# City of Sugar Hill Planning Staff Report **RZ 17-002**

**DATE:** July 13, 2017

TO: Planning Commission FROM: Planning Director

**SUBJECT:** Rezoning RZ 17-002, Hillcrest Drive Townhouse



#### SUGGESTED ACTION

## Recommend approval of rezoning to RM with following conditions:

- 1. Provide pedestrian walkway from front doors of units to existing sidewalk along Hillcrest Drive.
- 2. A single common entry drive shall be aligned with the existing intersection at Hillcrest Glenn Drive.
- 3. Rear entry or detached garages shall be provided. No front entry or individual driveways shall be allowed to directly access Hillcrest Drive.
- 4. Simple massing is preferred and should be used with stoops, porches, galleries, arcades, roof eaves, and balconies to provide expressive character over excessive articulation of building massing and shape. Roof lines shall not be overly complex and should typically not overlap. The overall length:height ratio on facades shall be simple proportions 1:1, 2:1, 3:2 or 4:3.
- 5. Windows and façade articulations should be placed in a regular pattern and relate to doors, columns, and other façade articulations.
- 6. If used, shutters shall be sized exactly half the size of the window. Curved shutters must match the curve of the window. Shutters must be mounted directly to the casing with proper shutter hardware.
- 7. The following architectural design conditions are prohibited: Material changes on outside corners. Recessed front porches. More than two principal building materials. Chimneys on outside walls that do not extend completely to the ground.

**ISSUE** 

The City of Sugar Hill has received an application dated June 2, 2017 from Southern Heritage Home Builders to rezone tax parcels 7-305-422, 7-305-066, and 7-305-423 containing  $\pm$  1.29 acres, located at 1335 Hillcrest Drive. The applicant proposes to rezone the parcel from Medium Density Single Family Residential District (RS-100) to Residential Multi-Family District (RM) for a 6 to 10-unit townhome.

#### DISCUSSION

- The subject property is currently zoned RS-100 and has been subdivided for three homes.
- The Land Use Plan shows this area as Town Center District.

• The property is adjacent to the parking lot owned by the Sugar Hill Church zoned Medium Density Single Family Residential District (RS-100) and to the rear of the property is vacant land owned by Sugar Hill Church which is zoned Agriculture and Forest (AF) zoning classification.

Applicant / Owner: Southern Heritage Home Buildings

Existing Zoning: Medium Density Single Family Residential District (RS-100).

Request(s): Residential Multi-Family District (RM).

Purpose: Six (6) to ten (10) unit townhome development.

Property Size:  $\pm$  1.29 Acres

Location: Tax Parcel Id Number: 7-305-422, 7-305-066, and 7-305-423

Addresses: 1335 Hillcrest Drive

Public Notice: Letters to adjoining owners via USPS regular mail on 6/28/17.

Sign posted on Highway 20 on 6/28/17.

Ad in legal section of Gwinnett Daily Post on 6/28/17 & 7/26/17.

Public Comments: No public comments have been received.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

The subject parcel is located along Hillcrest Drive. Adjacent properties include the parking lot for the Sugar Hill Church to the west, vacant land owned by Sugar Hill Church to the South. To the north is an existing brick house zoned Medium Density Single Family Residential (RS-100). Across Hillcrest Drive at the three-way intersection is Sugar Brook Subdivision which is also zoned Medium Density Single Family Residential District.

To the Northwest Sugar Brook Subdivision and Hillcrest Glenn zoned (RS-100)

• To the Northeast Single Family Brick Home (RS-100)

To the Southeast Vacant property owned by Sugar Hill Church (AF)
To the Southwest The parking lot for Sugar Hill Church (RS-100)

Prior to August 2016. the properties including the brick house to the east consisted of tax Parcels 7-305-066, and 7-305-006.

Tax parcel 7-305-066 contains a 1,510 square feet single family home built in 1971.

An exemption plat was filed for and approved in August 2016 to subdivide the two parcels 7-305-066 and 7-305-006 into four (4) single family residential lots.

Tax parcel 7-306-006, which contains the brick house, is not part of this rezoning request and will remain a separate parcel.

#### **ZONING ANALYSIS**

1. Will the rezoning requested permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property?

The immediate vicinity of the property is primarily single-family residential development. However, the property is located within the Town Center Overlay district, which is anticipated to develop with higher density residential properties. The property is only 0.3 miles from the intersection with Peachtree-Industrial Boulevard, which is the edge of the Central Business District that will likely include even higher-density housing than the proposed development. It is also in the vicinity of the proposed pedestrian bridge over Peachtree-Industrial Boulevard. Therefore, it appears that the rezoning is an appropriate transition from higher intensity development to single-family residential development outside of the Town Center Overlay. Additionally, the development could provide moderate-income housing with pedestrian accessibility to the downtown.

2. Will the rezoning requested adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby properties?

No.

3. Does the property for which the rezoning is requested have a reasonable economic use as currently zoned?

Yes.

4. Will the rezoning requested create an overcrowding condition with respect to the existing streets, transportation facilities, or schools?

As the development includes only six to ten units, it is not anticipated to significantly impact the streets, transportation facilities, or schools.

5. Does the rezoning requested conform to the Sugar Hill Land Use Plan?

Yes. The area is shown as Town Center District, which includes 'higher density housing options adjacent to the center, targeted to a broad range of incomes.' It also states that 'each project in the Town Center District should be heavily pedestrian-oriented...' This plan conforms to the land use goals and is pedestrian-oriented by allowing for rear-loading units that connect to an existing sidewalk, which is an easy walking distance to downtown.

6. Are there other existing or changing conditions affecting the use and development of the property which would give support to an approval or disapproval of the rezoning request?

The newer projects expected in the next few years in downtown will include high-density housing. These townhomes will be an appropriate transition between downtown and single-family housing.

Rezoning Applicant: Southern Heritage Home Builders Zoning: **RS-100 RZ 17-002** Location: 1335 Hillcrest Drive Request: Rezone to RM BUFORDOR **Zoning District** CSD-Converservation Subdivision Residental /// RZ 17-002 MH-Mobile Home Park AF- Agricultural - Forest OI-Office - Institutional RS200-Low Density Single Family Residential **HSB-Highway Service Business** RS175-Low Density Single Family Residential **BG-General Business** RS150-Low Density Single Family Residential LM-Light Manfacturing RS100-Medium Density Single Family Residential HM-1-Light Industry RM-Residental Multi-Family Residential HM-2-Heavy Industry 1 inch = 500 feet



BBC Investments LLC Southern Heritage Home Builders, LLC 4154 Silver Peak Pkwy., Suite C Suwannee, GA 30024

June 1, 2017 City

City of Sugar Hill Attn: Planning & Development 5039 West Broad St. Sugar Hill, GA 30518

RE: Letter of Intent, Proposed Hillcrest Project

To Whom It May Concern:

BBC Investments Property owner at 1329 & 1335 Hillcrest Dr., Sugar Hill, GA 30518 is requesting a rezoning from RS-100 to RM. The request being made on the current 3 individual lots with a current combined acreage of 1.299 acres. The property will be taken from 3 single family RS-100 lots to a one 6 unit townhome building with rear entry garages. The proposed town home sizes are 2,000 sq. ft. and the price range will be the mid \$200's. The proposed zoning is suitable to the area because of the downtown access and ability to use downtown amenities. The proposed rezoning will help adjacent property due to removing additional driveways and one having one driveway for the townhomes rather than 3 separate driveways feeding to Hillcrest Drive for single family homes. A variance will be needed on the lot sizes because the current RM zoning is 5,400 sq. ft. minimum and proposed lot sizes are 1,320 sq. ft. fee simple where the homeowner just owns the house box to let the HOA maintain the exterior and landscaping on each home. A 4,080 sq. ft. variance will be needed to attain this. A variance will also be needed on the side setback joining Sugar Hill Church in the amount of 32 ft. in order to get the layout presented with rear entry townhomes. This will help keep the townhomes off of the 50 foot buffer on the adjoining home next door and since sugar hill church is using the area next to the variance as over flow parking it makes it more appealing. The property zoning is in conformity with the land use plan being in the vicinity of downtown and improving the area in the overlay district. Rezoning the property will help to turn the wheels for more residential development in the overlay district. Thank you,

Michael Phelps Southern Heritage Home Builders, LLC.



