1	THE CITY OF CRANSTON
2	
3	ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
4	IN AMENDMENT OF TITLE 17 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF CRANSTON,
5 6	2005, ENTITLED, "ZONING" (State Legislation)
7	(State Legislation)
8	
9	<i>No.</i>
10	Passed:
11	
12	
13	/s/ Jessica M. Marino, Council President
14	
15	Approved:
16	
17	
18	/s/ Kenneth J. Hopkins, Mayor
19	
20	Sponsored by: [Name]
21	
22	It is ordained by the City Council of the City of Cranston as follows:
23 24	
24	SECTION 1. Title 17 of the Code of the City of Cranston, 2005, entitled "Zoning"
25	(the "Zoning Ordinance"), is hereby amended as follows with deletions in red
26	strikethrough and insertions in <u>underlined italics</u> :
27	A 17 04 020 D C' '.' 1 111 1 1 1
28	A. 17.04.030 Definitions shall be amended:
29	1 "41 " " 1 C 1: DICL C 42 (422.2
30	1. "Adaptive reuse" as defined in RIGL § 42-64.22-2.
31 32	2. "Dimensional variance" means permission to depart from the dimensional
32 33	2. "Dimensional variance" means permission to depart from the dimensional requirements of this chapter, <i>under the applicable standards set forth in</i>
34	RIGL § 45-24-41 where the applicant for the requested relief has shown, by
35	evidence upon the record, that there is no other reasonable alternative way
36	to enjoy a legally permitted beneficial use of the subject property unless
37	granted the requested relief from the dimensional regulations. However, the
38	fact that a use may be more profitable or that a structure may be more
39	valuable after the relief is granted shall not be grounds for relief.
40	, and and the rest is granted shall not be grounds for relief.
41	B. 17.20.030 Schedule of uses, Table of Principal Use shall be amended:
42	,
43	

	1 .			1 0	٠			~ .	-	~ •	- ·	~ -					-
	A-	A-	A-	A-8	A-6	B-1	B-2	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	C-5	M-	M-	S-1	EI	G
	80	20	12										1	2			
Dormitory	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	N	Y	Y				
Fraternity/sorority	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
house																	
Manufactured home	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N
park/manufactured																	
home subdivision																	
Cemetery	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Cultural use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<u>S Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Higher education institution	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N	Y	Y
Hospital	S N	S N	<u>\$ N</u>	S _N	<u>\$ N</u>	S N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	N	N	<u>\$</u> <u>Y</u>	N Y	N	N	N	N	Y
Lodge/fraternal	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	Y	N
organization							_										
Religious worship	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	N	N	Y	Y	N
(place of)																	
Golf club and course	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N
Marina	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	S -N	N	N
Open space area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	$\overline{\mathbf{N}} Y$	Y	Y
Recreational	<u>\$-N</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	S -N	Y	Y
membership club															_		
Yacht club	N	S -N	S -N	<u>S-N</u>	S -N	S -N	S -N	N	N	<u>Y</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	Y	Y	Y	<u>\$ Y</u>	N
Animal Day Care	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	S N	N	N
Animal Grooming	<u>\$-N</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	N	N	N	N	N
Services			- '	- '	- '	- '	- '								- '		
Artisan's workshop	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<u>\$</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	N	Y	N
(studio)																	
Bakery, wholesale	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Bank, financial	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	¥	Y	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	Y	N
institution																	
Fuel station minimart	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N

Garden center	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	N	N
Kennel	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	N	N
Kiosk, freestanding exterior	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	N
Landscape and tree services	<u>\$ N</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	<u>\$</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Loft space (live/work)	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Motel, hotel	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	Y	N
Motor vehicle repair and service establishment light	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	Y	Y	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Night club	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	N	N	N
Nursery	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	Y	N	N
Outdoor retail	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N	N	N
Restaurant without drive-in facility	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Towing operations w/storage	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Alternative energy generation	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>N</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>
Automobile body repair shop and paint shop	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Container storage	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Electronic and computer component recycling	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Extractive industries	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	N
Foundry	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Manufacture heavy	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>N</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>Y</u>	N	N	N
Manufacture light	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	Y	Y	N	N	N
Metal plating	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	Y	Y	N	N	N

Motor vehicle repair and service establishment heavy	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Motor vehicle storage	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	N	N	N
Outdoor advertising, billboards	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>N</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>N</u>	N	N	N
Recycling facility	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	N	N	N
Research/development facility	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	<u>\$ Y</u>	N
Retail heating fuel supplier	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	Y	Y	N	N	N
Self storage, mini- storage	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>\$ N</u>	Y	Y	N	N	N
Solar power	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	<u>N</u> <u>Y</u>	N
Upholstering Shop	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	<u>S</u> <u>Y</u>	<u>\$ Y</u>	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N

^{**}Any Should any uses not <u>be</u> listed herein, the zoning official shall review the application using the criteria of the use most similar to the proposed use and also shall determine if the proposed use is similar in type, character, and intensity as a listed use requiring a special use permitare deemed not allowed.

C. 17.20.040 Conformance to district regulations required shall be amended:

B. Development Proposals.

 1. Primary structures shall be permitted on substandard lots of record that have a minimum of two-thirds the lot area specified for the district which it is located unless said lot is merged to form a conforming lot per Section 17.88.010, Substandard lots of records and lot mergers, and provided that the lot has sufficient accommodations for vehicular access including that required for emergency vehicles as determined by the fire chief or his/her designee. Such proposals shall not require conformance with minimum lot area and lot width and frontage. The setback, frontage, and/or lot width requirements for a structure subject to this Section and Section 17.88.010 shall be reduced and the maximum building coverage shall be increased by the same proportion as the lot area of the substandard lot is to the minimum lot requirement of the zoning district in which the lot is located. This provision shall not apply to multi-family development which are subject to Section 17.20.090. Specific requirements and Section 17.20.120, Schedule of intensity regulations.

D. 17.20.130 Modifications shall be amended:

<u>A.</u> A Modification may be requested for adjustments or deviations not exceeding twenty-five (25) percent of any of the requirements of dimensional or quantitative requirements of parking, signs, landscaping and other similar requirements of this section, yet excluding the moving of lot lines and lot area and density which are subject to the requirements of this section.

B. A modification of five (5) percent or less shall be permitted by the building official, subject to the criteria of Paragraph E of this Section, without requiring any notice as detailed in Paragraph C of this Section.

C. Prior to ruling on a modification on any modification of more than five (5) percent and less than twenty-five (25) of any dimensional or quantitative requirements of this Ordinance, the building official shall give notice in the same manner as would be given for a variance application, pursuant to the Section 17.108.070 requirements, by ordinary mail, to all property owners within a four hundred (400) foot radius and publish in a newspaper having general local circulation in the city of Cranston that he or she is considering such modification, the location of property in question, the nature of the proposed modification, a statement that such modification may be granted by the building official if no objection is received within thirty fourteen (1430) days, and an invitation to allow any member of the public to inspect plot plans and application forms during normal working hours at the city hall.

96		<u>D</u> .	If one or more written and duly signed objections are received by the
97			building official within twenty fourteen (1420) days of the date of such
98			public notice, the modification shall forthwith be filed with the zoning board
99			of review if the applicant so desires, as a request for a dimensional variance
100			in accordance with the provisions of Sections 17.108.070 and 17.108.080
101			and the building official shall have no further role in deciding the case.
102			
103		<u>E</u> .	If there are no objections within the specified time period as provided in
104			subsection (C) above, the building official shall render a decision no later
105			than thirty fourteen (1430) days after the date of the public notice. The
106			following determination shall be made by the building official.
107			
108		<u>F</u> .	If the petitioner is aggrieved by a decision of the building official said
109			petitioner may file an application for dimensional variance to the zoning
110			board or review in accordance with Section 17.108.080.
111			
112	E.	Ch	apter 17.86 Unified Development Review shall be added:
113			
114		<u>17.</u>	86.010 Authorization.
115			
116		<u>A.</u>	In accordance with the provisions of RIGL § 45-23-50.1 and § 45-24-46.4,
117			the city plan commission is hereby authorized to review and approve
118			variances and/or special-use permits for properties undergoing review as
119			subdivisions or land-development projects. This process is to be known as
120			unified development review (UDR).
121			
122		<u>17.</u>	86.020 Application process.
123			
124		<u>A.</u>	An applicant shall file with the city plan commission's administrative officer
125			an application for variance(s) and/or special-use permit(s) along with an
126			application for the following project categories:
127			
128			1. Minor subdivision or land development project: As part of the
129			application materials for the preliminary plan stage of review, or if
130			combined, the first stage of review.
131			
132			2. Development plan review: As part of the application materials for the
133			preliminary plan stage of review.
134			
135			3. Major subdivision or land development project: As part of the
136			application materials for the master plan stage of review, or if
137			combined, the first stage of review.
138		_	
139		<u>B.</u>	The administrative officer shall review the UDR application for
140			completeness and for compliance with this section. The time period for the
141			administrative officer to certify as complete or incomplete a UDR
142			application shall be the same as the time period for certifying the

143	accompanying application for a subdivision, development plan review, or
144	land development project. The administrative officer's decision on a UDR
145	application is appealable in the same manner as an appeal from any other
146	decision of the administrative officer application.
147	
148	17.86.030 Public hearing.
149	
150	A. A public hearing on the application, including any variance and special-
151	use permit requests shall be held prior to consideration of the preliminary
152	plan by the city plan commission. Public notice of the hearing shall be given
153	at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the hearing in a newspaper
154	of general circulation within the city. Notice shall be sent to the applicant
155	and to each owner within two hundred (200) feet of the perimeter of the
156	area included in the subdivision and/or land development project by
157	certified mail, return receipt requested, not less than ten (10) days prior to
158	the date of the hearing. Notice shall also be sent to any individual or entity
159	holding a recorded conservation or preservation restriction on the property
160	that is the subject of the application.
161	
162	B. Notice of the public hearing shall be sent by the administrative officer to
163	the administrative officer of an adjacent municipality if: (1) The notice area
164	extends into the adjacent municipality; or (2) The development site extends
165	into the adjacent municipality; or (3) There is a potential for significant
166	negative impact on the adjacent municipality.
167	
168	Notice of the public hearing shall be sent by first-class mail to the planning
169	board of any municipality where there is a public or quasi-public water
170	source, or private water source that is used, or is suitable for use, as a
171	public water source, located within two thousand feet (2,000') of the
172	<u>municipal boundaries.</u>
173	
174	Notice of a public hearing shall be sent to the governing body of any state
175	or municipal water department or agency, special water district, or private
176	water company that has riparian rights to a surface water resource and/or
177	surface watershed that is used, or is suitable for use, as a public water
178	source, located within either the municipality or two thousand feet (2,000')
179	of the municipal boundaries; provided, that a map survey has been filed
180	with the building inspector as specified in § 45-24-53(f).
181	
182	C. The notice for the public hearing shall include the following information:
183	
184	1. The date, time, and place of the hearing;
185	
186	2. The street address of the subject property, or if no street address is
187	available, the distance from the nearest existing intersection in tenths of
188	a mile; and,

190	3. The specific variance(s) to be considered for the subdivision and/or land
191	development project.
192	
193	D. The administrative officer shall review the UDR application for
194	completeness and for compliance with this section. The time period for the
195	administrative officer to certify as complete or incomplete a UDR
196	application shall be the same as the time period for certifying the
197	accompanying application for a subdivision, development plan review, or
198	land development project. The administrative officer's decision on a UDR
199	application is appealable in the same manner as an appeal from any other
200	decision of the administrative officer application.
201	
202	<u>17.86.040 Decision.</u>
203	
204	A. The city plan commission shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny
205	the request(s) for variance(s) and/or special-use permit(s) before
206	considering the project category application. Approval of the variance(s)
207	and/or special-use permit(s) shall be conditioned upon approval of the final
208	plan of the project category.
209	*
210	B. The city plan commission shall address the same findings of fact required
211	to be addressed by the zoning board of review and shall produce and record
212	a written decision in the same manner as the zoning board of review.
213	
214	C. The time periods by which the city plan commission shall render a decision
215	for variance(s) and/or special-use permit(s) shall be the same as the time
216	periods by which the city plan commission shall render a decision on the
217	applicable stage of review of the underlying type of project under review.
218	
219	17.86.050 Expiration of approval.
220	
221	A. The expiration period of an approval on variance(s) and/or special-use
222	permit(s) granted under this Section shall be the same as those set forth
223	under the applicable project category.
224	
225	17.86.060 Appeals.
226	
227	A. Appeals from a decision granted under this Section, including denials for
228	requests for variance(s) and/or special-use permit(s) may be appealed in
229	accordance with RIGL § 45-23-71.
230	
231	17.86.070 Interpretation, conflict, omission, violation, & severability.
232	
233	A. If any requirements of this chapter conflict with other requirements of
234	zoning, the city code, or any applicable state or federal law or regulation,
235	the more restrictive requirements shall apply.
236	<u> </u>

237	B. An approval shall not relieve an applicant of the requirement to comply
238	with any other city code or with any applicable state or federal law or
239	regulation.
240	
241	C. Any violation of the requirements of this chapter or of any condition(s) of
242	
	approval shall be subject to enforcement under the provisions of section
243	17.04.080 violations of zoning.
244	
245	D. Severability: See Section 17.04.090 severability.
246	
247	F. 17.88.010 Substandard lots of record and lot mergers shall be amended:
248	B. Lot Mergers.
249	3. In a block that is seventy-five percent or more developed in A-6, B-1
250	and B-2 zones, lots Lots having an area equal to of at least four thousand
251	(4,000) square feet and having an area and frontage equal to or greater
252	than the average of <u>fifty percent (50%) of</u> those developed parcels within
253	two hundred (200) feet of the lot which are on the same side of the stree
254	need not be so combined, as confirmed by the zoning enforcement
255	officer. Substandard lots of record that are merged shall be considered
256	merged for the purposes of calculation of this provision. Non-buildable
257	lots of record and lots with zoning designations other than the subject
258	lot shall not be included in the calculation. Side corner lots and double
259	frontage lots may qualify for this exemption by measuring from any or
260	its available frontages, so long as that frontage becomes the primary
261	front for the subsequent development of the lot.
262	
263	C. Where two or more lots are combined in accordance with this section, they
264	shall may not be subdivided regulated in accordance with Section
265	17.20.040, Conformance to district regulations required. in a manner where
266	the lot width, frontage or area of any resulting lot shall be less than the
267	requirements fixed by this chapter.
	requirements fixed by this chapter.
268	C 17.02.010 W ' 1.111 1.1
269	G. 17.92.010 Variances shall be amended:
270	B. In granting a variance, the zoning board of review shall require that
271	evidence to the satisfaction of the following standards be entered into the
272	record of the proceedings:
273	
274	1. That the hardship from which the applicant seeks relief is due to the
275	unique characteristics of the subject land or structure and not to the
276	general characteristics of the surrounding area; and is not due to a
277	physical or economic disability of the applicant;
278	
279	2. That the hardship is not the result of any prior action of the applicant
280	and does not result primarily from the desire of the applicant to realize
281	greater financial gain and;
282	
-	

 3. That the granting of the requested variance will not alter the general character of the surrounding area or impair the intent or purpose of the zoning ordinance codified in this title or the comprehensive plan upon which the ordinance is based.; and

4. That the relief to be granted is the least relief necessary.

- C. The zoning board of review shall, in addition to the above standards, require that evidence be entered into the record of the proceedings showing that:
 - 2. In granting a dimensional variance, that the hardship that will be suffered by the owner of the subject property if the dimensional variance is not granted shall amount to more than a mere inconvenience, which shall mean that there is no other reasonable alternative to enjoy a legally permitted beneficial use of one's property that the relief sought is minimal to the reasonable enjoyment of the permitted use to which the proposed property is devoted. The fact that a use may be more valuable after the relief is granted shall not be grounds for relief. The zoning board of review, or the city plan commission where under unified development review is enabled pursuant to RIGL §§ 45-24-46.4 and 45-23-50.1, the city planning commission shall have the power to grant dimensional variances where the use is permitted by special-use permit.

H. 17.108.070 Public hearings shall be amended:

No action shall be taken by the board until after a public hearing has been held upon the proposed action before the board, which shall first give written notice of the time and place of such public hearing and the nature and purpose thereof, to the petitioner and to all owners of any real property within four hundred (400) feet of the perimeter of the real property which is the subject matter of the petition, by ordinary mail at least twenty fourteen (1420) days before the date of such hearing and by publication of such notice in a daily newspaper of general local circulation within the city at least twenty fourteen (1420) days prior to the date of such hearing. *The same Notice shall be posted in the City* clerk's office and one other municipal building within the City and the City must shall make the notice accessible on the home page of its website at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing. The posting is for information purposes only and does not constitute required notice of a public hearing. Within four (4) days after a decision has been rendered by the board, the board shall mail, by ordinary mail, a copy of the decision to the all owners and applicant of the real property that is the subject matter of the application, and to any other person or entity requesting said decision from the zoning official., who were originally notified of the hearing before the board, the applicant, to the zoning enforcement officer and to the Associate Director of the Division of Planning of the Rhode Island Department of Administration. The notice required by this section indicating the time and place for such public hearing and the nature and purpose thereof, shall also contain a statement that the recipient of such notice

shall be allowed to address the zoning board on the subject matter of the notice and if he or she so desires, he or she may be represented by an attorney and have expert witnesses testify on his or her behalf. Should the decision of the zoning board be unfavorable, the petitioner may appeal same to the Providence County Superior Court within a period of twenty (20) days following the recording of the zoning board decision, in accordance with RIGL Sections §§ 45-24-69, 45-24-70 and 45-24-71. The zoning board and the planning board city plan commission upon closing the testimonial portion of the hearing on a matter shall proceed to deliberate and vote on that matter before beginning the testimonial portion of the public hearing on any other matter.

I. 17.108.100 Quorums shall be amended:

In conducting hearings and arriving at its decisions the board shall at all times consist of five participating members. A minimum of four (4) members, which may include any alternates, shall form a duly constituted quorum. The concurring vote of three (3) members shall be necessary to reverse any requirement, order, decision, or determination of the inspector of buildings building official. The concurring vote of three (3) four members shall be required to decide in favor of an applicant on any matter concerning special exceptions, special use permits, uses, or variances, upon which it is required to pass under this chapter.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its final adoption.

Positive End	orsement	Negative Endorsement (attach reasons)					
/s/	, Solicitor Date	, Solicitor	Date				

Sponsored by Mayor Kenneth J. Hopkins

Referred to Ordinance Committee December 7, 2023