

City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

324 E. PINE STREET P.O. BOX 5004 TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34688-5004 (727) 942-5611 Fax (727) 943-4651 www.ctsfl.us

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AGENDA SEPTEMBER 28, 2022, REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL AUDITORIUM 324 PINE STREET 6:30 P.M.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
- 2. QUASI-JUDICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT AND SWEARING IN OF SPEAKERS
- 3. APPLICATION #22-88 VARIANCE TO ALLOW A FENCE TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE HEIGHT.

LOCATION: 160 READ STREET

- 4. STAFF COMMENTS
- 5. BOARD COMMENTS
- 6. ADJOURNMENT

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Adjustment with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. You are invited to attend the meeting to express your views or to present facts in regard to the case. Written comments may be addressed to the Planning & Zoning Department, P.O. Box 5004, Tarpon Springs, Florida, 34688-5004, and will become part of the records. All documents submitted with the applications are on file and available for inspection in the Planning & Zoning Department, City Hall. Further information may be obtained from the Planning & Zoning Department, (727) 942-5611 or by email to pmcneese@ctsfl.us. Said hearing may be continued from time-to-time pending adjournment. Any person with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call (727) 942-5611 or email a written request to akeen@ctsfl.us.

CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS [SEPTEMBER 28, 2022]

STAFF REPORT

Application No. / Project Title: #22-88 (Marterie)

Staff: Allie Keen, AICP, Senior Planner

Applicant / Owner: Anthony Marterie

Property Size: +/- 14,374 square feet

Current Zoning: RM (Residential Multifamily)

Current Land Use: RM (Residential Medium)

Location / Parcel ID: 160 Read Street / 12-27-15-15228-000-0100

BACKGROUND SUMMARY:

The applicant is requesting a variance to allow a fence to be 6 feet, 2 feet taller than permitted in the front yard of a residential district. The applicant is proposing to construct an aluminum picket fence on the east side of the existing home.

PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the information available at the time this report was prepared, staff recommends approval of this request, with the following condition:

1. Once the fence is constructed, if the Police Department deems it to be a safety issue due to sight visibility, the fence will be required to be modified to mitigate the issue.

LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE CONSIDERATIONS:

District Intent: The Residential Multifamily District is established to provide for multifamily dwellings at a mix of densities, limited by the parcel's designation on the City's Future Land Use Map Series, and allow for other uses generally compatible with the character and intensity of multifamily dwellings.

Development Standards:

- 1. Per Land Development Code Section 36.03(B), in all residential districts no fence, wall, or hedge shall exceed 4 feet in height when located within the required front yard setback.
- 2. Per Land Development Code Section 241.00(241), front yard is defined as the yard extending across the full width of a lot or parcel between any structure and the front lot line measured perpendicular to the structure. One a corner lot the front yard shall be determined by the locations of the principal entrance to, and the primary orientation of the structure which is most often facing the narrowest width of the lot.

CURRENT PROPERTY INFORMATION:

Use of Property:	Single Family Residential
Site Features:	Single family home, driveway, and landscaping.

Vehicle Access:	This property gains access from Read Street.
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SURROUNDING ZONING & LAND USE:

	Zoning:	Land Use:
North:	RM (Residential Multifamily) R-70 (One and Two Family Residential)	RM (Residential Medium) RU (Residential Urban)
South:	CRM (Conditional Residential Mix)	RU (Residential Urban)
East:	RM (Residential Multifamily)	RM (Residential Medium)
West:	R-70 (One and Two Family Residential)	RU (Residential Urban)

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

When considering this application, the following general site conditions, planning concepts, and other facts should be noted:

- 1. The applicant is proposing to install a new 6 foot tall, aluminum picket fence along the Read Street frontage of the property on the east side of the home.
- 2. Per Land Development Code Section (LDC) 36.03(B), fences are limited to a maximum of 4 feet in height in all residential districts when located within the required front yard. The subject property is a corner lot at the intersection of Canal Street and Read Street. The home is oriented towards Read Street, therefore that is considered the front. The RM zoning district requires a minimum 20-foot front yard measured from the Read Street property line. A fence located within that 20 feet would be limited to the maximum height of 4 feet.
- 3. The intersection of Canal Street and Read Street creates a unique lot configuration in that the corner does not form a 90-degree angle like most corner properties. The home, which was built in 1926, is constructed at the front northwest corner of the property with a 0-foot setback along Canal Street. The east side of the home, the area where the fence is proposed, although technically the front yard, as defined by the LDC, functionally serves as the property's side yard.
- 4. Across Read Street, the neighboring property has an existing 6-foot-tall aluminum picket fence, similar to what is proposed by the applicant. The home on this property is oriented towards N. Spring Blvd, therefore the Read Street frontage is considered the side yard and permits the 6-foot height.
- 5. The subject property is designated as a contributing historic structure. The building was built in 1926 and originally known as the A Glorious Church and First Baptist Church. The applicant received a Certificate of Approval (Application #22-69) from the Heritage Preservation Board (HPB) on July 11, 2022, for a variety of improvements to the property, including the proposed fence. The HPB approved the proposed fence contingent on the applicant receiving variance approval for the 6-foot height. Further, the HPB stated that if the Board of Adjustment denied the fence height variance, it would support approval of a 6-foot-tall gate along the driveway entrance with the remaining portions of the fence being at 4 feet in height.
- 6. LDC Section 37.00(B) requires a 15-foot by 15-foot clear sight visibility triangle for all driveways. The sight triangles must be kept free of obstructions between 3 and 8 feet in height. The Code provides an exemption for poles, tree trunks, and similar structures that are less than size inches in diameter. The proposed fence does encroach within the sight triangles of the subject property's driveway; however, the applicant is not proposing to install a privacy fence. The picket-style fence would fall into the 'exemption' outlined above.

REVIEW STANDARDS / PROVISIONAL FINDINGS OF FACT:

Section 215.02(B) of the Land Development Code provides that the Board of Adjustment shall grant no variance unless certain standards are met and proven by competent substantial evidence. These standards, along with planning staff's provisional findings of fact are provided below:

The need for the requested variance arises out of the physical surroundings, shape, topographical
conditions, or other physical or environmental conditions that are unique to the specific property
involved, and which do not apply generally to property located in the same zoning district.

Provisional Findings: The need for the variance for an increased fence height in the front yard arises from the unique lot configuration and layout of the historic structure on the property. Although Read Street is technically the front yard, as defined by the LDC, the location of the fence is within the functional side yard of the subject property. *Based upon evidence available when this report was prepared, staff is of the opinion that this standard has been met.*

2. The conditions or special circumstances peculiar to the property have not been self-created or have resulted from an action by the applicant or with prior knowledge or approval of the applicant.

Provisional Findings: The historic structure was originally built in 1926 as a church. Over the years, this structure has been rehabilitated into a single-family residence. The special circumstances of the property have not been self-created nor resulted from any action by the applicant. *Based upon evidence available when this report was prepared, staff is of the opinion that this standard has been met.*

3. Literal enforcement of the requirements of the City of Tarpon Springs' Comprehensive Land
Development Code would have the effect of denying the applicant of reasonable use of the property, or
legally conforming buildings or other structures, and the requested variance is the minimum variance
that will make possible the reasonable use of the property.

Provisional Findings: Literal enforcement of the LDC would result in the applicant being limited to a 4-foot-tall fence within 20 feet of the Read Street property line. This area serves as the property's side yard. Residential properties are permitted fences up to 6 feet in height when located in side and rear yards. Limiting the applicant to 4-feet in height could result in denying reasonable use of the property typically enjoyed by properties elsewhere in the district. Based upon evidence available when this report was prepared, staff is of the opinion that this standard has been met.

4. Granting the variance will not confer any special privilege that is not allowed for other lands, buildings or structures in the same zoning district; no variance will be granted that extends to the applicant a use of property that is not commonly enjoyed by other persons in similar circumstances.

Provisional Findings: Fences are limited to 4 feet in height within the required front yard for all residential districts. However, due to the unique lot configuration and layout of the historic structure the area considered the front yard by the LDC, functionally serves as the side yard, which in a typical situation would allow the taller fence. *Based upon evidence available when this report was prepared, staff is of the opinion that this standard has been met.*

5. Granting the variance will not substantially diminish property values in the surrounding area, substantially interfere with, or injure the rights of others whose property would be affected by approval of the variance, alter the essential character of the neighborhood, or create a nuisance.

Provisional Findings: Approval of this request will not substantially dimmish property values or alter the character of the neighborhood. Due to the configuration of the lot, it creates a unique situation where the front yard really serves as the property's side yard, which would usually allow a 6-foot tall fence.



Additionally, there are other fences similar that what is proposed within the immediate neighborhood. Based upon evidence available when this report was prepared, staff is of the opinion that this standard has been met.

PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE:

Notices were sent to property owners within 500 feet of the subject property; a legal notice was published in the <u>Tampa Bay Times</u>; and the property was posted. *Staff has not received any responses to these notices*.

ATTACHMENTS:

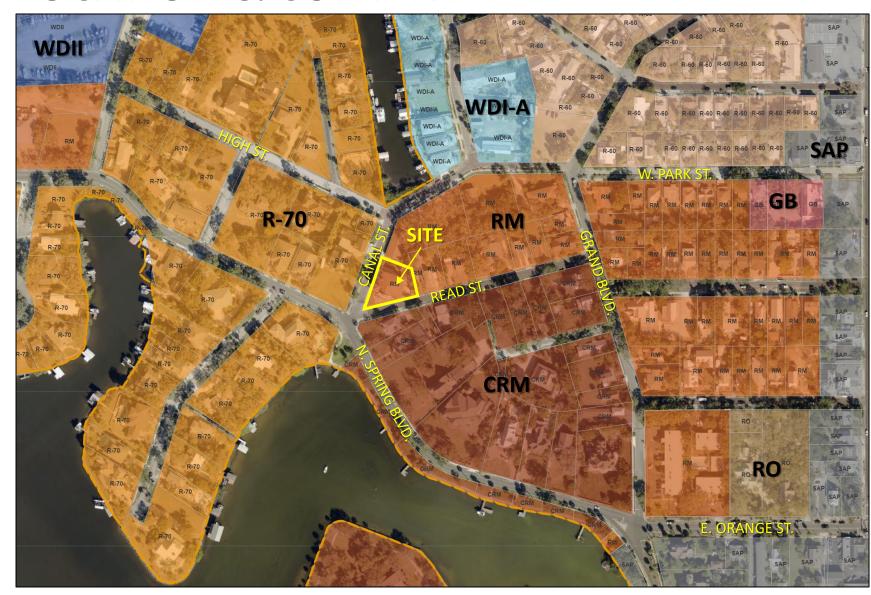
- 1. Staff Presentation
- 2. Application Materials
- 3. Certificate of Approval Letter (Application #22-69)

MARTERIE #22-88

Board of Adjustments – September 28, 2022



LOCATION & CONTEXT





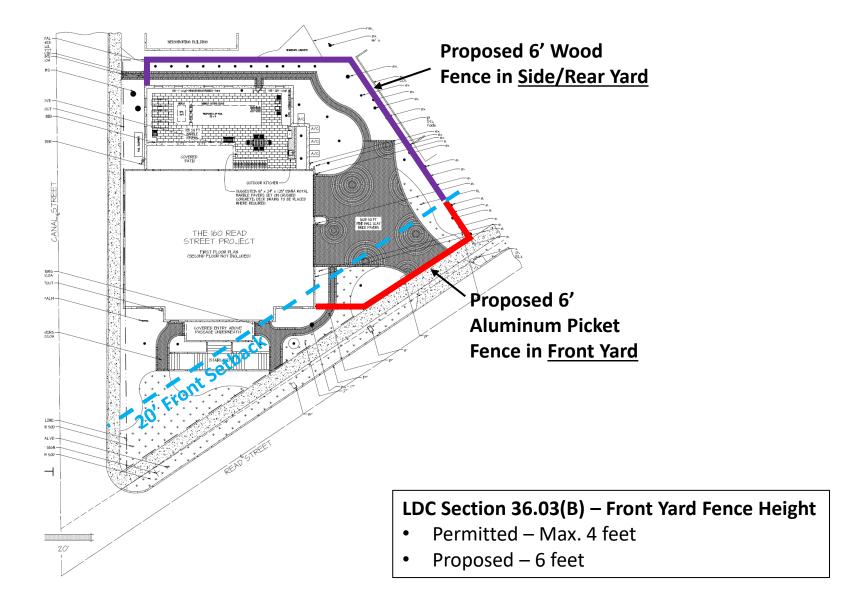
REQUEST

- #22-88 Fence Height
 - Residential Districts (Front Yard):
 - Maximum Height Permitted: 4 feet
 - Proposed: 6 feet
- Applicant/Owner: Anthony Marterie

 Proposing to construct an 6 foot tall fence within the required front yard along Read Street.



REQUEST





CONTEXT





CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

CONTEXT





HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Contributing Historic Structure
- Built 1926 A Glorious Church / First Baptist
- Converted to Single Family Residence
- Certificate of Approval (App. #22-69)
 - July 2022 HPB approved fence contingent on variance approval.
 - HPB stated that is variance was denied, they would support a 6-foottall gate along the driveway with the remaining portions being 4 feet in height.



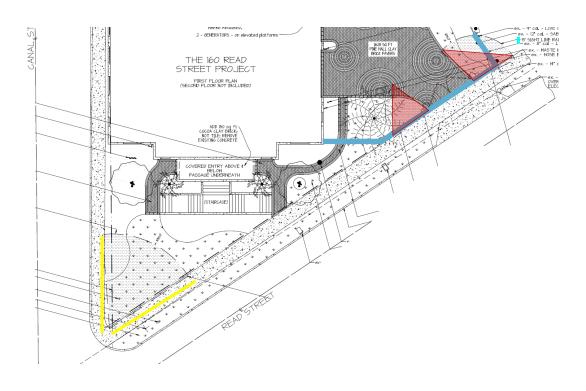




SIGHT VISIBILITY

LDC Section 37.00(B) – Sight Visibility Triangles

- For all driveways, the 15'x15' sight visibility triangle must be kept free of obstructions between 3 and 8 feet in height.
- Exemptions Poles, tree trunks, and similar structures with diameters less than 6 inches.
- If Board approves variance, staff recommends the following condition: Once the fence
 is constructed, if the Police Department deems it to be a safety issue due to sight
 visibility, the fence will be required to be modified to mitigate the issue.





REVIEW STANDARDS - VARIANCE

- 1) The need for the requested variance arises out of the physical surroundings, shape, topographical conditions, or other physical or environmental conditions that are unique to the specific property involved, and which do not apply generally to property located in the same zoning district.
- 2) The conditions or special circumstances peculiar to the property have not been self-created or have resulted from an action by the applicant or with prior knowledge or approval of the applicant.
- 3) Literal enforcement of the requirements of the City of Tarpon Springs' Comprehensive Land Development Code would have the effect of denying the applicant or reasonable use of the property, or legally conforming buildings or other structures, and the requested variance is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the property.
- 4) Granting the variance will not confer any special privilege that is not allowed for other lands, buildings or structures in the same zoning district; no variance will be granted that extends to the applicant a use of a property that is not commonly enjoyed by other persons in similar circumstances.
- 5) Granting the variance will not substantially diminish property values in the surrounding area, substantially interfere with, or injure the rights of others whose property would be affected by approval of the variance, alter the essential character of the neighborhood, or create a nuisance.



		1. Property Owner(s)				
		Name Marterie Family Trust u/t/a			Email	
		March 15, 2010; Anthony Martene tjm@norcoast.com				
		Address				
	CITY OF	160 Read St				
	TARPON SPRINGS					
	FLORIDA	City		State		Zip
	TEL (707) 040 5044	Tarpon Springs		FL		34689
	TEL: (727) 942-5611 EMAIL: planning@ctsfl.us	Phone	Fax		Cell	
	EWA WE. Planning @ Ston. 45	727 - 420 - 2839	n	/a	72	7-420-2839
	www.ctsfl.us					
		2. Applicant (if differe	nt than	owner)	Email	
CO	This application <u>MUST</u> be mpleted <u>IN FULL</u> and submitted	Name			Elliali	
	n all applicable documents listed					
	ow in order to be scheduled for a	Address				
	Board or Committee.					
All ·	fees MUST be paid in full prior to	City		State		Zip
	Public Hearing.	City		State		219
	Completed original application form	Phone	Fax		Cell	
	and digital copy					
_	Application fee: Variance Request - \$250.00	2 Agent (if applicable)				
	each, or	3. Agent (if applicable) Name Email				
	☐ Appeal of Administrative Decision - \$250.00 each, and	Michael Steffen, P.A. michael @ steffenpa.co				
	☐ Newspaper Ad - \$150.00 each	Address				
	Postcards (500 foot radius) - \$0.77 each, and	116 S. Pinellas Ave				
	☐ Placard - \$ 16.00	City		State		Zip
<u>(C</u>	all for fee calculation assistance if needed)	Tarpon Spring	2	FL		34689
	Property survey, signed and sealed by	Phone	Fax		Cell	
	a professional land surveyor Site Plan with documentation of	727-420-2839		/a	72	7-420-2839
	variance request (to scale with	707 12 2001				
	measurements called out)	4. General Information				
	Photographs of site if relevant to	Property Location or Address				
П	request. Digital copies of all application	160 Read St				
_	materials (including completed	Legal Description (attach additional sheets as necessary)				
	application and plans)	See Exhibit A - Legal Description				
	Proof of ownership (a copy of the deed which conveyed title to the					
	present owner of the property	Tax Parcel Number(s)		Land Cate		Zoning District
	Other supporting information, as	12-27-15-1528	28-000		(0110)	RM
	necessary			51	ngle Fam	ily
	y occas promotore and deligibility is a subsection of a participate of the control of the contro				Home	

Variance Requested:	Fences, Walls, and Hedges
I am requesting a variance from Land Development Co	
Please describe the project and how it varies from the side setback variance reduction from the required 10 feaddition)	
See Exhibit B-1	
To view the LDC standards and section references, foll	

(3)	Literal enforcement of the requirements of the Code would have the effect of denying the applicant reasonable use of the property, or legally conforming buildings or other structures, and the requested variance is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the property. (Would the approval of the variance allow for the reasonable use of the property and its structures? If the variance is denied, would you still have reasonable use of the property?)				
	See Exhibit B-4				
(4)	Granting the variance will not confer any special privilege that is not allowed for other lands, buildings, or structures in the same zoning district; no variance will be granted that extends to the applicant a use of property that is not commonly enjoyed by other persons in similar circumstances. (Would approval of the variance result in a special privilege that other properties within the same zoning district do not have (e.g. allowing a building to exceed the maximum height just to add another story to the building)?)				
	see Exhibit B-5				
(5)	Granting the variance will not substantially diminish property values in the surrounding area, substantially interfere with, or injure the rights of others whose property would be affected by approval of the variance, alter the essential character of the neighborhood, or create a nuisance. (Would approval of this request have an adverse effect on surrounding properties?)				
	See Exhibit B-6				
He	lpful Links:				
	e following links may be used to assist you in completing this application, as well as, providing supporting cumentation.				
• 7 <u>Ł</u>	Tarpon Springs Zoning Application - https://gis.ctsfl.us/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9596539ae16744b4af44d320f190c791				
• -	Farpon Springs Land Development Code -				

https://library.municode.com/fl/tarpon_springs/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeld=COOR_APCOZOLADECO

• Pinellas County Clerk, Official Records – https://ccmspa.pinellascounty.org/PublicAccess/default.aspx

• Pinellas County Property Appraiser - http://www.pcpao.org/

Applicant's Signature:		
The information included in and with this application		knowledge.
Cert I Manterio as	trustee	7/15/2000
Applicant's Signature		Date
Agent's Signature: (I represent the applicant/owner)		
The information contained in and with this application	n is true and correct to the best of n	ny knowledge.
1115.020		7/15/22
Agent's Signature		// Date
Owner's Signature:		
I authorize the agent named above on this form to p	rovide subject matter on the applica	ation contained herein for the
purposes of discussion with City Staff, and to attend	public hearings on my behalf. In ac	Idition, I authorize the filing of
this application and certify ownership of the property	described in this application as my	self. Within this application, I
have included all parties to an existing contract for	r sale. I further assent to the City	's Comprehensive Plan as it
applies to the property and it is understood that this	application must be complete and	accurate, and the appropriate
fee paid prior to processing.		
Cuil J Martine as trust	Lei	7/15 /vovv
Owner's Signature		Date
STATE OF FLORIDA)		
COUNTY OF PINELLAS)		
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged be	15th	Tuly AD 20.22
by Anthony Marterie PROPERTY OWNER NAME PRINTED Drivers Cicense as identifi		
asidentin	NOTARY PUBLIC	
	Name: Derik	Bonell!
	Signature:	Bille"
	Stamp:	

EXHIBIT A - LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lots 10 and 11, J.K. CHEYNEY'S SUBDIVISION of part of Block 60, Tarpon Springs, together with that portion of the South One-half (S 1/2) of vacated alley adjoining, according to the map or plat thereof as recorded in Plat Book 3, Page 16, of the Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida; LESS AND EXCEPT that portion conveyed out by General Warranty Deed recorded in O.R. Book 21594, Page 1438, Public Records of Pinellas County, Florida.

EXHIBIT B

B-1.

Applicant wishes to install a 6 ft. high fence directly in front of the side yard area. The City's position is that the subject property has no side yard, but rather the entire length of Read Street is a front yard.

The Code provides that a front yard is subject to a 4 ft. high fence instead of a 6 ft. high fence. Applicant requests that the Board make a designation between the front yard and side yard areas.

If the Board finds that the entire area of the land facing Read Street is a side yard, then Applicant respectfully requests a variance to allow for installation of a 6 ft. high fence and gate to be installed.

B-2.

The need for the variance arises out of the physical surroundings and shape unique to the subject property in that: The shape of the parcel is unique, being a triangular corner lot with the front door of the dwelling facing the intersection of Read St, Canal St, and N Spring Road. A direct line drawn from the true front of the Dwelling in the direction of Read St leaves nearly half of the parcel along Read St functionally the "side yard."

The Dwelling itself is quite close to the street in comparison to the three nearby corner lots, which also creates a need for the security provided by a 6 ft. vs. a 4 ft. fence.

B-3.

The conditions or special circumstances peculiar to the property have not been self-created or have resulted from an action by the applicant or with prior knowledge or approval of the applicant: The conditions and/or special circumstances were in existence prior to Applicant's purchase of the subject property. Applicant's position is that the construction of a 6 ft. fence in the requested area is a practical need for the property due to the existing nature of the parcel, and seeks a variance through the proper channels and in conformity with the aesthetic and quality characteristic of the area.

B-4.

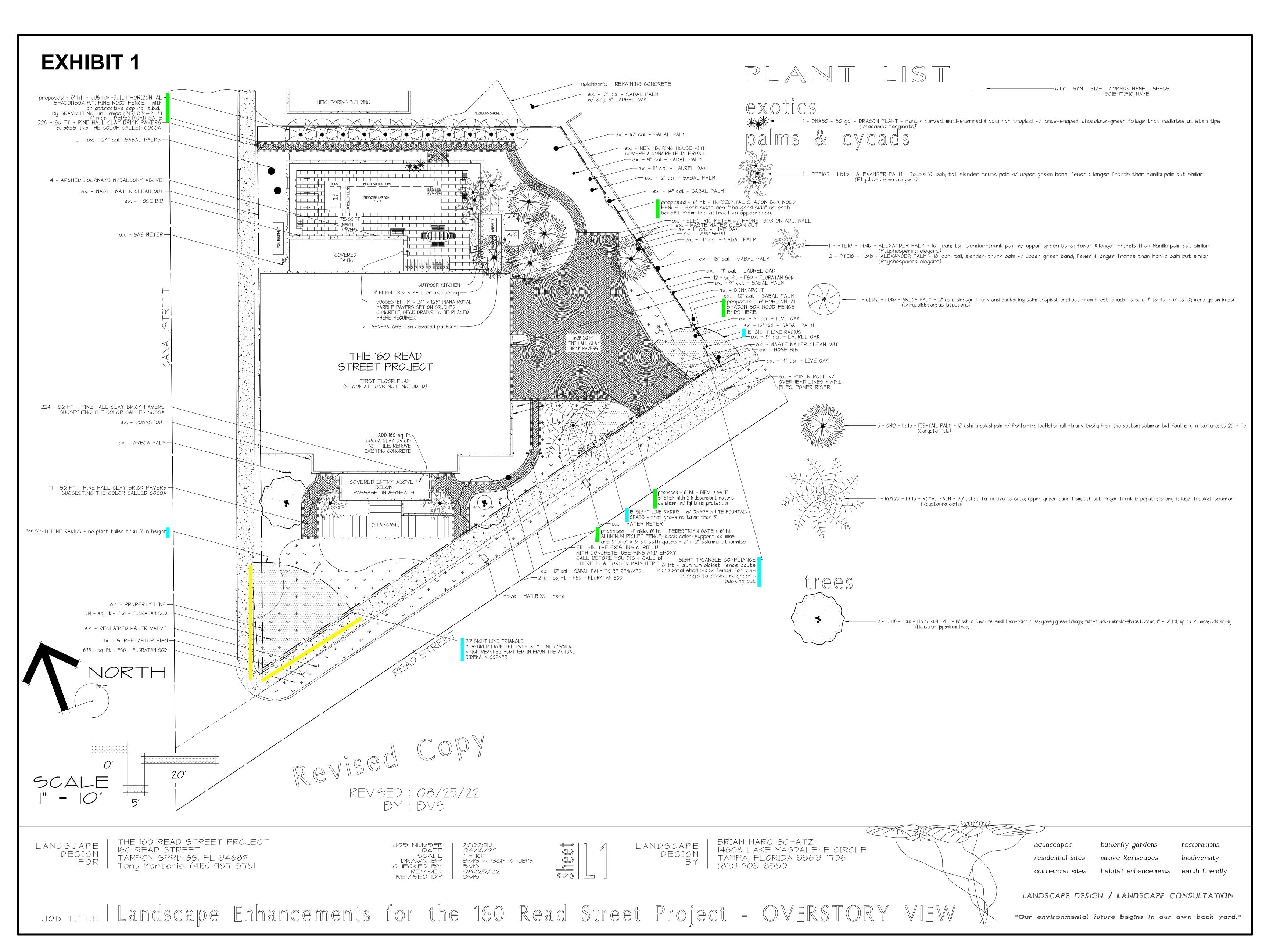
Approval of the requested variance would allow for reasonable use of the subject property as a side yard fence, and it is Applicant's position that the difference in height (6 ft. vs 4 ft.) is the minimum variance to accomplish this.

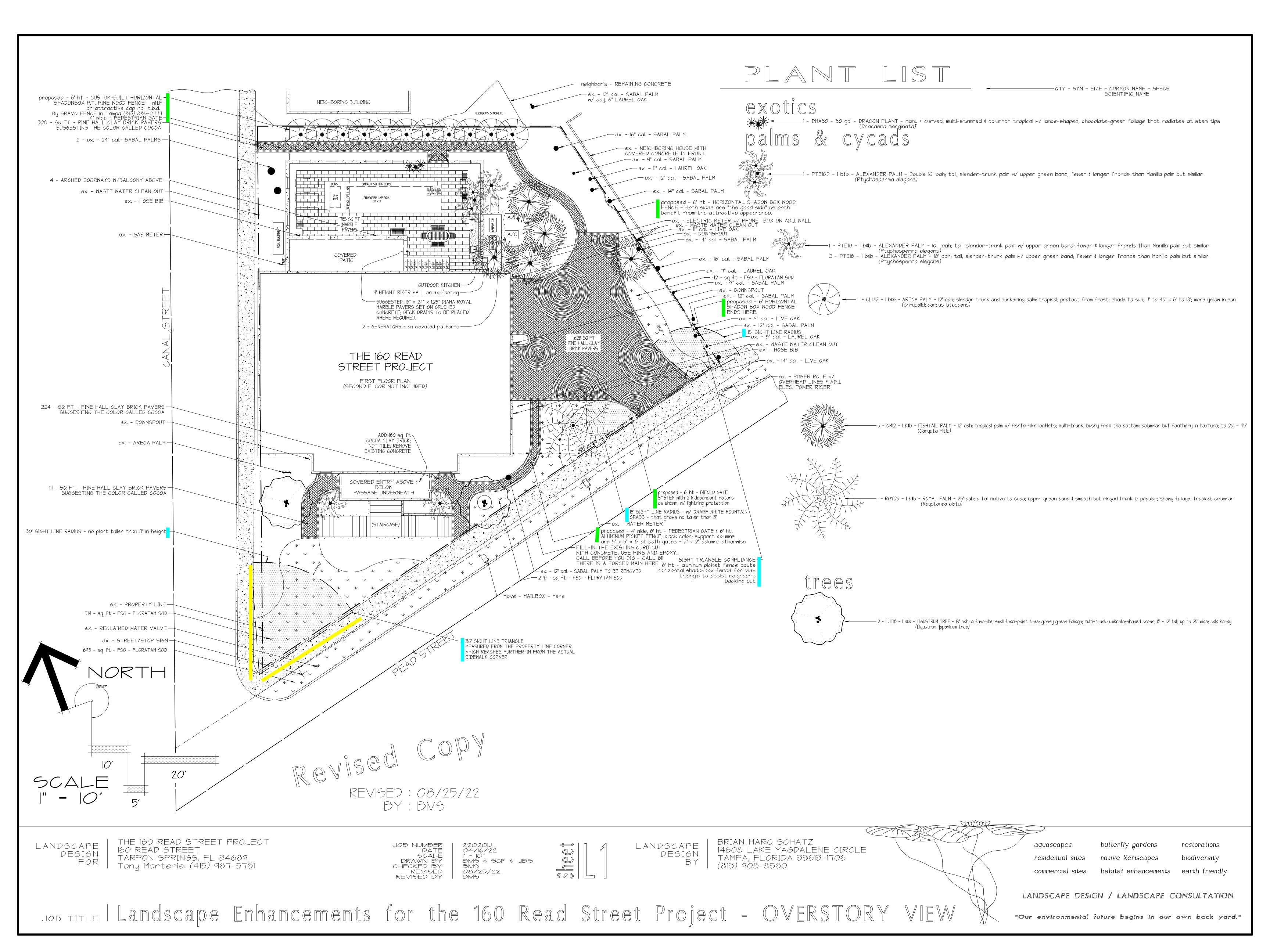
B-5.

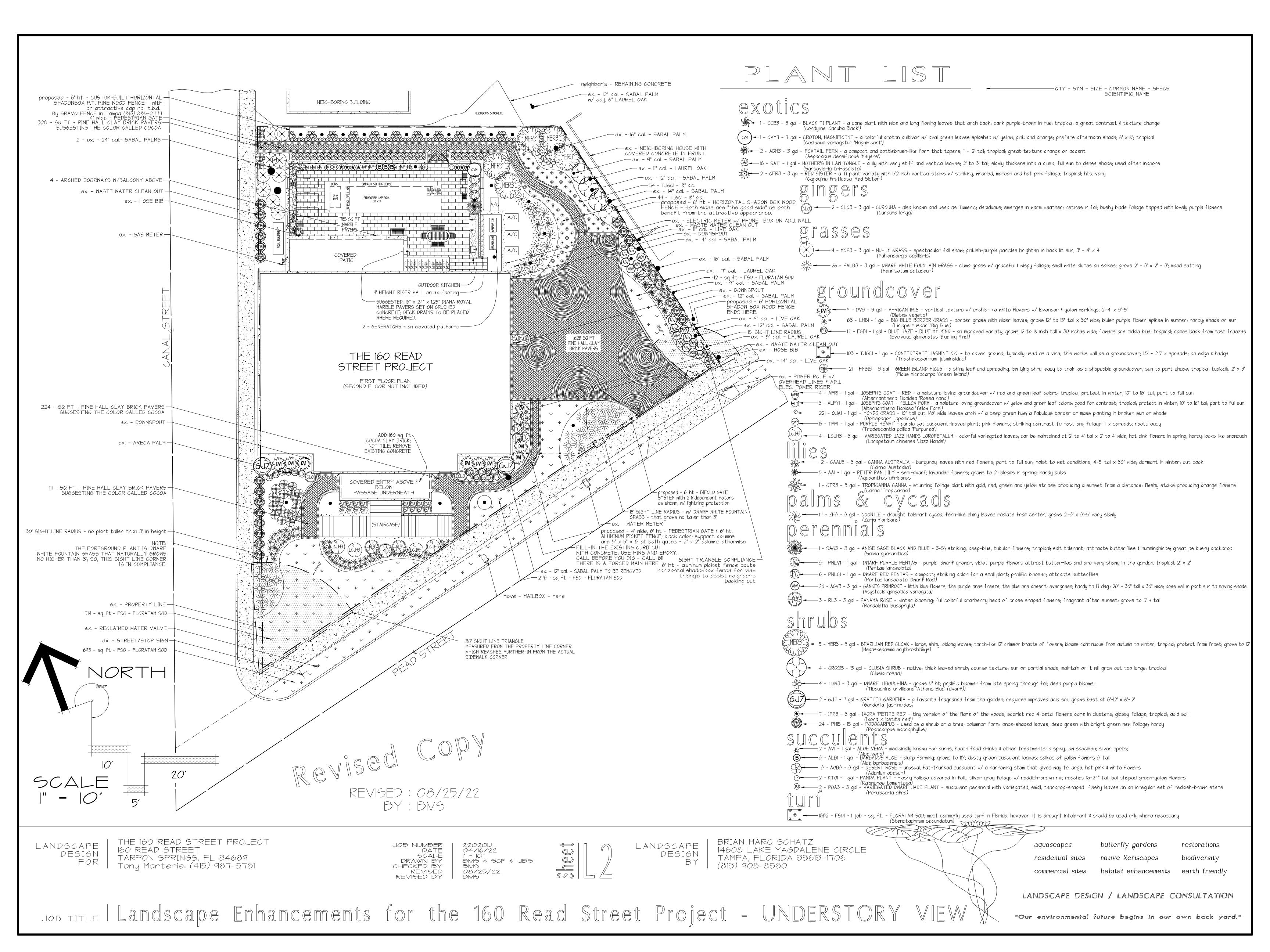
Approval of the requested variance would not confer any special privilege; In support of this position, the neighboring property directly across from the subject property on Read Street has a 6 ft. or higher fence in the same position analogous to where Applicant is requesting a variance. Should the Board determine that subject area of the parcel is a side yard, the same standard height for a side yard fence could be applied without the need for a variance.

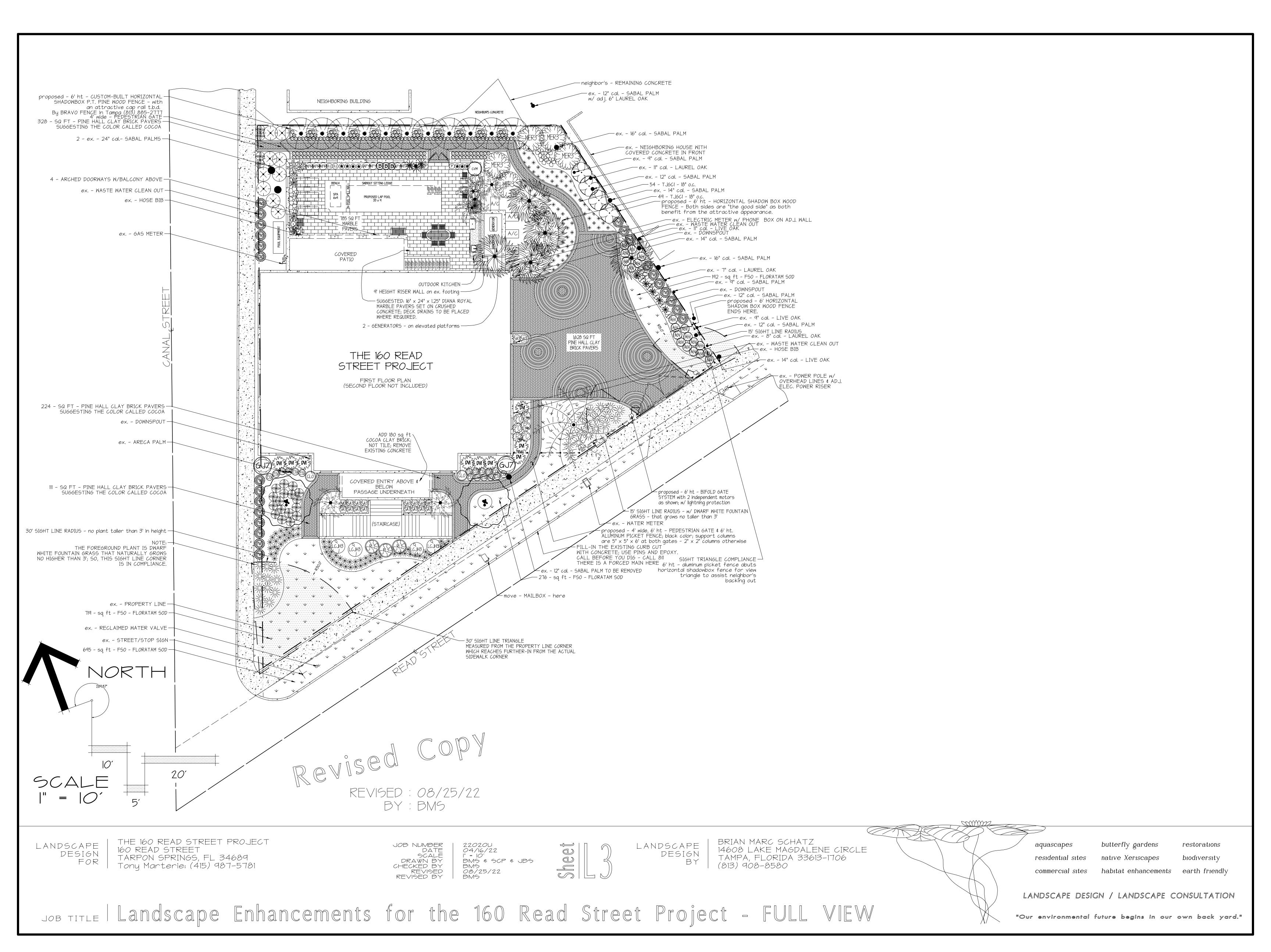
B-6.

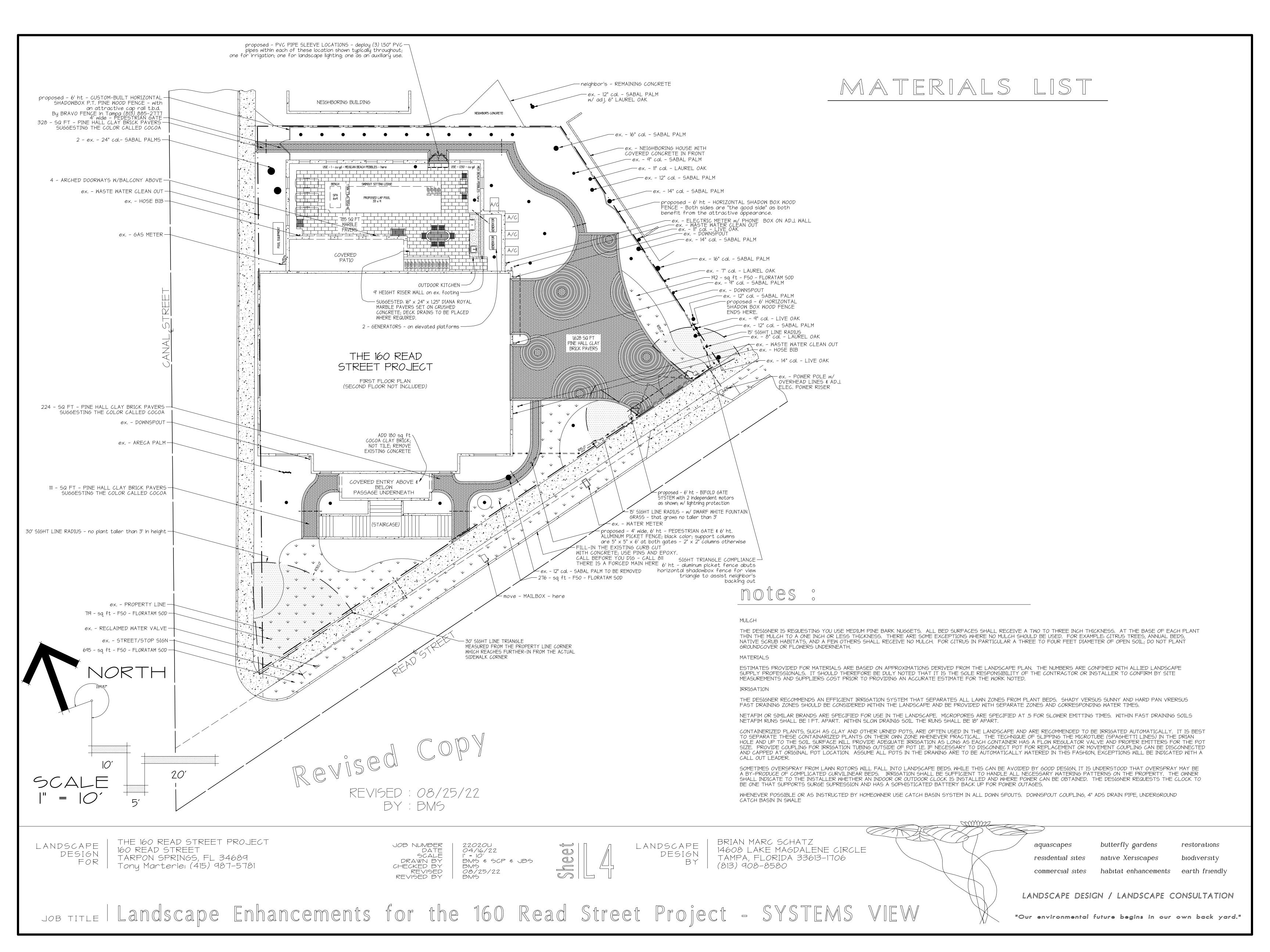
Granting the variance will not substantially diminish property values in the surrounding area or create a nuisance. Every effort is being made to keep with the aesthetics and quality construction present in the community, as evidenced by Applicant's submission and certificate of approval from the Tarpon Springs Heritage Preservation Board for the fence (other than the section that was recommended for this variance application). As stated above, a neighboring property has a fence in an analogous area that is at least the same height as the requested fence.













City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

Planning and Zoning Department 324 E Pine Street Tarpon Springs FL 34689 (727) 942-5611

July 12, 2022

Anthony Marterie 160 Read Street Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 (c/o tjm@norcoast.com)

RE: Certificate of Approval – 160 Read Street Application #22-69

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter serves to inform you that the City of Tarpon Springs Heritage Preservation Board, at their regular meeting of July 11, 2022, approved your request as presented for a Certificate of Approval for the construction of an outdoor kitchen and new fence; installation of paver walkways, driveway, and patio; closure of a curb cut on Read Street; and installation of a major landscaping plan at the subject contributing structure. The following conditions of approval were specified:

- 1. The application is approved as presented "as long as the Board of Adjustment approves the 6-foot fence in the front yard. In the event the Board of Adjustment denies the 6-foot fence, this Board would approve the 6-foot portion of the gate."
- 2. The Certificate of Approval will expire in three (3) years if a building permit has not been issued for the project.

Please note that it is your responsibility to supply a copy of this letter with the application for a building permit when it is submitted. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 727-938-3711, ext. 2379.

Sincerely,

Caroline Lanford, AICP CTP

Carli LLP

Principal Planner

cc: File #22-69