

**Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division**  
Rezoning, Conditional Use Permits, Variances, Site Plan Review  
BZZ-2273

**Date:** May 23, 2005

**Applicant:** Velocity Investments, dba, Le Parisien, LLC

**Address of Property:** 2301-2309 Lyndale Avenue South

**Project Name:** Le Parisien Flats and Market Place

**Contact Person and Phone:** Mark Dziuk, (612) 548-4848

**Planning Staff and Phone:** Lonnie Nichols, (612) 673-5468

**Date Application Deemed Complete:** April 14, 2005

**End of 60-Day Decision Period:** June 13, 2005

**End of 120-Day Decision Period:** On May 12, 2005, a letter was sent to the applicant extending the time for review of this application to August 12, 2005.

**Ward:** 6      **Neighborhood Organization:** Whittier

**Existing Zoning:** C1 (Neighborhood Commercial)

**Proposed Zoning:** C2 (Neighborhood Corridor Commercial)

**Zoning Plate Number:** 18

**Legal Description:** Badger & Penneys 2<sup>nd</sup> addn to Mpls, Block 002, Lots 23 and 24 thru 27 incl.

**Proposed Use:** Mixed-use building designed as shopping center with ground floor and second story commercial uses, green rooftop garden space, and 13 dwelling units (floors 2-4) with enclosed parking.

**Concurrent Review:** Proposed rezoning of two adjacent parcels from C1 (Neighborhood Commercial) to C2 (Neighborhood Corridor Commercial), conditional use permits for a shopping center, multiple family dwelling with 13 units, and 5 story building 52 feet tall to midpoint of roof where a 4 story building of 56 feet height is allowed, setback variance from 13 to 0 feet for the rear yard, setback variance from 13 to 0 feet for a drive aisle on the south interior lot line, setback variance from 13 to 7 feet on the north interior lot line, parking variance from 47 to 25, and site plan review for a mixed use development that includes a dry cleaning outlet, retail bakery serving coffee, wine bar restaurant, green roof patio, and 13 dwelling units, located at 2301-2309 Lyndale Avenue South.

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

**Applicable zoning code provisions:** Chapters: 521 Zoning Districts and Maps, 525 Administration and Enforcement-specifically Article VII-conditional use permits and Article IX Variances 525.520 (1) to vary yard requirements and 525.520 (7) to reduce the applicable off-street parking requirements, 530 Site Plan Review, 535 Regulations of General Applicability, 536 Specific Development Standards, 541 Off Street Parking and Loading, 548 Commercial Districts.

**Background:** Le Parisien, LLC, has filed application to rezone two adjacent parcels from C1 (Neighborhood Commercial) to C2 (Neighborhood Corridor Commercial), conditional use permits for a shopping center, multiple family dwelling with 13 units, and 5 story building 52 feet tall to midpoint of roof where a 4 story building of 56 feet height is allowed, setback variance from 13 to 0 feet for the rear yard, setback variance from 13 to 0 feet for a drive aisle on the south interior lot line, setback variance from 13 to 7 feet on the north interior lot line, parking variance from 47 to 25, and site plan review for a mixed use development that includes a dry cleaning outlet, retail bakery serving coffee, wine bar restaurant, green roof patio, and 13 dwelling units, located at 2301-2309 Lyndale Avenue South. Staff inadvertently noticed the setback along the north interior lot line at 5 feet instead of the setback of 7 feet shown on the plan. The variance from 13 to 0 feet for a drive aisle on the south interior lot line is not required, was noticed in error and can be returned to the applicant. Due to lack of established floor plans for the proposed retail uses, staff noticed for the maximum foreseeable number of parking stalls that could be required. The applicant has since provided a more detailed floor plan for the retail bakery space and made application for shared parking that will reduce the required amount of parking for the project. This proposal is the third revision of a conceptual plan that originally included an underground parking facility that was rejected by Public Works staff during preliminary review due to the steep slope of the access ramp. The applicant's objective is to construct a mixed-use development inspired by 1870-1930 Parisien Architecture that brings together traditional retail uses and French styled condominiums that includes a roof top garden and patio. The applicant has submitted a report from a certified building biology environmental inspector that covers design and construction issues that have a potential beneficial impact on the health of residents in the residential units and customers/workers in the retail spaces.

Previous City actions related on the property include a rezoning (R 629) from the B3S-2 (Community Service District) to the R6 district (high density, multi-family residential) for 2307-2313 Lyndale that was withdrawn in 1971, a conditional use permit for a second hand goods store (C-724) at 2309 Lyndale that was approved by the commission in 1982, and a site plan review for Mad City Diner (BZZ 1258) that was approved by the commission in August 2003, but never implemented.

The subject properties (2301-09 Lyndale) along with the adjacent property to the North (Lyndale House Antiques) were placed in the C1 district with the adoption of the 1999 zoning code revisions. The previous owner of the subject properties, who is also is the owner of Lyndale House Antiques, has submitted a letter in support of the application. As per the applicants, the previous owner has indicated that 2309 Lyndale Avenue has been occupied by Chi Tailor and Cleaners for about five years, was used by a garden center for 8 years-that relocated to the subject site until 3 years ago-after it was displaced by the Wedge Cooperative, housed a barbershop at one point, and was previously occupied by an appliance repair shop and retail business for decades into the past. The previous owner has also indicated that 2301 Lyndale Avenue was used as a dirt parking lot to stage trailers loaded with appliances and spare parts up to 15 years ago when it was paved. The combined properties are currently covered by 98%

impermeable surface, primarily an asphalt lot in disrepair. The applicant has indicated that the existing structures at the site have been scheduled for demolition.

Staff has received one email and two voice mail messages expressing concerns about traffic and the parking variance noticed for this application. On March 24, 2005, the Whittier Alliance-neighborhood organization postponed a recommendation on the project until the developer could provide more design and development details. The applicant has indicated he believes the Whittier Alliance voted to approve the Le Parisien application on April 11, 2005, subject to no use of EIFS (External Insulation Finish Systems), no national-chain tenants, no changes in number of units or exterior color, and notification of any substantial changes to the project. On May 16, 2005, staff received a letter from the Whittier Alliance that indicated support for the project with conditions, with the exception of the parking variance which was denied. The applicant submitted findings from a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment that did not reveal any topographical concerns and indicated further environmental assessment of the subject site for on-and off site sources of soil and or groundwater contamination does not appear to be warranted at this time.

## **REZONING:**

### **Findings As Required By The Minneapolis Zoning Code for the Rezoning from the C1 to C2:**

#### **1. Whether the amendment is consistent with the applicable policies of the comprehensive plan.**

**MINNEAPOLIS PLAN:** *The Minneapolis Plan* designates Lyndale Avenue South from Franklin to Lake Street as a commercial corridor. Commercial Corridors are streets that are available for development including more intensive commercial and high traffic activities. However, commercial corridors must also balance both pedestrian and automobile orientation in their design and development. The plan has the following policies and relevant implementation steps related to this application.

#### **4.1 Minneapolis will encourage reinvestment along major urban corridors as a way of promoting growth in all neighborhoods.**

##### **Relevant Implementation Steps**

Develop standards based on a recognition of the qualities that make urban corridors desirable, viable and distinctly urban, including; diversity of activity, safety for pedestrians, access to desirable goods and amenities, attractive streetscape elements, density and variety of uses to encourage walking, and architectural elements which add interest at the scale of the pedestrian.

Designate certain streets as commercial corridors with the adoption of this Plan.

#### **4.3 Minneapolis will support development in Commercial Corridors where it enhances the street's character, improves its ability to accommodate automobile traffic and foster pedestrian movement, and expands the range of goods and services offered.**

##### **Relevant Implementation Steps**

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

Designate a network of Commercial Corridors.

Support a mix of uses on Commercial Corridors--such as retail sales, office, institutional, higher density residential (including Major Housing Sites where designated), and clean low-impact light industrial--where compatible with the existing and desired character of the street.

Ensure that commercial uses do not negatively impact nearby residential areas.

Regulate impacts of commercial uses, and in some cases prevent some uses from locating on designated Commercial Corridors, due to their adverse impacts on the viability of nearby residential areas.

Reduce the impact of non-residential uses on neighboring residential areas by considering appropriate access, buffering between incompatible uses and regulating hours of operation.

**Staff Comment**

The portion of Lyndale Avenue in question transitions to a mix of residential and small scale commercial uses. Extending C2 zoning to this area would not be consistent with the comprehensive plan because many uses allowed in the C2 district would not be compatible with the existing and desired character of the street.

**9.22 Minneapolis will promote increased housing production in designated areas of the City in order to accommodate population growth.**

**Relevant Implementation Steps:**

Use both infill development and new development opportunities to increase housing in the city.

Consistent with the City of Minneapolis adopted Housing Principles, develop strategies so that the variety of housing types throughout the city and its communities shall be increased, giving prospective buyers and renters greater choice in where they live.

Community Planning Division Comment:

As a designated Commercial Corridor, Minneapolis has identified Lyndale Avenue as a corridor that can take additional housing growth due to its existing transit and commercial amenities.

**9.24 Minneapolis will support continued growth in designated commercial areas, while allowing for market conditions to significantly influence the viability of a commercial presence in undesignated areas of the city.**

**Relevant Implementation Steps:**

Encourage the economic vitality of the city's commercial districts while maintaining compatibility with the surrounding areas.

Facilitate the redevelopment of underutilized commercial areas by evaluating possible land use changes against potential impacts on neighborhood compatibility.

**2. Whether the amendment is in the public interest and is not solely for the interest of a single property owner.**

The amendment is in the interest of the property owner.

**3. Whether the existing uses of property and the zoning classification of property within the general area of the property in question are compatible with the proposed zoning classification, where the amendment is to change the zoning classification of particular property.**

The adjacent lot to the North is zoned C1 and contains Lyndale House Antiques and a dwelling unit. Farther to the North is a C2 district that contains a mix of uses and runs North of Franklin Avenue on the east side of Lyndale. To the East of the property is an R6 district of 2 ½ blocks with multi-family housing. To the South of the property, the C1 district continues south of 24<sup>th</sup> Street. The adjacent properties to the South are a parking lot serving Leaning Tower Pizza and a former convenience store site that was converted to a commercial laundry facility. To the West of the property is an R6 district that contains apartment buildings. To the Northwest of the property is a C1 district that contains a Super America station. Leaning Tower Pizza is located to the Southwest of the property. The section of Lyndale from Franklin Avenue to Lake Street is a mix of residential and commercial uses in the C1, C2, C4, OR1, and R6 districts. Changing the zoning classification to the C2 district at the subject property would be incompatible with the existing uses of property and zoning classifications on this section of Lyndale Avenue between Franklin and Lake Street is taken into account. When the subject properties were placed in the C1 district with the adoption of the 1999 zoning code revisions, a mid-block distinction was made on this block to encourage the retention and development of low intensity commercial uses across the street from the R6 district. The current C1 zoning classification is compatible with surrounding properties.

**4. Whether there are reasonable uses of the property in question permitted under the existing zoning classification, where the amendment is to change the zoning classification of particular property.**

The development of a project that would be permitted or allowed as a conditional use under the existing zoning classification with out variances would be a reasonable use of the property.

**5. Whether there has been a change in the character or trend of development in the general area of the property in question, which has taken place since such property was placed in its present zoning classification, where the amendment is to change the zoning classification of particular property.**

The eastern block face of Lyndale Avenue from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to 24<sup>th</sup> Street was B3S2 (Community Service District) under the 1963 zoning code. The subject properties (2301-09 Lyndale) along with the adjacent property to the North (Lyndale House Antiques) and six properties to the South were placed in the C1 district with the adoption of the 1999 zoning code revisions. The properties to the North of Lyndale House Antiques were placed in the C2 district. Since the time of this rezoning, there has been a strong demand for development, particularly housing, in the general area. As a designated Commercial Corridor, the Community Planning Division of CPED has identified Lyndale Avenue as a corridor that can take additional housing growth due to its existing transit and commercial amenities. The City has been a partner in the Urban Village housing development along the Midtown Greenway between Aldrich and Colfax Avenues and approved other projects (Arts Quarter Building, Machinery Lofts,

Wedge expansion, Lyndale Express) in the general area. However, the development in the immediate area does not suggest that the existing C1 district is inappropriate.

**CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:**

**Findings as required by the Minneapolis Zoning Code for a Conditional Use Permit:**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Planning Division has analyzed the application and from the findings above concludes that the establishment, maintenance, or operation of the proposed conditional use for a shopping center:

**1. Will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, comfort or general welfare.**

Provided the shopping center complies with the requirements of the zoning district in which it is located and the applicable sections of the zoning code, it will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, comfort or general welfare.

**2. Will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity and will not impede the normal or orderly development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted in the district.**

Provided the shopping center complies with the requirements of the zoning district in which it is located and the applicable sections of the zoning code, it will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity and will not impede the normal or orderly development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted in the district. As proposed, however, the commercial component provides few off-street parking spaces for the amount of commercial space.

**3. Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, necessary facilities or other measures, have been or will be provided.**

Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, necessary facilities or other measures, have been or will be provided.

**4. Adequate measures have been or will be provided to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets.**

Planning and Public Works staff have determined that alley access can remain open on the site based on the current commercial uses and floor space proposed for the development. Not enough parking is being provided for the commercial tenant space in the building and this may lead to street congestion. See findings in Parking Variance Section of this report for related information.

**5. Is consistent with the applicable policies of the comprehensive plan.**

See finding number one (#1) in the Rezoning section of this report, and:

**9.6 Minneapolis will work with private and other public sector partners to invest in new development that is attractive, functional and adds value to the physical environment.**

**Relevant Implementation Steps:**

Promote the development of well designed moderate density residential dwellings adjacent to one or more of the following land use features: Growth Centers, Commercial Corridors, Community Corridors and Activity Centers.

Expand the understanding of the role that urban density plays in improving business markets, increasing the feasibility of urban transit systems and encouraging the development of pedestrian-oriented services and open spaces.

Advance the understanding of urban housing and urban retailing among all members of the design and development community.

**9.11 Minneapolis will support urban design standards that emphasize a traditional urban form in commercial areas.**

**Relevant Implementation Steps:**

Enhance unique characteristics of the city's commercial districts by encouraging appropriate building forms and designs, historic preservation objectives, site plans that enhance the pedestrian environment, and by maintaining high quality public spaces and infrastructure.

Orient new buildings to the street to foster safe and successful commercial nodes and corridors.

**6. And, does in all other respects conform to the applicable regulations of the district in which it is located upon approval of this conditional use permit.**

Shopping Centers are allowed by conditional use permit in both the C1 and C2 zoning districts, subject to compliance with the following specific development standards from chapter 536 of the zoning code.

- (1) Only uses allowed in the zoning district in which the shopping center is located shall be allowed in the shopping center.
- (2) Uses which require a conditional use permit, site plan review or other land use approval shall comply with all review and approval requirements of this zoning ordinance.
- (3) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within one hundred (100) feet shall be inspected regularly for purposes of removing any litter found thereon.

Restaurant, sit down.

(1) Where alcoholic beverages are served, not less than sixty (60) percent of total gross sales revenue shall be from the sale of food and beverages not containing alcohol, and the use shall comply with the requirements of Title 14, Liquor and Beer, of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances and Chapter 4 of the Minneapolis City Charter.

(2) The premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within one hundred (100) feet shall be inspected regularly for purposes of removing any litter found thereon.

The project as proposed would require a rezoning, conditional use permits, setback variances, and alternative compliance for the site plan review in order to be approved.

**Findings as required by the Minneapolis Zoning Code for a conditional use permit:**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Planning Division has analyzed the application and from the findings above concludes that the establishment, maintenance, or operation of the proposed conditional use for a multiple family dwelling of 13 units in a mixed-use building:

**1. Will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, comfort or general welfare.**

While 13 units of housing on the site may be acceptable, the scale and layout of the building could prove detrimental and may impede the development of adjacent parcels.

**2. Will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity and will not impede the normal or orderly development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted in the district.**

Provided the dwelling units comply with the requirements of the zoning district in which they are located and the applicable sections of the zoning code, they will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity and will not impede the normal or orderly development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted in the district.

**3. Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, necessary facilities or other measures, have been or will be provided.**

Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, necessary facilities or other measures, have been or will be provided.

**4. Adequate measures have been or will be provided to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets.**

The applicant has proposed enclosed parking at grade, providing the required 13 parking stalls for 13 dwelling units-including a van accessible HC stall that is accessed from the alley. The applicant has addressed turning radius concerns by the public works department by recessing the overhead garage door from the alley. The applicant has proposed a hybrid car as a shared vehicle for the condo association. Adequate measures have been or will be provided to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets for the dwelling units.

**5. Is consistent with the applicable policies of the comprehensive plan.**

See finding number one (#1) in the Rezoning section of this report, and:

**4.11 Minneapolis will improve the availability of housing options for its residents.**

**Relevant Implementation Steps**

Increase the variety of housing styles and affordability levels available to prospective buyers and renters.

Provide and maintain moderate and high-density residential areas.

Promote the development of housing suitable for people and households in all life stages, and that can be adapted to accommodate changing housing needs over time.

Promote accessible housing designs to support persons with disabilities.

**9.6 Minneapolis will work with private and other public sector partners to invest in new development that is attractive, functional and adds value to the physical environment.**

**Relevant Implementation Steps:**

Promote the development of well designed moderate density residential dwellings adjacent to one or more of the following land use features: Growth Centers, Commercial Corridors, Community Corridors and Activity Centers.

Expand the understanding of the role that urban density plays in improving business markets, increasing the feasibility of urban transit systems and encouraging the development of pedestrian-oriented services and open spaces.

Advance the understanding of urban housing and urban retailing among all members of the design and development community.

**6. And, does in all other respects conform to the applicable regulations of the district in which it is located upon approval of this conditional use permit.**

Provided the development also receives an approved site plan, setback variances, a conditional use permit for height and a shopping center, and the building meets density requirement, the project could conform to the applicable regulations of the district in which it is located upon the approval of this conditional use permit. See findings for maximum floor area and minimum lot width in section B of the site plan review part of this report for more information on density.

**Findings as required by the Minneapolis Zoning Code the conditional use permit:**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Planning Division has analyzed the application and from the findings above concludes that the establishment, maintenance, or operation of the proposed

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

conditional use for a 5 story building 52 feet tall to midpoint of roof where a 4 story building of 56 feet height is allowed:

**1. Will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, comfort or general welfare.**

Provided the dwelling units and shopping center uses comply with the requirements of the zoning district in which they are located and the applicable sections of the zoning code, they will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety, comfort or general welfare. In this case, however, the fifth story created by the 4<sup>th</sup> floor design of the dwelling units, does not comply with the C1 or C2 district. The applicant has added gutters to the building in an effort to prevent rain and snow from falling directly from the peaked roof lines to the ground and public spaces.

**2. Will not be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity and will not impede the normal or orderly development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted in the district.**

Constructing a five-story building on the site may impede the normal or orderly development for uses permitted in the district on adjacent parcels. The owner of the adjacent parking lot located to the South of the subject site has expressed a concern that the commercial uses proposed for the development would park in his lot.

**3. Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, necessary facilities or other measures, have been or will be provided.**

Adequate utilities, access roads, drainage, necessary facilities or other measures, have been or will be provided.

**4. Adequate measures have been or will be provided to minimize traffic congestion in the public streets.**

The inclusion of a fifth story due to a ceiling height over 14 feet on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the building does increase the parking requirement for the dwelling units and should not have a significant impact on the overall parking demand of the proposed development. See findings in Parking Variance Section of this report.

**5. Is consistent with the applicable policies of the comprehensive plan.**

See finding number one (#1) in the Rezoning section of this report, and:

**4.11 Minneapolis will improve the availability of housing options for its residents.**

**Relevant Implementation Steps**

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

Increase the variety of housing styles and affordability levels available to prospective buyers and renters.

Provide and maintain moderate and high-density residential areas.

Promote the development of housing suitable for people and households in all life stages, and that can be adapted to accommodate changing housing needs over time.

Promote accessible housing designs to support persons with disabilities.

**9.6 Minneapolis will work with private and other public sector partners to invest in new development that is attractive, functional and adds value to the physical environment.**

**Relevant Implementation Steps:**

Promote the development of well designed moderate density residential dwellings adjacent to one or more of the following land use features: Growth Centers, Commercial Corridors, Community Corridors and Activity Centers.

Expand the understanding of the role that urban density plays in improving business markets, increasing the feasibility of urban transit systems and encouraging the development of pedestrian-oriented services and open spaces.

Advance the understanding of urban housing and urban retailing among all members of the design and development community.

**6. And, does in all other respects conform to the applicable regulations of the district in which it is located upon approval of this conditional use permit.**

See findings for number six (#6) in the two previous conditional use permit sections of this report that discuss the applicable regulations for dwelling units and shopping center uses. The project will need to be granted CPC approvals to conform to the applicable regulations of the C1 or C2 district.

**In addition to the conditional use standards, the city planning commission shall consider, but not be limited to, the following factors when determining the maximum height:**

**(1) Access to light and air of surrounding properties.**

Although the height of the building may not affect direct solar access to all of the windows of the Lyndale House Antiques building to the north, the increased height combined with the proposed setback variance would create an area of limited space between the two buildings.

**(2) Shadowing of residential properties or significant public spaces.**

Although a shadow study has not been submitted, the setback to zero feet along the alley and building to the front property line would cast a shadow on the public sidewalk in the morning and alley in the evening. The proposed building, which has a peaked roof and

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

would be constructed to nearly the maximum permitted height in the C2 district, would cast shadows on the Lyndale House Antiques property to the north for much of the year.

(3) **The scale and character of surrounding uses.**

Staff has observed that the scale and design of the proposed building would exceed other buildings along the commercial corridor stretch of Lyndale Avenue from Franklin to Lake Street, and would also minimize Lyndale House Antiques, particularly as one is traveling to the North. The staff recommendations in this report call for a building that is reduced in floor area of commercial space, and number of dwelling units unless the rezoning is granted, while providing greater setbacks from the adjacent properties.

(4) **Preservation of views of landmark buildings, significant open spaces or water bodies.**

It does not appear that the building would significantly affect views of features such as landmark buildings or significant open spaces. While the site itself is flat, this section of Lyndale Avenue is at a lower grade than Franklin Avenue and the views of downtown have already been compromised by the natural geography and built environment in that area. There are no water bodies in the immediate vicinity.

**Findings Required by the Minneapolis Zoning Code for the setback variance from 13 to 0 feet for the rear yard:**

**1. The property cannot be put to a reasonable use under the conditions allowed and strict adherence to the regulations of this zoning ordinance would cause undue hardship.**

The applicant could have reasonable use of the property while complying with the required rear yard. The part of the structure located in the setback area would be used for enclosed refuse and recycling storage, a vehicular entrance to enclosed parking, and a stairway and elevator to upper story dwelling units. Constructing the building up to the rear lot line across the alley from a parking pad serving a residential use appears to be the result of attempting to build the site beyond the capacity allowed by the zoning code.

**2. The circumstances are unique to the parcel of land for which the variance is sought and have not been created by any persons presently having an interest in the property. Economic considerations alone shall not constitute an undue hardship if reasonable use for the property exists under the terms of the ordinance.**

The circumstances are not unique to the site. The existing utility poles are located on the opposite side of the alley. The proposed development has created the need for the variance.

- 3. The granting of the variance will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and will not alter the essential character of the locality or be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity.**

The granting of the variance may not be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and may alter the essential character of the locality. Given that the applicant is recessing the overhead garage door to the enclosed residential parking area to allow a turning radius for vehicles in the alley, the setback should not be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity. There are other properties along this stretch of Lyndale Avenue that appear to be built to a minimal setback or zero rear lot line, but not that are five stories in height.

- 4. The proposed variance will not substantially increase the congestion of the public streets, or increase the danger of fire, or be detrimental to the public welfare or endanger the public safety.**

The proposed rear yard setback variance should not substantially increase the congestion of the public streets, or increase the danger of fire, or be detrimental to the public welfare or endanger the public safety.

**Findings Required by the Minneapolis Zoning Code for the variance from 13 to 0 feet for a setback for a drive aisle on the south interior lot line:**

- 1. The property cannot be put to a reasonable use under the conditions allowed and strict adherence to the regulations of this zoning ordinance would cause undue hardship.**

The proposed site plan shows a drive aisle that is adjacent to a C1 district to the South that is used for parking. This variance is not required, was noticed in error and can be returned to the applicant.

- 2. The circumstances are unique to the parcel of land for which the variance is sought and have not been created by any persons presently having an interest in the property. Economic considerations alone shall not constitute an undue hardship if reasonable use for the property exists under the terms of the ordinance.**

Not Applicable.

- 3. The granting of the variance will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and will not alter the essential character of the locality or be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity.**

Not Applicable.

- 4. The proposed variance will not substantially increase the congestion of the public streets, or increase the danger of fire, or be detrimental to the public welfare or endanger the public safety.**

Not Applicable.

**Findings Required by the Minneapolis Zoning Code for the variance setback variance from 13 to 7 feet on the north interior lot line:**

- 1. The property cannot be put to a reasonable use under the conditions allowed and strict adherence to the regulations of this zoning ordinance would cause undue hardship.**

The applicant could have reasonable use of the property while complying with the required north side yard. Constructing the building to roughly half the required setback adjacent to the residential use appears to be a result of attempting to build the site beyond the capacity allowed by the zoning code.

- 2. The circumstances are unique to the parcel of land for which the variance is sought and have not been created by any persons presently having an interest in the property. Economic considerations alone shall not constitute an undue hardship if reasonable use for the property exists under the terms of the ordinance.**

The circumstances are not unique to the site. There are two trees that will be removed from the adjacent property to the North to provide clearance in the proposed set back area. The proposed development has created the need for the variance

- 3. The granting of the variance will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and will not alter the essential character of the locality or be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity.**

The granting of the variance may not be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and may alter the essential character of the locality and be injurious to the use or enjoyment of the adjacent property to the North. The owner of the adjacent property to the North has indicated his support for the project. There are other properties along this stretch of Lyndale Avenue that appear to be built to minimal side yard setbacks.

- 4. The proposed variance will not substantially increase the congestion of the public streets, or increase the danger of fire, or be detrimental to the public welfare or endanger the public safety.**

The proposed side yard setback variance should not substantially increase the congestion of the public streets, or increase the danger of fire, or be detrimental to the public welfare or endanger the public safety.

**Findings Required by the Minneapolis Zoning Code for the parking variance from 47 to 25, that has been amended to a parking variance from 36 to 26:**

**1. The property cannot be put to a reasonable use under the conditions allowed and strict adherence to the regulations of this zoning ordinance would cause undue hardship.**

Staff noticed this application for a parking variance from 47 to 25 for a mixed use development that includes a dry cleaning outlet (4), retail bakery serving coffee (12), wine bar restaurant with green roof patio (18), and 13 dwelling units (13). The applicant has proposed enclosed parking at grade that is accessed from the alley for the dwelling units. The applicant submitted a revised floor plan after the public notice was let, that changes the required parking from 12 to 4 stalls for the retail bakery. Staff has also determined the applicant is eligible for a 10% reduction (1 stall, calculation:  $13 \times 0.10 = 1.3$ ) in parking as per section 541.200 (1), transit incentives for multiple family dwellings located within 300 feet of a transit stop with midday service headways of 30 minutes or less and can deduct one parking stall for the provision of bike parking (section 541.220), provided public works approves the encroachment permit for the bike racks in the public right of way along Lyndale Avenue. The applicant has also submitted a Shared Parking Agreement form estimating the perceived parking demand by time of day that predicts staggered peak demand for business patrons amongst the building tenants. The zoning administrator has reviewed the materials and determined the proposed use qualifies for a one (1) stall parking deduction based on the information provided. The applicant also submitted a statement indicating that he has secured 12 parking stalls by lease on a property within 50 feet of the subject site, but has not yet provided a "Reducing Off-Street Parking Requirement Application" for review by staff. A hybrid car to be financed and shared by the residents of the future condo association has also been proposed to reduce the need for second vehicles per dwelling unit. Given that the project qualifies for a 10% or one (1) stall reduction in residential parking, it is now an option for this hybrid car to be parked within the building instead of in the commercial lot, freeing up the 13<sup>th</sup> commercial stall. The revised required parking calculation as per the updated plans is 36 stalls (calculation: retail dry cleaner (4), retail bakery (4), wine bar restaurant with green roof patio (18), 13 dwelling units (13). The original calculation of 47 stalls was reduced by 11 (less 8 for the bakery, less 1 for bicycle parking, less 1 for transit incentives, and less 1 for shared parking. The parking variance is now estimated as a shortage of 10 parking stalls for the commercial/retail uses of the development. However, given that this is new construction, staff finds that the property may be put to a reasonable use under the conditions allowed and strict adherence to the regulations of this zoning ordinance would not cause undue hardship.

**2. The circumstances are unique to the parcel of land for which the variance is sought and have not been created by any persons presently having an interest in the property. Economic considerations alone shall not constitute an undue hardship if reasonable use for the property exists under the terms of the ordinance.**

The proposal under review now is the third revision of a conceptual plan that originally included an underground parking facility that was rejected by Public Works staff during preliminary review due to the steep slope of the access ramp. The proposed development has created the need for the variance.

- 3. The granting of the variance will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and will not alter the essential character of the locality or be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity.**

While the granting of a parking variance this size on a commercial corridor with frequent transit service is not extraordinary for the adaptive reuse of an existing building, it may not be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance and may alter the essential character of the locality or be injurious to the use or enjoyment of other property in the vicinity for this new construction proposal.

- 4. The proposed variance will not substantially increase the congestion of the public streets, or increase the danger of fire, or be detrimental to the public welfare or endanger the public safety.**

Even after considering relevant parking reductions allowed by the zoning code, the applicant is requesting a substantial parking variance that may lead to congestion on the public streets. The applicant has indicated that an option may exist to contract 12 parking stalls from a commercial business located in a commercial district 50 feet North of the subject site on Lyndale Avenue.

#### **Required Findings for Major Site Plan Review**

**A. The site plan conforms to all applicable standards of Chapter 530, Site Plan Review. (See Section A Below for Evaluation.)**

**B. The site plan conforms to all applicable regulations of the zoning ordinance and is consistent with applicable policies of the comprehensive plan and applicable small area plans adopted by the city council. (See Section B Below for Evaluation.)**

**Section A: Conformance with Chapter 530 of Zoning Code**

**BUILDING PLACEMENT AND FAÇADE:**

- Placement of the building shall reinforce the street wall, maximize natural surveillance and visibility, and facilitate pedestrian access and circulation.
- First floor of the building shall be located not more than eight (8) feet from the front lot line (except in C3S District or where a greater yard is required by the zoning ordinance). If located on corner lot, the building wall abutting each street shall be subject to this requirement.
- The area between the building and the lot line shall include amenities.
- The building shall be oriented so that at least one (1) principal entrance faces the public street. In the case of a corner lot, the principal entrance shall face the front lot line.
- Except in the C3S District, on-site accessory parking facilities shall be located to the rear or interior of the site, within the principal building served, or entirely below grade.
- For new construction, the building walls shall provide architectural detail and shall contain windows as required by Chapter 530 in order to create visual interest and to increase security of adjacent outdoor spaces by maximizing natural surveillance and visibility.
- In larger buildings, architectural elements, including recesses or projections, windows and entries, shall be emphasized to divide the building into smaller identifiable sections.
- Blank, uninterrupted walls that do not include windows, entries, recesses or projections, or other architectural elements, shall not exceed twenty five (25) feet in length.
- Exterior materials shall be durable, including but not limited to masonry, brick, stone, stucco, wood, metal, and glass.
- The exterior materials and appearance of the rear and side walls of any building shall be similar to and compatible with the front of the building.
- The use of plain face concrete block as an exterior material shall be prohibited fronting along a public street, public sidewalk, public pathway, or adjacent to a residence or office residence district.
- Entrances and windows:
  - Residential uses:

Principal entrances shall be clearly defined and emphasized through the use of architectural features such as porches and roofs or other details that express the importance of the entrance. Multiple entrances shall be encouraged. Twenty (20) percent of the walls on the first floor and ten (10) percent of the walls on each floor above the first that face a public street, public sidewalk, public pathway, or on-site parking lot, shall be windows as follows:

    - a. Windows shall be vertical in proportion.
    - b. Windows shall be distributed in a more or less even manner.
  - Nonresidential uses:

Principal entrances shall be clearly defined and emphasized through the use of architectural features such as roofs or other details that express the importance of the entrance. Multiple entrances shall be encouraged. Thirty (30) percent of the walls on the first floor and ten (10) percent of the walls on each floor above the first

that face a public street, public sidewalk, public pathway, or on-site parking lot, shall be windows as follows:

- a. Windows shall be vertical in proportion.
- b. Windows shall be distributed in a more or less even manner.
- c. The bottom of any window used to satisfy the ground floor window requirement may not be more than four (4) feet above the adjacent grade.
- d. First floor or ground floor windows shall have clear or lightly tinted glass with a visible light transmittance ratio of 0.6 or higher.
- e. First floor or ground floor windows shall allow views into and out of the building at eye level. Shelving, mechanical equipment or other similar fixtures shall not block views into and out of the building in the area between four (4) and seven (7) feet above the adjacent grade. However, window area in excess of the minimum required area shall not be required to allow views into and out of the building.
- f. Industrial uses in Table 550-1, Principal Industrial Uses in the Industrial Districts, may provide less than thirty (30) percent windows on the walls that face an on-site parking lot, provided the parking lot is not located between the building and a public street, public sidewalk or public pathway.

Minimum window area shall be measured as indicated in section 531.20 of the zoning code.

- The form and pitch of roof lines shall be similar to surrounding buildings.
- Parking Garages: The exterior design shall ensure that sloped floors do not dominate the appearance of the walls and that vehicles are screened from view. At least thirty (30) percent of the first floor building wall that faces a public street, public sidewalk or public pathway shall be occupied by active uses, or shall be designed with architectural detail or windows, including display windows, that create visual interest.

The placement of the building is located up to the front lot line on Lyndale Avenue, reinforces the street wall, maximizes natural surveillance and visibility, and facilitates pedestrian access and circulation. The applicant has proposed bicycle racks and planters in front of the building as amenities and public works staff has indicated encroachment permits would be needed for these items. The building is oriented so that the principal entrance faces Lyndale Avenue. The on-site parking facilities for the retail uses are located to the side of the site, and the residential parking area is located within the principal building served. The building walls provide architectural detail and contain windows as required by Chapter 530 in order to create visual interest and to increase security of adjacent outdoor spaces by maximizing natural surveillance and visibility. The applicant has estimated that the glazing area at the ground (1<sup>st</sup>) story front of the building along Lyndale Avenue is 448 sf or 67% (calculation:  $670/448 = 66.86$ ). This pattern of glazing also wraps around the North and South facades of the front corners of the building. The ground floor windows for the retail space are designed to allow views into and out of the building at eye level, and the applicant is hereby reminded shelving, mechanical equipment or other similar fixtures shall not block views into and out of the building in the area between four (4) and seven (7) feet above the adjacent grade. The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> floor facades fronting Lyndale exceed the 10% glazing requirement. Architectural elements, including recesses and projections, windows and entries, are provided divide the building into smaller identifiable sections. The applicant complies (at 23 feet) but may want to add windows or other architectural elements to the Northern quarter of the Eastern

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

façade (facing residential located across the alley) to distribute the glazing more evenly and/or make this section of wall more pedestrian friendly. The South facing wall of the enclosed parking area does not comply with the requirement that, “blank, uninterrupted walls that do not include windows, entries, recesses or projections, or other architectural elements, shall not exceed twenty five (25) feet in length”, and the applicant should be able to improve the design to meet this requirement. The exterior materials and appearance of the rear and side walls of any building are similar to and compatible with the front of the building. The exterior materials for the building will be stucco, arccus stone, wood (or a synthetic wood-grained product with the same aesthetic value). The applicant has ruled out the use of EIFS (External Insulation Finish Systems) or vinyl. The form and pitch of the proposed roof lines is not similar to surrounding buildings. While Lyndale House Antiques is a gable roof with a fairly steep pitch, most of the other commercial and residential buildings immediately surrounding the site have flat roofs. The surrounding area has buildings with flat, gable, and mansard roofs. The applicant has proposed a 12/15 roof pitch that includes a second story flat roof courtyard as a landscaped amenity. The applicant has indicated that the proposed roof pitch was chosen to reflect a residential structure, the desired French architectural style, and be conducive to the future addition of solar panels. In addition, during preliminary review planning staff expressed some concerns as to whether the elevator design and rooftop garden plan meet the intent of section 548.170 of the code, separate access required for commercial and residential uses. The zoning administrator also expressed concerns about the separation between the commercial and residential uses and did not approve the design. The applicant has responded that the elevator will be key card accessed and the gate on the roof top garden will be an alarmed emergency exit only, therefore assuring separation and safety. Security cameras may help mitigate these concerns.

**ACCESS AND CIRCULATION:**

- **Clear and well-lighted walkways of at least four (4) feet in width shall connect building entrances to the adjacent public sidewalk and to any parking facilities located on the site.**
- **Transit shelters shall be well lighted, weather protected and shall be placed in locations that promote security.**
- **Vehicular access and circulation shall be designed to minimize conflicts with pedestrian traffic and surrounding residential uses.**
- **Traffic shall be directed to minimize impact upon residential properties and shall be subject to section 530.150 (b) related to alley access.**
- **Site plans shall minimize the use of impervious surfaces.**

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

Clear and well-lighted walkways of at least four (4) feet in width are provided to connect the building entrances (retail and residential) to the adjacent public sidewalk. A clear and well-lighted walkway of at least four (4) feet in width has been provided to connect the HC parking stall to the front door, but not the rest of the commercial (retail) parking facilities located on the site. There are three bus stops, including one transit shelter located near the property, but none on or in the public right of way adjacent to the property. Vehicular access and circulation has been designed to minimize conflicts with pedestrian traffic and surrounding residential uses, with the exception of possibly locating a sidewalk between the south façade of the building and the parking stalls for retail use. The applicant has separated residential and commercial parking by enclosing the residential stalls and will be providing streetscape amenities along Lyndale Avenue to enhance the pedestrian environment. While the preliminary site plan review notes indicate that alley access should be closed, the nonresidential uses proposed for the site are not captured by the code and the total non-residential floor space in the building is below 4000 sf and therefore not subject to section 530.150 (b) related to alley access. The applicant has not dedicated a space in the parking area for a loading zone, but is not required to by section 541.490 of the code, that allows adequate shipping and receiving facilities accessible by motor vehicle off any adjacent alley, service drive or open space on the same zoning lot for commercial developments below 5000 sf and multiple-family dwellings below 50 units. The applicant has indicated that it would be a hardship to provide a sidewalk (4) feet in width the entire length of the building for 13 parking stalls, when he was asked at PSPR to remove the one way drive aisle (20 feet in width versus 22 feet width for two-way) that led to the alley and could be allowed. The applicant believes a good faith effort was made to meet the middle ground by providing a two-way drive aisle that allows an option for an outlet into the alley, but encourages customers to exit back onto Lyndale Avenue to minimize impact on residential properties located east of the alley. In response to a citizen concern about traffic at the intersection of Lyndale and 24<sup>th</sup> Street, staff found that 23 accidents had been reported at the intersection from May 1, 2004, through May 12, 2005. The City's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Officer indicated that it would be nice to see less accidents, but that an average of two accidents per month at a busy intersection does not normally warrant a traffic study. The site plan does not minimize the use of impervious surfaces at ground level, but does provide a second story rooftop garden as alternative compliance. For additional information on required parking, see the parking variance section of this report.

**LANDSCAPING AND SCREENING:**

- **The composition and location of landscaped areas shall complement the scale of the development and its surroundings.**
  - **Not less than twenty (20) percent of the site not occupied by buildings, including all required landscaped yards, shall be landscaped as specified in section 530.160 (a).**
- **Required screening shall be six (6) feet in height, unless otherwise specified, except in required front yards where such screening shall be three (3) feet in height.**
- **Except as otherwise provided, required screening shall be at least ninety-five (95) percent opaque throughout the year. Screening shall be satisfied by one or a combination of the following:**
  - **A decorative fence.**
  - **A masonry wall.**
  - **A hedge.**

- **Parking and loading facilities located along a public street, public sidewalk or public pathway shall comply with section 530.170 (b), including providing landscape yards along a public street, public sidewalk or public pathway and abutting or across an alley from a residence or office residence district, or any permitted or conditional residential use.**
- **The corners of parking lots where rows of parking spaces leave areas unavailable for parking or vehicular circulation shall be landscaped as specified for a required landscaped yard. Such spaces may include architectural features such as benches, kiosks or bicycle parking.**
- **In parking lots of ten (10) spaces or more, no parking space shall be located more than fifty (50) feet from the center of an on-site deciduous tree. Tree islands located within the interior of a parking lot shall have a minimum width of seven (7) feet in any direction.**
  - **All other areas not governed by sections 530.160 and 530.170 and not occupied by buildings, parking and loading facilities or driveways, shall be covered with turf grass, native grasses or other perennial flowering plants, vines, mulch, shrubs or trees.**
  - **Installation and maintenance of all landscape materials shall comply with the standards outlined in section 530.210.**
  - **The city planning commission may approve the substitution or reduction of landscaped plant materials, landscaped area or other landscaping or screening standards, subject to section 530.80, as provided in section 530.220.**

The proposed landscaping plan is deficient. Due to the total area of the site and the size of the proposed development, there is not much space available for landscaping. The total lot area is 13,046 sf and the building footprint is 7347 (118.5 x 62) sf. Section 530.160 of the zoning code requires that not less than twenty (20) percent of the site not occupied by buildings (or in this application 1140 sf) shall be landscaped, (calculation: lot area – building footprint x 20% = 13,046 sf – 7347 = 5699 x .20 = 1139.8). The applicant has proposed 580 sf or ten percent (10%) landscaping (calculation: 580/5699 = .1017) to the site area not occupied by the building at grade. The applicant has proposed an additional 604 sf or eleven percent (11%) landscaping (calculation: 604/5699 = .1059) as a rooftop garden amenity to the building. Section 530.160 of the code also requires not less than one (1) canopy tree for each five hundred (500) sf and not less than one (1) shrub per each one-hundred (100) sf of the site not occupied by buildings. In order to be in full compliance, the required plant count for this site is five (2) trees and twelve (12) shrubs to meet the landscaped yard requirements. The applicant has proposed four (4) trees and twelve (12) shrubs at grade along the north side of the building, but the required landscaped yards have not been provided along the public street or public alley. The applicant has also proposed tree and shrub varieties for the roof top garden. The main landscaping issues identified by staff include no landscaping strips along Lyndale Avenue or the alley for the exterior parking stalls at grade, shortage of landscaping area at grade, and lack of compliance with the intent of no parking space shall be located more than fifty (50) feet from the center of an on-site deciduous tree. The city planning commission will have to approve the substitution or reduction of landscaped plant materials, landscaped area or other landscaping or screening standards, subject to section 530.80 (alternative compliance), as provided in section 530.220 (exceptions to landscaping and screening requirements). Staff is recommending that decorative fencing to match the existing fencing and railings proposed for the project be added to the south lot line and extended the full length of a parking stall (18 feet) along the east property line, if alternative compliance is granted. The freestanding sign proposed for the Southwest corner of the property along Lyndale Avenue would also need alternative compliance to meet the year round screening requirement (provision of evergreen shrubs at the base) as per section 543.240 (d) of the code.

**ADDITIONAL STANDARDS:**

- **All parking lots and driveways shall be designed with wheel stops or discontinuous curbing to provide on-site retention and filtration of stormwater. Where on-site retention and filtration is not practical, the parking lot shall be defined by six (6) inch by six (6) inch continuous concrete curb.**
- **Lighting shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 535 and Chapter 541. A lighting diagram may be required.**
- **Parking and loading facilities and all other areas upon which vehicles may be located shall be screened to avoid headlights shining onto residential properties.**
- **To the extent practical, site plans shall minimize the blocking of views of important elements of the city.**
- **To the extent practical, buildings shall be located and arranged to minimize shadowing on public spaces and adjacent properties.**
- **To the extent practical, buildings shall be located and arranged to minimize the generation of wind currents at ground level.**
- **Site plans shall include crime prevention design elements as specified in section 530.260 related to:**
  - **Natural surveillance and visibility**
  - **Lighting levels**
  - **Territorial reinforcement and space delineation**
  - **Natural access control**
- **To the extent practical, site plans shall include the rehabilitation and integration of locally designated historic structures or structures that have been determined to be eligible to be locally designated. Where rehabilitation is not feasible, the development shall include the reuse of significant features of historic buildings.**

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

The applicant has proposed wheel stops for the parking stalls facing the building and will need to provide fencing on top of curbing along the South property line to comply with the stormwater management component for parking lot design. The applicant has proposed an underground grey water storage tank for the rooftop garden. Lighting shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 535 and Chapter 541 of the zoning code. The proposed site plan does not block views of important elements of the city and should not generate wind currents at ground level, but may shadow public spaces and the adjacent property to the North as discussed in the conditional use permit (for a 5th story) section of this report. The commercial parking and loading area abuts the south façade of the building, directing headlights toward the building, but vehicles entering the parking lot and exiting to the alley will have their headlights shining toward the rear yards of residential properties. The applicant believes the rooftop garden area will be a crime prevention design element by putting more eyes on the street.

**Section B: Conformance with All Applicable Zoning Code Provisions and Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan and Applicable Small Area Plans Adopted by the City Council**

**ZONING CODE:** A shopping center is a conditional use in both the C1 and C2 district with specific development standards. A bakery and dry cleaning pick up station are permitted in both the C1 and C2 district. A restaurant, sit down, including the serving of alcoholic beverages with limited entertainment is permitted in both the C1 and C2 district with specific development standards. A multiple family dwelling of 5 or more units is a conditional use in both the C1 and C2 district.

**Off-Street Parking and Loading:** The zoning code requires 36, after deductions for transit incentives. The applicant proposes 26. See findings in Parking Variance section of this report.

**Maximum Floor Area:** The maximum FAR in both the C1 and C2 District is 1.7. The lot in question is 13,046 square feet in area. The applicant proposes 21,462 square feet of gross floor area, a FAR of 1.645.

**Minimum Lot Area:** See analysis below for the C1 and C2 Districts. With 13 proposed dwelling units on a lot of 13,046 square feet, the applicant proposes 1003 square feet (13046/13) of lot area per dwelling unit without bonuses. With the bonuses taken into account, the applicant proposes 2388 square feet (31049/13) of lot area per dwelling unit with bonuses.

The property is currently zoned C1. The zoning code allows dwelling units as part of a mixed-use building at 1500 square feet per dwelling unit in the C1 district and a Floor Area Ratio of 1.7. Eight (8) dwelling units (calculation:  $13,046/1500 = 8.697$ ) and 22,178 square feet of floor area (calculation:  $13,046 \times 1.7 = 22,178.2$ ) would be allowed at this site in the C1 district. Twelve (12) dwelling units (calculation:  $8.697 \times 0.20 = 1.739 \times 2 = 3.478 + 8.697 = 12.175$ ) and 31,049 square feet of floor area (calculation:  $22,178.2 \times 0.20 = 4435.64 \times 2 = 8871.28 + 22,178.2 = 31,049.48$ ) would be allowed when the density bonuses are included.

If the property is rezoned to C2, the zoning code allows dwelling units as part of a mixed-use building at

Minneapolis City Planning Division Report  
BZZ - 2273

900 square feet per dwelling unit in the C2 district. 14 dwelling units (calculation:  $13046/900 = 14.495$ ) and 22,178 square feet of floor area (calculation:  $13,046 \times 1.7 = 22,178.2$ ) would be allowed at this site in C2 district. Twenty (20) dwelling units (calculation  $14.495 \times 0.20 = 2.899 \times 2 = 5.798 + 14.495 = 20.293$ ) and 31,049 square feet of floor area (calculation:  $22,178.2 \times 0.20 = 4435.64 \times 2 = 8871.28 + 22,178.2 = 31,049.48$ ) would be allowed when the density bonuses are included.

**Building Height:** Building height in the C1 District is limited to 2½ stories or 35 feet, whichever is less. However, as per section 548.130 (b) of the code, the mixed use commercial-residential building proposed by the applicant qualifies for a density bonus to increase the building height to 3 stories or 42 feet, whichever is less. Building height in the C2 District is limited to 4 stories or 56 feet, whichever is less. The applicant has filed for a CUP to allow 5 stories in the C2 district.

**Yard Requirements:** The rear and interior side yards have setback requirements of 13 feet ( $5 + 2x$ ) for a five story building.

**Specific Development Standards:**

See the conditional use permit (for a shopping center) section of this report. Compliance with specific development standards from Chapter 536 of the zoning code for a shopping center and any of the uses in the shopping center will be required.

**Hours of Operation:**

In the C1 or C2 District, uses may be open to the public during the following hours: Sunday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Provided the applicant is granted a wine and beer license by the City, the liquor license hours would determine the closing time for the wine bar restaurant. Should the CPC approve the site plan application, staff is recommending a condition be added to address on site security from 10:00 pm until closing and restricting the use of the rooftop garden space after midnight.

**Signs:** Signs are subject to 531 and 543 of the Zoning Code. All new signs are required to meet the requirements of Chapter 543 of the zoning code. The applicant proposes to comply with the requirements of the zoning code for signage. The applicant is working with Sign-A-Rama to ensure compliance with zoning code requirements. The applicant has proposed a free standing sign in the Southwest corner of the lot that will need to be moved completely onto the applicant's property. The pole is located on private property, but an encroachment permit, subject to the approval of Public Works department, would be required for the portion of sign panel that overhangs into the public right of way. This sign would also need alternative compliance for lack of landscaping at the base as per section 543.240 (d) of the code.

**Refuse storage:** The applicant has proposed indoor storage of commercial and residential refuse and recyclables that is accessed from the alley. The applicant has indicated pick up will be scheduled as frequently as needed and an email of support has been submitted by the waste management company.

**MINNEAPOLIS PLAN:**

See finding number one (#1) in the Rezoning section of this report. Staff is not aware of any small area plans adopted by the City Council that are applicable to this project.

**Alternative Compliance. The Planning Commission may approve alternatives to any major site plan review requirement upon finding any of the following:**

- **The alternative meets the intent of the site plan chapter and the site plan includes amenities or improvements that address any adverse effects of the alternative. Site amenities may include but are not limited to additional open space, additional landscaping and screening, transit facilities, bicycle facilities, preservation of natural resources, restoration of previously damaged natural environment, rehabilitation of existing structures that have been locally designated or have been determined to be eligible to be locally designated as historic structures, and design which is similar in form, scale and materials to existing structures on the site and to surrounding development.**
- **Strict adherence to the requirements is impractical because of site location or conditions and the proposed alternative meets the intent of this chapter.**
- **The proposed alternative is consistent with applicable development plans or development objectives adopted by the city council and meets the intent of this chapter.**

Staff is not recommending the approval of alternative compliance for the proposed site plan. The city planning commission would have to approve the substitution or reduction of landscaped plant materials, landscaped area or other landscaping or screening standards, subject to section 530.80 (alternative compliance), as provided in section 530.220 (exceptions to landscaping and screening requirements). The main landscaping issues identified by staff include no landscaping strips along Lyndale Avenue or the alley for the exterior parking stalls at grade, shortage of landscaping area at grade, and lack of compliance with the intent of no parking space shall be located more than fifty (50) feet from the center of an on-site deciduous tree. Staff is recommending that decorative fencing to match the existing fencing and railings proposed for the project be added to on the top of curbing along the south lot line and be extended the full length of a parking stall (18 feet) along the east property line, if alternative compliance is granted. The freestanding sign proposed for the Southwest corner of the property along Lyndale Avenue would also need alternative compliance to meet the year round screening requirement (provision of evergreen shrubs at the base) as per section 543.240 (d) of the code. Additional items to be considered for alternative compliance include: roof pitch compatibility with surrounding area, lack of walkway 4 feet in width connecting the commercial parking spaces to the public sidewalk and building entrance, and no 30% window area on the south façade at ground level facing the parking lot.

**CPED PLANNING DIVISION RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the rezoning:**

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission and City Council adopt the above findings and **deny** the rezoning of 2301 and 2309 Lyndale Avenue South from the C1 to the C2 district.

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the conditional use permit:**

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission adopt the above findings and **deny** the conditional use permit for a shopping center located at 2301-2309 Lyndale Avenue South.

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the conditional use permit:**

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission adopt the above findings and **deny** the conditional use permit for 13 units located at 2301-2309 Lyndale Avenue South in the C1 district.

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the conditional use permit:**

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission adopt the above findings and **deny** the conditional use permit for a 5 story building 52 feet tall to midpoint of roof at 2301-2309 Lyndale Avenue South.

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the setback variance from 13 to 0 feet for rear yard:**

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission adopt the above findings and **deny** the variance from 13 to 0 feet for the rear yard.

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the variance:**

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission adopt the above findings and **return** the variance from 13 to 0 feet for a drive aisle on the south interior lot line to the applicant.

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the variance:**

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission adopt the above findings and **deny** the variance from 13 to 7 feet on the north interior lot line.

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the variance:**

The Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission adopt the above findings and **deny** the parking variance from 36 to 26 parking stalls for the mixed-use development at 2301-2309 Lyndale Avenue South.

**Recommendation of the Department of Community Planning and Economic Development – Planning Division for the site plan review:**

The Community Planning and Economic Development - Planning Division recommends that the City Planning Commission adopt the above findings and **deny** the site plan review application for the Le Parisien project located at 2301 and 2309 Lyndale Avenue South.

**Attachments:**

1. Project overview and building summary
2. Authorization letter and Adjacent neighbor letter
3. Applicant's Findings
4. Green Roof Design Certificate, Building Biology Report, Phase I Environmental Assessment
5. Letters on building drainage, waste management, signage
4. Correspondence with neighborhood organization and council office and email on traffic
5. Market study information and MLS listings on similar properties
6. Previous City Actions, PSPR notes, and correspondence with City staff
7. Zoning maps and ortho photo
8. Project Plans and Elevations
9. Photos of project site and Photos of buildings with no setbacks on the alley