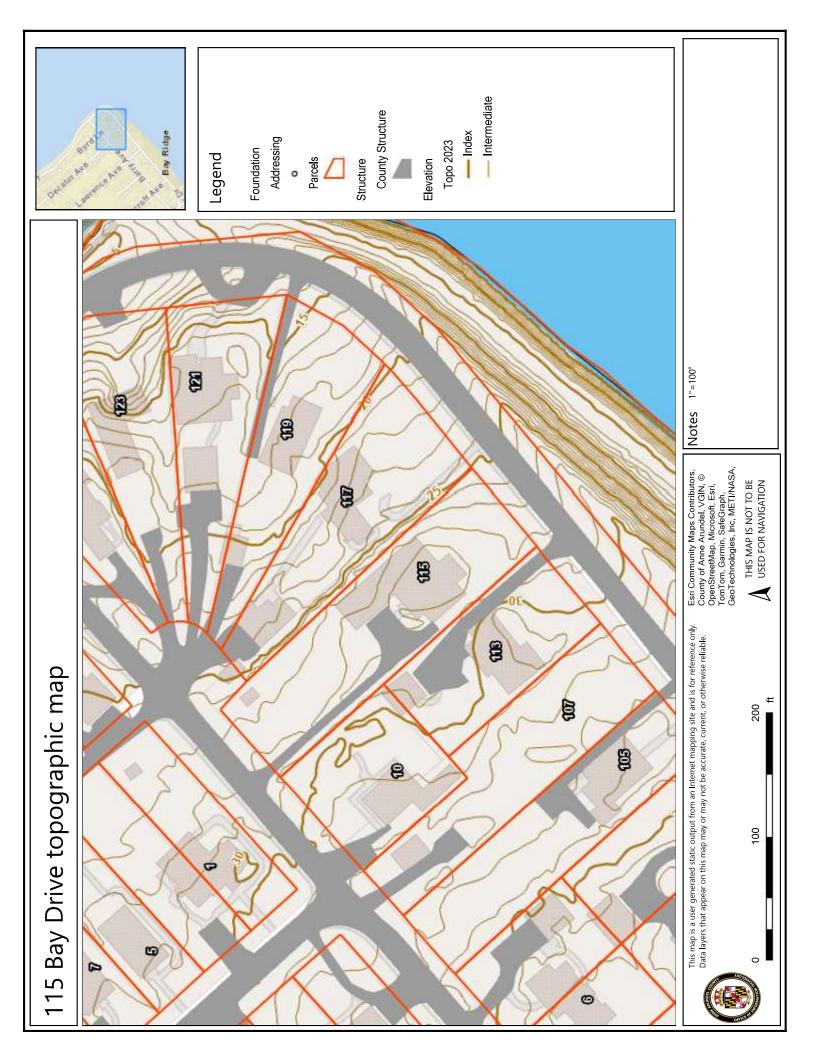
No habitat protection areas on the subject property will be affected by the proposed project. The project area does not contain expanded buffers, steep slopes, rare or endangered species, anadromous fish waters, colonial bird nesting sites, waterfowl areas, riparian forests, natural heritage areas, or significant plant and wildlife habitats.

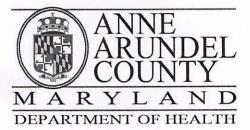
Sincerely,

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J. Howard Beard Health Services Building 3 Harry S. Truman Parkway Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Phone: 410-222-7095 Fax: 410-222-7294 Maryland Relay (TTY): 711 www.aahealth.org

Tonii Gedin, RN, DNP Health Officer

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

TO: Sadé Medina, Zoning Applications Planning and Zoning Department, MS-6301

FROM: Brian Chew, Program Manager Bureau of Environmental Health

DATE: January 28, 2025

- RE: Jason S. Nogueira 115 Bay Drive Annapolis, MD 21403
- NUMBER: 2025-0011-V

SUBJECT: Variance/Special Exception/Rezoning

The Health Department has reviewed the above referenced variance to allow an accessory structure (pool) in the front yard of a non-waterfront lot with less setbacks than required.

The Health Department has reviewed the well water supply system for the above referenced property. The Health Department has determined that the proposed request does not adversely affect the well water supply systems. The Health Department has no objection to the above referenced request.

If you have further questions or comments, please contact Brian Chew at 410-222-7413.

cc: Sterling Seay

