City of Sugar Hill Planning Staff Report SUP 21-001

DATE: July 29, 2021 TO: Mayor and City Council FROM: Planning Director SUBJECT: Special Use Permit | SUP-21-001 5304 SYCAMORE ROAD



RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of special use permit for an animal day care facility with the following conditions:

1. The zoning buffer shall be reduced to 25' for outdoor runs and associated fencing to be located within the existing turf areas. No additional clearing or land disturbance will be allowed.

2. Outdoor operating hours shall be limited to the hours between 7a.m. and 7p.m. Monday through Saturday.

3. Overnight boarding is prohibited.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

The planning commission held a scheduled public hearing on Monday, July 19, 2021. Nick Thompson spoke on behalf of this request. There were no other public comments. The planning commission passed a motion to recommend approval with staff conditions including requesting staff to explore and research noise abatement. Jeremy White motion, Julie Adams second (4-0).

ISSUE The City of Sugar Hill has received an application dated June 4, 2021 from Nick Thompson for a special use permit for a pet day care facility. The subject property is currently zoned Office Institutional District (OI).

DISCUSSION

- The proposed Special Use Permit is to operate an animal day care with daytime boarding and outdoor runs.
- The proposed hours of operation are 7 AM to 7 PM, with training up to 8 PM. There is to be no overnight boarding.
- The proposed use is not listed in the table of permitted uses, requiring a special use permit, and is being considered concurrently with a zoning ordinance amendment.
- Applicant has also requested a reduction in the buffer zone, to the adjacent subdivision, from 50 feet to 25 feet but does not propose any new development. Much of the buffer area appears

to have been previously cleared and the applicant is proposing to use the existing turf areas situated behind a proposed privacy fence. An existing accessory structure and a portion of the parking lot currently sit within the buffer.

BACKGROUND

Applicant/Owner:	Nick Thompson / 3805 317, LLC
Existing Zoning:	Office Institutional District (OI).
Request:	Special use permit for animal day care facility with a buffer variance from 50' to 25'.
Property Size:	\pm 1.153 acres
Location:	5304 Sycamore Road
	Tax Parcel R7-306-051A
Public Notice:	Letters to adjoining owners via USPS regular mail on 6/30/21. Signs posted on property 6/30/21. Ad in legal section of Gwinnett Daily Post on 6/30/21 & 7/21/21.
Public Response:	Many emails were submitted in support of the business and operator.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The subject property was previously used for a church and is situated adjacent to Sugar Hill Plantation an established single family residential neighborhood. The proposed special use permit will allow a dog training and dog daycare facility. The property is approximately 1.2 acres, with an existing 3,200 square foot structure.

The facility is proposed to operate with up to 15 dogs for full-day or half-day stays from 7 AM to 7 PM Monday through Friday. The applicant's letter of intent states that training services will be provided from 10 AM to 8 PM Monday through Thursday, 10a.m. to 4p.m. Friday and 9a.m. to 5p.m. on Saturday. No services are to be provided on Sunday.

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?

Yes. The subject property was previously developed for an institutional assembly use. The proposed neighborhood service is an appropriate commercial use of the property given its proximity to downtown and Highway 20.

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

No. The proposed use will operate only during daytime hours and is for a limited number of animals.

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?

No.

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

Yes.

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?

While the proposed use could increase the potential for noise control complaints from nearby properties the limited number of animals and day-time hours in addition to the fencing and buffer.

SUP.21.001



Letter of Intent for Special Use Permit Application

Nick Thompson submits the attached Special User Permit (SUP) application on behalf of the owner of the property 3805 317, LLC.

The subject property is comprised of 1.153 acres and has been zoned O&I since the 1960's. The property is more commonly known as 5304 Sycamore Road Sugar Hill, GA. 30518. Gwinnett APN: R306 051A.

The applicant seeks SUP approval for a Pet Daycare facility, providing daytime boarding and training with outdoor runs.

The existing structure is 3,200 SF in size 1,600 SF sanctuary upstairs on a 1,600 SF basement. Dog training will be conducted on the upper level (former sanctuary) while administrative offices and Day Care will utilize the basement of the structure, which has a dedicated, grade-level entrance.

The two (2) existing structures (church & pavilion) will be utilized. The only improvement will be the installation of a City-permitted fence, behind the church structure; adjacent to the autobody shop property line as well as the residential neighbors to the west. Along the western line and adjacent to the residential neighbors, a 25' undisturbed buffer is proposed on the common line side of the new / proposed fence.

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Thompson, Agent for Applicant 117 Timberlost Trail Suwanee, GA. 30024

Contact information and operations descriptions for EveryDog Training & Agility are on the next page:

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EveryDog Training & Agility

A dog training and dog daycare facility.

Anticipated Operating hours will be 7am-8pm M-TH, 7am-7pm F, 9am-5pm SAT, closed on Sunday

Daycare drop off will begin at 7am, pick up concluding by 7pm M-F Training classes will be conducted throughout the day from 10am-8pm M-TH, 10am-4pm F, 9am-5pm SAT, closed on Sunday

Daycare will be approximately 15 dogs with the option for full-day or half-day stays Training classes will contain up to 6 dogs & owners. Classes will be an hour in length

Anticipated traffic volume:

1. 2-4 employees daily

2. Up to 6 per training class session throughout the day

3. Daycare drop off and pick up throughout the day

Nori Smith, CCDT, CPDT-KA, SDC EveryDog Training 770-722-8159 www.norismith.com

