MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU 155 South Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801

DATE:

April 30, 2014

TO:

Board of Adjustment

FROM:

Beth McKibben, Planner

Community Development Department

FILE NO .:

VAR2014 0008

PROPOSAL:

A Variance Request to reduce the required street-side setback from

17' to 11' along West 10th Street in the Light Commercial zone to

construct a 7,785 square foot, 2 story bank.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant:

DOWL HKM

Property Owner:

First National Bank Alaska

Property Address:

840 W 10th Street

Legal Description:

Urban Renewal Block 5 Lots 1&8

Parcel Code Number:

1-C06-0-U05-001-0 & 1-C06-0-U05-002-0

Site Size:

17,560 square feet

Comprehensive Plan Future

Land Use Designation: Commercial (C) Map M

Zoning:

Light Commercial

Utilities:

City water & sewer

Access:

West 10th Street, Glacier Avenue, F Street.

Existing Land Use:

Parking lot & First National Bank of Alaska

Surrounding Land Use:

North

- LC, Bill Ray Center

South

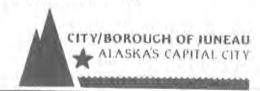
- LC, State Offices

East

- LC, Resurrection Lutheran Church

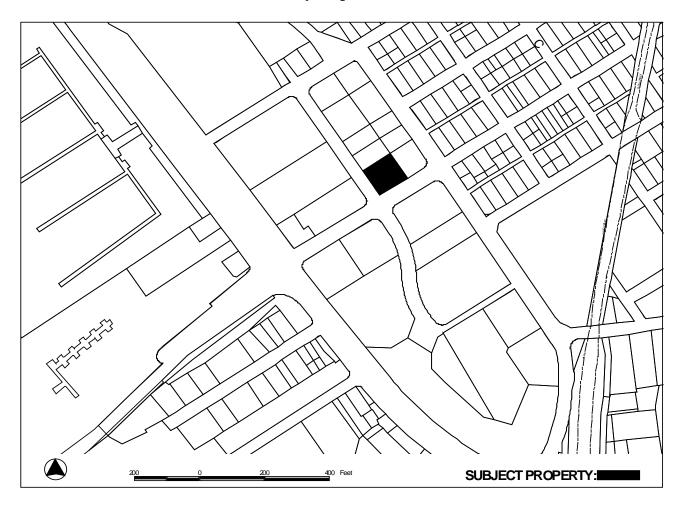
West

- LC, Tesoro & Bill Ray Center Parking



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Vicinity Map



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant seeks a variance to reduce the street-side yard setback from the required 17 feet to 11 feet along West 10th Street. The applicant proposes to build a new7,785 square foot bank building, with 4,585 square feet on the first floor and 3,200 square feet on the second floor. This building will replace the existing First National Bank of Alaska Building currently located at the corner of F Street and West 10th Street.

This applicant is also seeking a variance to street-side yard on Glacier Avenue from the required 17 feet to 11 feet, which is discussed in a separate staff report VAR2014 0007. Additionally, the applicant is seeking a third variance to reduce the required side yard setback from 10 feet to 7 feet. This is also discussed in a separate staff report, VAR2014 0009.

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BACKGROUND

The project site consists of what is currently Lot 1 and Lot 8, Block 5, Urban Renewal Subdivision. The applicant is in the process of consolidating Lots 1 and 8 into one lot that will be known as Lot 1A. The existing First National Bank of Alaska (FNBA) is located on what is currently Lot 8, and according to the Assessor's database, was built in 1976. What is currently Lot 1 is used as parking for the Bill Ray Center, which according to the Assessor's database, was constructed in 1961. Lot 1 shares the same parcel ID number with Lots 2, 3, 6 and 7, which is where the Bill Ray Center is located. Those lots are not included or affected by this variance request. When lots 1 and 8 are consolidated new parcel identification numbers will be assigned.

ANALYSIS

The new bank building is to be built on what is currently Lot 1. Once the new building is completed the existing FNBA building will be demolished and that site will be developed as parking for the new bank building. The project site is in the Light Commercial zoning district which has a minimum front yard setback of 25 feet, minimum street side yard setback of 17 feet, and a minimum rear yard and side yard setback of 10 feet. CBJ 49.25.430(3) addresses multiple frontage lots as follows (in part).

- Buildings on lots bordered by two or more rights-of-way must meet the front yard setback from one lot line adjoining the rights-of-way.
- Setbacks from the remaining lot lines adjoining rights-of-way will be considered street side yards.
- The remaining yard(s) not fronting on a street right-of-way will be considered a side vard(s).
- Lots bordered by three or more rights-of-way shall not be required to provide a rear yard setback.

For the proposed bank building the applicant has chosen F Street as the front, and the proposed building will meet the required 25 foot front yard setback. Parking for the building will be located in this area. Both Glacier Avenue and West 10th Street are considered street-side yards. The forth property line, directly opposite West 10th Street, adjacent to the Bill Ray Center is considered a side yard. In this zoning district the minimum setback is 10 feet for both the side and rear setbacks, but in some zoning districts the side yard setback is less than the rear yard setback.

The variance if approved will allow the new bank building to be built 11.72 feet from the property line. In evaluating this request staff has rounded the request to a variance to allow the building to be within 11 feet of the property line, to simplify the request and evaluation. The main entrance to the building is located in the southwest corner of the building and is situated in such a way as to accommodate both customers arriving from the parking lot as well as those

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walking on West 10^{th} Street. The building has been designed with large windows facing south on to West 10^{th} Avenue, orienting the building towards this street.

The applicant has suggested that the Commission may want to consider further reducing this street side yard setback to bring the building even closer towards the street, as far as to a zero setback. There are illustrations in the application that show the two options. This staff report will evaluate and make recommendations on the requested, lesser variance to an 11 foot setback. CBJ 49.20.250 (b)(1) states that a variance may be granted after the prescribed hearing and after the Board of Adjustment has determined that "(1) the relaxation applied for or a lesser relaxation specified by the board of adjustment would give substantial relief....." Staff interprets this to mean the Board can approve a variance that is "less" than what is applied for, but not greater. If the Commission is in favor of hearing this greater variance it could be scheduled for a future meeting, noticed to the public and fully evaluated in a separate staff report.

The applicant has indicated that the reduced street side yard setback is needed in order to accommodate the drive through window on the other side of the building and more closely meet the required side yard setback. Moving the building closer to West 10th Avenue creates more separation between the proposed bank and the existing Bill Ray Center. They have further indicated that reducing the size of the building is not a viable option as a smaller building will not meet the need to provide full banking services, including mortgages, cash management and drive through windows.

The applicant has advocated that bringing the building closer to West 10th Street creates a more urban environment, similar to what is envisioned in the Willoughby District Plan. It would create a more intimate environment for pedestrians and could create an entrance into the Willoughby District.

Staff solicited comments from Community Development Building Department, CBJ Streets, General Engineering, Fire Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, CBJ Assessor's Office, and CBJ Public Works. No concerns were raised. AELP noted that the proposed site plan does not affect the existing transformers, but the primary voltage conductors are not depicted. Also, AELP advises the applicant to get careful locates for the screening fence posts as the AELP primary power line feeding those transformers comes from 10th. The screening fence could pose longer term maintenance headaches if AELP has to get a machine in there to do trench work, but probably not more problematic than sidewalks and asphalt.

Variance Requirements

Under CBJ 49.20.250 where hardship and practical difficulties result from an extraordinary situation or unique physical feature affecting only a specific parcel of property or structures lawfully existing thereon and render it difficult to carry out the provisions of Title 49, the Board of Adjustment may grant a Variance in harmony with the general purpose and intent of Title 49. A Variance may vary any requirement or regulation of Title 49 concerning dimensional and other design standards, but not those concerning the use of land or structures, housing density, lot

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coverage, or those establishing construction standards. A Variance may be granted after the prescribed hearing and after the Board of Adjustment has determined:

1. That the relaxation applied for or a lesser relaxation specified by the Board of Adjustment would give substantial relief to the owner of the property involved and be more consistent with justice to other property owners.

The applicant has indicated that the relaxation applied for will give substantial relief to the property owner in that it will allow them to develop a full-service banking facility. They have asserted that full service banking, such as mortgage and cash management services require privacy for transactions which cannot currently be accommodated in the existing, smaller facility.

The applicant has indicated the relaxation requested is consistent with justice to other property owners in that the adjacent Bill Ray Center is set back 10 feet from the property line. This appears to be the case, however staff is unable to find any variances that have been approved. It is likely the building is non-conforming as was consistent with the setbacks required at the time of construction. Across the street the Resurrection Lutheran Church received a variance from the 17 foot street side yard setback to 6 feet for an addition.

Yes. Staff finds that criterion 1 is met.

2. That relief can be granted in such a fashion that the intent of this title will be observed and the public safety and welfare be preserved.

The purpose and intent of Title 49 is established in CBJ 49.05.100. If approved this variance would meet the intent of the Land Use Code, specifically CBJ 49.05.100(2), CBJ 49.05.100(3), and CBJ 49.05.100(5).

CBJ 49.05.100 The several purposes of this title are (in part):

- (2) To ensure that future growth and development in the City and Borough is in accord with the values of its residents;
- (3) To identify and secure, for present and future residents, the beneficial impacts of growth while minimizing the negative impacts.
- (5) To provide adequate open space for light and air.

Construction of a full service bank will provide beneficial impacts. The public health and welfare will be preserved as the proposed building will be located so as to not impact sight visibility and will maintain the existing character of the neighborhood.

Yes. Staff finds that criterion 2 is met.

3. That the authorization of the Variance will not injure nearby property.

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No evidence has been presented showing the granting of the variance will injure nearby property. The proposed structure will allow the opportunity to replace the existing bank, with a larger, more attractive building, which has potential benefits to the neighborhood.

Yes. Staff finds that criterion 3 is met.

4. That the Variance does not authorize uses not allowed in the district involved.

The proposed use is appropriate according to the Table of Permissible Uses. The Allowable Use permit is listed at CBJ 49.25.300 section 3.400 for the LC zoning district.

Yes. Staff finds that this criterion is met.

- 5. That compliance with the existing standards would:
 - (A) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property for a permissible principal use;

The proposed building, bank, is a permitted use in the LC district. The applicant could reduce the footprint of the building and use the site for this use.

- **No.** Staff finds that sub-criterion 5A is not met.
- (B) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property in a manner which is consistent as to scale, amenities, appearance or features, with existing development in the neighborhood of the subject property;

The proposed structure is consistent in scale, amenities and appearance to other building in the immediate area, most notably the Bill Ray Center and Gold Belt Building.

Yes. Staff finds that sub-criterion 5B is met.

(C) Be unnecessarily burdensome because unique physical features of the property render compliance with the standards unreasonably expensive;

This is a flat lot and does not have any unique physical features that would make complying with the standards unreasonable expensive.

No. Staff finds that sub-criterion 5C is not met.

or

(D) Because of preexisting nonconforming conditions on the subject parcel the grant of the Variance would not result in a net decrease in overall compliance

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with the Land Use Code, CBJ Title 49, or the building code, CBJ Title 19, or both.

There are no preexisting nonconforming conditions associated with this site.

No. Staff finds that sub-criterion 5 D is not met.

Staff finds that criterion 5 is met because sub-criterion 5 B is met.

6. That a grant of the Variance would result in more benefits than detriments to the neighborhood.

The requested variance will allow for the development of a new full service bank and the removal of the existing bank thereby revitalizing the neighborhood. The new building will be attractive and will provide a more welcoming environment for pedestrians. The proposed building is of similar size and scale to surrounding development and much of the existing development is as close or closer to the property line. A grant of this variance would result in more benefits than detriments to the neighborhood.

Yes. Staff finds that criterion 6 is met.

FINDINGS

1. Is the application for the requested Variance complete?

Yes. Staff finds the application contains the information necessary to conduct full review of the proposed operations. The application submittal by the applicant, including the appropriate fees, substantially conforms to the requirements of CBJ Chapter 49.15.

Per CBJ 49.70.900 (b)(3), General Provisions, the Director makes the following Juneau Coastal Management Program consistency determination:

2. Will the proposed development comply with the Juneau Coastal Management Programs?

N/A. As discussed in the staff report above, this variance request is not related to the Juneau Coastal Management Program.

3. Does the variance as requested, meet the criteria of Section 49.20.250, Grounds for Variances?

Yes. Based on the analysis above, staff finds that the Variance application does meets the criteria of CBJ 49.20.250. Criteria 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 are met

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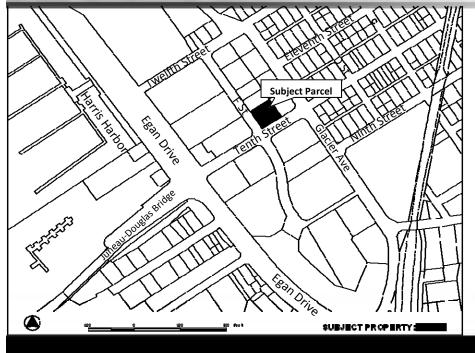
RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of Adjustment adopt the Director's analysis and findings and **approve** the requested Variance, VAR20140008. The Variance permit would allow for a reduction of the required street-side setback from 17' to 11' along West 10th Street in the LC zone for construction of a 7,785 square foot, 2 story bank.

Staff recommends the following condition:

1. An As-Built Survey shall be submitted showing the building to be no closer than 11 feet to the West 10th Street property line prior to Certificate of Occupancy.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



City & Borough of Juneau Community Development Department 155 S Seward Street • Juneau, Alaska 99801

SHIP TO:



PROPOSAL: VAR2014 0007: Variance to reduce side setback along Glacier Avenue to 11'.

VAR2014 0008: Variance to reduce side setback along 10th Avenue to 9.72'.

VAR2014 0009: Variance to rear setback along property line to 7'.

File No:	VAR2014 0007, VAR2014 0008, & VAR2014 0009	Applicant:	DOWL HKM
То:	Adjacent Property Owners	Property PCN:	1-C06-0-U05-001-0
Hearing Date:	May 13, 2014	Owner:	First National Bank of Anchorage
Hearing Time:	7:00 PM	Size:	9,563 square feet
Place:	Assembly Chambers	Zoned:	Light Commercial
	Municipal Building	Site Address:	840 W 10th Street
	155 South Seward Street	Accessed Via:	10th Street
	Juneau, Alaska 99801		

PROPERTY OWNERS PLEASE NOTE:

You are invited to attend this Public Hearing and present oral testimony. The Planning Commission will also consider written testimony. You are encouraged to submit written material to the Community Development Department 14 days prior to the Public Hearing. Materials received by this deadline are included in the information packet given to the Planning Commission a few days before the Public Hearing. Written material received after the deadline will be provided to the Planning Commission at the Public Hearing.

If you have questions, please contact Beth McKibben at beth mckibben @ci.juneau.ak.us or at 586-0465.



Planning Commission Agendas, Staff Reports and Meeting Results can be viewed at www.juneau.org/plancomm.

VARIANCE APPLICATION

Project Number Project Na VA 2 20 14 000 8	ame (15 characters)	Case N	umber	Date Received
TYPE OF VARIANCE REG	UESTED:			
Variance to the Sign Standard	(VSG)	Variance to Standard	Dimensional s	(VDS)
Variance to Habitat Setbacks	(VHB)	Variance to Requiren		(VPK)
✓ Variance to Setback Requirements	(VSB)			
DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVATION OF A	side yard setback of 1 oth Ave and Glacier Av	7' along 10th Ave. T e, with two drive-up la	anes, would re	sult in an 11 72'
Previous Variance Applic	ations?	✓ NO Date	of Filing:	
₩as the Variance Granted?	YES NO			
Previous Variance Application Previous Case Number(s): Was the Variance Granted? UNIQUE CHARACTERIST ENR owns three adjacent p Bill Ray center ENR can co with nearby uses of the Bill	roperties - the existing ombine Lots 8 and 1 to	bank (I of 8), the corumake a lot usable fo	ner parking lot r an office buil	(I ot 1), and the ding, consistent
UTILITIES AVAILABLE:	WATER: ✓ Public	On Site S	SEWER: V Publi	c On Site
WHY WOULD A VARIANG OWNER? Current Lot 2 area is appro- lot size is reduced to about parking, inconsistent with of what makes use of this lot	ximately 8064. With re 2028. This would acc ther buildings and use:	equired front-, side- a commodate a very sm s in the area. FNB's c	nd back-yard s all structure ar	setbacks, useable nd limited
WHAT HARDSHIP WOUL Long term business plans to accommodate future growt privacy. FNB has spent sign reductions compromise good	or the facility require tw h. Mortgage and cash gnificant time narrowing	o drive-up lanes to by management service the footprint of the p	etter serve the es require more proposed build	eir customers and e room for
For more information regarding permitting process and the sub-required for a complete application.	mittals	Fees Chec	k No. Receipt	t Date
please see the reverse side.	Adjustment	1	3 201	
If you need any assistance fill this form, please contact the Center at 586-0770.		:400 266	·3 CDD48	23/13/14

NOTE: MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

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aff to A	Assign Na	ame)						
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16	PROP	ERTY LOCATION	Wide to State Control				***************************************	
-	Street Address				Juneau, AK 99801			
		V. 10th Street	s) (Subdivision, Survey, E	Block, Tract, Lot)	Jui	neau, AK 99601		
	Legal Description(s) of Parcel(s). (Subdivision, Survey, Block, Tract, Lot) Lot 3, Block 6A, Harborview #2, Lots 1 and 8							
1	Assess ICO	or's Parcel Number(s) 60U050010, IC060	U050020					
		OWNER/ LESSEE		7			T Wash Shares	
1	Propert First	ty Owner's Name National Bank Ala	ska		Kare	n Fink, Asst VP	Work Phone: 907-777-3641	
17	Mailing	Address			Home	Phone:	Fax Number: 907-777-3226	
		Box 100720, Ancho	rage, AK 99510		Other	Contact Phone Nu	2 42 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	
		efnbalaska.com			907-	360-4919		
		OWNER/ LESSEE C	DNSENT ****Re see(s) of the property subject			on Building/ Engine	ening Permits****	
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	Landowner/Lessee Signature De					0		
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10th Avenue Variance Request Narrative

Back-up Materials Provided:

Preliminary Site Plan, 3.5.2014 ALTA/ACSM Land Title Survey

The following narrative is provided in accordance with the instructions for the Variance Application.

This variance is to request reduction of required set-backs along 10th Avenue from 17 feet to 11.72 feet. We have minimized back yard setbacks to improve side yard setbacks along 10th Avenue.

Interestingly, the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) may want to consider moving the building even closer to the 10th Avenue sidewalk, depending on the degree of "urban feel" CBJ would like to establish in this area.

Building design standards for urban thoroughfares emphasize the relationship between the building activities and the surroundings. To consider that idea in a practical application, we can look at this proposed building and the 10th Avenue setback. The large, south-facing windows face 10th Avenue to take advantage of southern exposure, resulting in a building orientation toward the street. Additionally, the entry to the building at the southwest corner is designed to accommodate customers entering from the sidewalk or the parking lot. If the proposed planter abutted the sidewalk, the only separation between banking business and pedestrians would be windows and some greenery. This is not much of a barrier at all, and creates a sense of intimacy between the two groups, while separating uses.

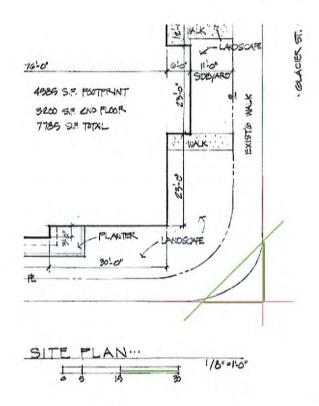
The rendering below gives you an idea of how the proposed structure would look with no setback from the right-of-way.





Note that this site design could be accomplished while still maintaining corner lot setbacks required in 49.25.400 Note 8 of code.





Moving the building toward 10th Avenue would create more space between it and the Bill Ray Center.

A larger setback creates a more suburban feel. While there is less intimacy, there is more greenery along the thoroughfare. There is also more space to store snow close to the area from which it will be cleared.

The next rendering gives you an idea of how the proposed building will look with 11.75-foot setbacks.







While this development is not in the Willoughby area, many people access Willoughby via 10th This proposed development and the Goldbelt building could create a portal to Willoughby, establishing the feel of the area.

Below is a discussion of a request for a variance from the 17 foot setbacks to an 11.72 foot setback. If the CBJ would prefer that we have no setback, that adjustment to the site plan can be made.

A variance may be granted after the prescribed hearing and after the Board of Adjustment has determined the following criteria are met.

(1) The relaxation applied for or a lesser relaxation specified by the board of adjustment would give substantial relief to the owner of the property involved and be more consistent with justice to other property owners.

Relief to property owner: Reducing setbacks will encourage the property owner to combine two adjacent lots, demolish an existing facility, and develop a full service facility. Mortgage and cash management services require more privacy than other bank services, and current facilities do not have the space to accommodate these services. The current facility has an approximate 5-foot setback from the right-of-way (ROW), which runs along the back of the sidewalk. The new facility will have an 11.72 foot setback from ROW, improving compliance with zoning regulations, but still requiring a variance from side-yard set-back requirements. Alternately, CBJ may choose to reduce setbacks even further as outlined in the discussion above.

Consistent with other property owners: The proposed setback is greater than the current bank facility. Based on scaling from Bing maps, the setback for the new facility appears to be consistent with the setback for the northwest section of the Goldbelt building, again, using the 5-foot sidewalk to scale.

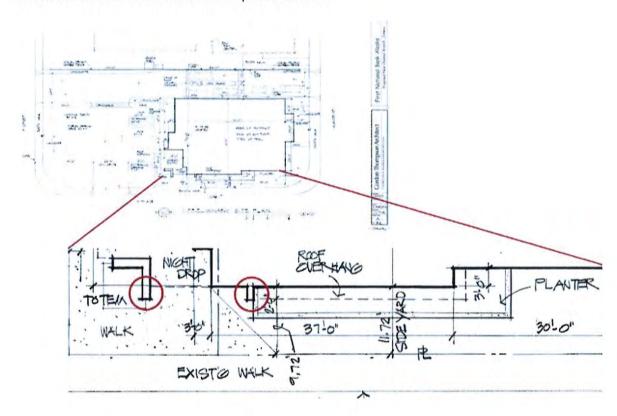
(2) Relief can be granted in such a fashion that the intent of this title will be observed and the public safety and welfare preserved.

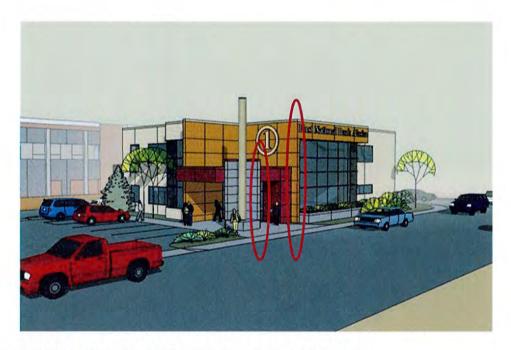
The bank's current facility at the corner of F Street and 10th Avenue has approximately 5 feet of setback from ROW, all of which is under the eaves of the building. The picture below shows the current facility, and the lot next to it. Both of these lots would be combined, and the new facility would be on the lot in the foreground. The red line shows the approximate set-back the new building would have, scaling off of the 5' sidewalk.





This new development will have a setback of 11.72 for the building, and 9.72 for the roof line and two structural elements. These architectural features are allowed to project into the setback up to 5 feet, according to49.25.430 The red circles in the graphics below show where the structural elements will impact setbacks:





Note that the tan pole in front of the building will be a totem pole.

(3) The authorization of the variance will not injure nearby property.

This variance is for a section of the building that is next to 10th Avenue. Across the street is the Goldbelt Building (shown below, across from the existing structure), which is used similarly as office space.



The neighbors on the Glacier Avenue side of the building will have their view impacted by the new facility. The red lines on the picture below show the possible impacts.





(4) The variance does not authorize uses not allowed in the district involved.

The proposed building is compatible with the Light Commercial zoning.

- (5) Compliance with the existing standards would do any of the following:
 - (A) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property for a permissible principal use.

As noted in the application, the use of Lot 2 on its own could be accomplished in 2028 square feet, if current CBJ setback requirements were observed. Development of community banking services that include mortgage and cash management services require more privacy that current bank facilities can provide. Few businesses could operate in that amount of space and provide required parking.

(B) Unreasonably prevent the owner from using the property in a manner which is consistent as to scale, amenities, appearance or features, with existing development in the neighborhood of the subject property.

The proposed bank facility is consistent with nearby office space uses of the Bill Ray Center and Goldbelt building. The proposed office is almost as high as the Bill Ray Center, but has a smaller footprint. The proposed office is shorter and smaller than the Goldbelt building, and is proposed to have a totem pole, which would complement the cultural art adorning the Goldbelt. The proposed office is compatible with the gas station across F Street. The proposed two-story building on Lot 2 would change the skyline view for residences to the east of Glacier Avenue, as discussed above.



(C) Be unnecessarily burdensome because unique physical features of the property render compliance with the standards unreasonably expensive.

While compliance would not be unreasonably expensive, it would reduce the footprint of the building to a point that it would no longer meet the space needs for full-service banking.

(D) Because of preexisting nonconforming conditions on the subject parcel, the grant of the variance would not result in a net decrease in overall compliance with the land use code, title 49, or the building code, title 19, or both.

The new facility would require demolition of the old facility. The new facility has larger setbacks from the ROW than the existing facility.

(6) A grant of the variance would result in more benefits than detriments to the neighborhood.

This development is consistent with community goals for walkability. CBJ's master plan for the Willoughby District envisions basic services available in a walkable community. This development is two blocks from the Willoughby District boundary, on well-established walking routes. Across Glacier Avenue is the well-established Casey Shattuck neighborhood, which has sidewalks on both sides of narrow This establishment will provide full banking services, including mortgage and cash management services.

This development improves area esthetics. Traffic inbound to the federal building and other attractions in the Willoughby District turn east onto 10th Avenue to access the area. The Goldbelt building across the street has native figures along the roof. and a totem pole along 10th Avenue. The granite building sign has an unfinished, jagged top which approximates mountain peaks.





The proposed development includes a totem pole at the entrance of the building, along 10th Avenue and across the street from the Goldbelt. This development will also have attractive greenery along the roadway. These two buildings serve as a sort of portal to the neighborhood, and establish the esthetic of entering an artistic district.



