City of Sugar Hill Planning Staff Report CBD Design Review 24-004

DATE: November 26, 2024

TO: Mayor and Council, Design Review Board

FROM: Planning Director

SUBJECT: Central Business District (CBD) Design Review

5423 Nelson Brogdon Blvd., New Medical Office

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the site plan and buildings in material and architectural detail with the following conditions:

- 1. Final building design and site layout shall substantially resemble the attached exhibits labeled Exhibit 1 through 2. Final material and color selections shall be subject to on-site mock-up approval, with identified materials. Alterations to the façade in order to conform to the conditions listed below are subject to review and approval by the Planning Director.
- 2. The building setback line shall be between 0' and 12' off of the utility easement along Highway 20.
- 3. In lieu of the requirement for 1 tree per 10 parking spaces, landscape strips shall be present along the perimeter of the property and shall conform to the standards set forth in the Buffer, Landscape, and Tree Ordinance, subject to the review and approval of the Planning Director.
- 4. A minimum of 50% of the façade facing Highway 20 shall be transparent through windows and doors on the ground level. A minimum of 50% of the façade facing the proposed parking shall be transparent through windows and doors on the ground level. A minimum of 30% of the façade on the west and east facing elevations shall be transparent through windows and doors on the ground level.
- 5. All awnings/canopies shall be approved as shown in Exhibit 2.
- 6. Any outdoor utility structures shall be screened from public view and not detract from the building's street-facing facades. The dumpster enclosure shall be constructed of materials to match the principal structure.
- 7. Ornamental streetlights approved by GA Dept. of Transportation for Highway 20 shall be installed along the Highway 20 Frontage.
- 8. Sidewalks along Highway 20 shall be constructed in accordance with the paver details currently approved for use in the Central Business District by the city and GA Department of Transportation.
- 9. Environmental clearance documents shall be prepared by a professional environmental engineer, geologist, scientist or specialist authorized by the state of Georgia to prepare such documentation. No permits shall be released until

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documents are reviewed and approved by the Planning Director, confirming the environmental suitability of the site and no recognized environmental condition exists or has affected down-gradient properties.

REQUEST

The City of Sugar Hill has received an application from Frank Pittman, on behalf of MLC Sugar Hill LLC, requesting design review board approval for a 4,113 square foot urgent and primary care office located within the Central Business District (CBD) Overlay near the corner of Nelson Brogdon Boulevard and Sycamore Road.

DISCUSSION

- The subject site is a 0.34 acre parcel, formerly the location of a convenience store with fuel pumps, located within the Central Business District. This previous structure has been demolished, with remnants of the parking area and fuel pumps visible off of Highway 20.
- The subject property is presently zoned General Business within the Town Center Overlay and Central Business District. The commercial space will be for the exclusive use of the proposed 4,000 square foot primary/urgent care facility.
- The proposed development borders the Sycamore Square master development to the north, east, and west. This project was rezoned for the purpose of a mixed-use, multifamily, and commercial development (RZ 20-002). The subject parcel was excluded from this rezoning; however, it is required to connect to the master development via interparcel access. The property to the east of the subject parcel received design review board approval (DRB-CBD 20-00703) for a Lidl grocery store. No other pieces of the Sycamore Square project have gone through the design board approval process.
- Per RZ 20-002 condition #10, interparcel access is required from the Sycamore Square project. There is an existing curb cut with an access drive from parcel 7-306-049. The existing access drive is located towards the front half of the subject property.
- The exterior of the proposed project is primarily brick with architectural panel accents on the upper facade. Awnings are present over the glass storefront areas. A metal and board and batten cornice tops the structure. Glass windows and doors line the base of the structure.
- The applicant has submitted two options for site layouts. Exhibit 1, which is preferred by staff, locates the building along Nelson Brogdon, with parking at the rear of the property. This layout most aligns with the spirit and intent of the CBD regulations and design of the adjacent master development. This layout will require coordination with the adjacent property owner in order to provide interparcel access.
- Exhibit 3 is the applicant's preferred layout, which utilizes an existing entrance to the adjacent development. This orientation locates the parking along the street, with the building to the rear of the property. This layout directly contradicts the goals of the Central Business District; placing the parking along Highway 20 promotes a strip-mall like style of development as opposed to the pedestrian-oriented guidelines of the CBD regulations.
- The applicant has requested several variances relating to the site design. Both submitted site plans would require the following variance approvals:

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- o Remove Requirement for One Tree for Each 10 Spaces on the interior of the parking lot (BLT 4.3.1.B). The applicant has expressed inability to accommodate the anticipated parking needs of the proposed use while providing the required tree units. The applicant has proposed exploring alternative landscaping alternatives.
- o Remove requirement that buildings shall be set back from the right of way between 0 and 12 feet (ZO Section 1002 E.1.III). An existing power easement extends 15' into the property; therefore, preventing the building to be located between 0'-12' off of the right-of-way as required by the Zoning Ordinance. Exhibit 1 located the building toward the front of the property with the building setback off of the proposed landscape strip adjacent to the power easement. Exhibit 3 locates the building towards the rear of the property. This would require a significant departure from the 0' to 12' building setback provided for the CBD with the building being setback at least 75' from the right-of-way.
- For the site plan preferred by the applicant, labeled Exhibit 3, an additional variance requested is as follows:
 - Remove requirement for parking to be located to the rear of the businesses they serve (ZO Section 1002 E.3.VII). The applicant has stated inability to place parking at the rear of the property due to site constraints. Staff is not recommending approval of this variance request.
- Additional variances relating to the architectural requirements of the TCO and CBD not outlined in the Letter of Intent would be required per the site plan and elevations submitted by the applicant.
 - O The submitted elevations include several awnings at the entrance and side building. Per the applicant, the awnings shown on elevation tag 2/4 are 35' in length. The awning shown on elevation tag 5 is 20' in length. The awning shown on elevation tag 6 is 44' in length. All of the awnings depicted project 5 feet off of the building. Per our Zoning Ordinance (Section 1002 E.2.IX), awnings must project a minimum of 42" from the building. Awnings are limited to segments of eight feet (8') in length.
 - O The submitted elevations lack the required front and rear entrances for the public (ZO Section 1002 E.3.VIII). This variance is applicable to the design of the structure for both site layouts. As proposed, the building features only one public entrance facing towards the parking area.
 - o The proposed elevations include a glazing percentage on the main entrance at approximately 30% (Tag 2/4), the rear elevation includes approximately 10% of glazing (Tag 6), and both side elevations at approximately 10% (Tags 5, 7). Per the Zoning Ordinance (Section 1002 E.2.IV), a minimum of 50% of all street facing facades on the ground level shall be transparent through windows and doors.
 - o The submitted elevations shown on Exhibit 3 place the dumpsters in the front yard of the building, adjacent to Highway 20. The Zoning Ordinance (Section 608 A.5.a) requires that dumpsters be located behind the principal building they serve. The visibility of the dumpster from the street, as depicted in Exhibit 3, will detract from the overall goals and aesthetics of the CBD overlay, despite being screened with a brick enclosure. Staff is not recommending approval of this variance request.

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APPLICANT: Frank Pittman

PROPERTY OWNER: MLC Sugar Hill LLC

EXISTING ZONING: General Business (BG) within the

Town Center Overlay District (TCO), and Central Business Overlay District (CBD).

REQUEST: Design review approval, New medical clinic

PROPERTY SIZE: ± 0.34 Acres, Tax Parcel #: R7-306-102

LOCATION: 5243 Nelson Brogdon Blvd. Sugar Hill, GA, 30518

DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Is the proposed project consistent with the adopted design guidelines for the type of development, and/or the proposed use?

Yes. The proposed improvements generally conform to the guidelines in scale and overall architectural type of the Central Business District as well as the existing zoning. Staff's preferred site layout, Exhibit 1, would most closely align with the spirit and intent of the CBD overlay.

2. Is the proposed project consistent and compatible with the nature and character of the surrounding areas?

The proposed designs are consistent with the adopted vision and emerging character of Downtown Sugar Hill as well as the existing zoning. The materials and general aesthetic of the building is similar to those proposed nearby, such as the Tessa Retail component, the Lidl grocery store, and the HomeSpun restaurant/retail plaza at the corner of Nelson Brogdon.

3. Are the site design, landscaping, general design, character, arrangement and scale of buildings, texture, materials and colors of the project similar to or compatible with features or structures in the area.

The proposed elevations and conceptual site plans are compatible in scale, material selection, and general design character with the neighboring properties.

4. Will the interior arrangement or use have any effect on exterior architectural features and otherwise complies with the standards of this ordinance?

No.

- 5. Does the project contribute or resemble the following criteria for considering a design inappropriate?
 - a. Character foreign to the area.
 - b. Arresting and spectacular effects.

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- c. Violent contrasts of material or color, or intense or lurid colors.
- d. A multiplicity or incongruity of details resulting in a restless and disturbing appearance.
- e. The absence of unity and coherence in composition not in consonance with the density and character of the present structure or surrounding area.

The adoption of Exhibits 1 and 2 would not be inappropriate for the surrounding area.

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DESIGN REVIEW APPLICATION

nter Överlay Central Business District	
APPLICANT INFORMATION Address: 1050 Barber Creek Drive	
Bldg. 400	
Watkinsville, GA 30677	
ROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION	
Merchant Address: 2877 Major Ridge Trl	
Duluth GA 30097-4986	
CONTACT INFORMATION Phone: 706-318-7722	
Email: cahogan@cloverleaf-construction.com	
rs, all property owners must fill out separate applications.	
PROPERTY INFORMATION	
levard	
eage: <u>0.344</u>	
iption of the request:	
entry into the property and parking in between the	
ew of building elevations.	
DATE SIGNATURE OF PROPERTY OWNER DATE	
entry into the property and parking in between the ew of building elevations.	



Design Review Plan for a 4,000 SF Medical Office at 5243 Nelson Brogdon Boulevard

To: Planning and Development Department, City of Sugar Hill

From: Frank Pittman, PE

Date: 06/19/2024 revised 11/04/2024

Project Overview

This design review plan is submitted for the proposed construction of a medical office, located at 5243 Nelson Brogdon Boulevard, Sugar Hill, GA ("subject parcel"). The property, identified as tax parcel #7306-102, lies within the City of Sugar Hill corporate boundaries and is zoned General Business (BG), with overlays of the Central Business District and Town Center. The intended use for this property, a Primary/Urgent Care facility, is classified under office or pharmacy use and is permitted within the Central Business District Overlay.

The previous entrance to the subject parcel has been removed and now requires an inter-parcel connection with the adjacent development. The approved construction plans for the adjacent development shows the inter-parcel connection toward the front portion of the subject parcel. This inter-parcel connection has already been constructed per those plans and enters into the subject property near the front of the property. The subject parcel also has a power easement that extends 15' into the property from the power pole along the right-of-way. Due to these constraints, Pittman & Greer Engineering has created two concept plans for consideration.

The 4,000-sf one-story medical office footprint is designed to provide essential healthcare services, including both primary and urgent care. The building design includes patient examination rooms, treatment areas, administrative offices, and support spaces such as reception and waiting areas. The site design includes sidewalks, parking, ADA accessible access, dumpsters, and landscaping around the perimeter of the property.

The building will adhere to the aesthetic and functional requirements set forth in the Central Business District and Town Center Overlays, ensuring it complements the surrounding architecture and enhances the local business environment.

Design Proposal: CP01 (Preferred Plan)

The building will be located at the back of the property and will match the inter-parcel connection location of the approved construction plans of the adjacent development that has already been constructed. This design will require three waiver requests.

Waiver Requests

To facilitate the optimal function and accessibility of the medical office, we are requesting the following waivers:

Remove Requirement for Parking to be Located to the Rear of the Businesses They Serve

The location of the inter-parcel connection from the adjacent development, combined with an existing easement at the front of the parcel, leaves the property owner unable to meet the standard of placing parking at the rear of the business. Front-placed parking ensures better visibility, accessibility, and security for patients and staff, fostering a safer and more welcoming environment. This arrangement also facilitates smoother traffic flow and easier access for emergency vehicles.

2. Remove Requirement for One Tree for Each 10 Spaces on the Interior of the Parking Lot

Due to the limited area available for parking, accommodating the mandated tree placement within the parking lot interior is infeasible. The spatial constraints necessitate maximizing the number of parking spaces to serve the facility's expected patient volume adequately. To maintain the aesthetic and environmental benefits typically provided by these trees, alternative landscaping solutions will be explored, such as perimeter planting and the integration of green spaces at strategic points around the property.

3. Waiver to Remove the Requirement that Buildings Shall Be Set Back from the Right-of-Way Between Zero (0) and Twelve (12) Feet:

Similar issues affecting the parking location apply to the building setback requirement. The existing easement at the front of the parcel necessitates an alternative setback arrangement. To ensure compliance with safety and operational needs while maintaining the integrity of the site's design, we propose a greater setback than the current zero (0) to twelve (12) feet requirement. This adjustment will allow for optimal use of the space, incorporating necessary parking and access routes without compromising the building's functionality or aesthetics.

Design Proposal: CP02

The building will be located at the front of the property but will require coordination with the adjacent developer to move the inter-parcel connection that has already been constructed. This will also require cooperation from adjacent developer to revise the existing access easement to the property. Without these two very important items being amended, this plan is not constructable. This design will require two waiver requests.

Waiver Requests

To facilitate the optimal function and accessibility of the medical office, we are requesting the following waivers:

1. Remove Requirement for One Tree for Each 10 Spaces on the Interior of the Parking Lot

Due to the limited area available for parking, accommodating the mandated tree placement within the parking lot interior is infeasible. The spatial constraints necessitate maximizing the number of parking spaces to serve the facility's expected patient volume adequately. To maintain the aesthetic and environmental benefits typically

provided by these trees, alternative landscaping solutions will be explored, such as perimeter planting and the integration of green spaces at strategic points around the property.

2. Waiver to Remove the Requirement that Buildings Shall Be Set Back from the Right-of-Way Between Zero (0) and Twelve (12) Feet:

The existing easement at the front of the parcel necessitates an alternative setback arrangement. To ensure compliance with safety and operational needs while maintaining the integrity of the site's design, we propose a greater setback than the current zero (0) to twelve (12) feet requirement. The building cannot be built in the power easement and therefore this requirement cannot be met.

Conclusion

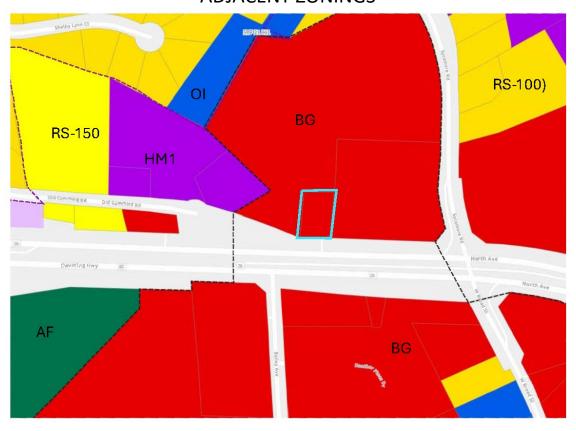
We are committed to developing a medical office that meets the needs of the community while complying with local zoning regulations. We believe that the two concept plans presented provide the Planning and Development Department's with acceptable design alternatives to best develop this site. The requested waivers for these two design options will not only enhance the functionality and safety of the facility but also contribute positively to the overall development of the Central Business District. Our client's preference is to build CP01 because the orientation of the building will allow easy access for patients receiving emergency services by entering the front of the building, and the design option will not cause further delay for the adjacent developer to change their approved plans. We respectfully request the Planning and Development Department's approval of the concept plan and waivers to proceed with the permit process of the medical office.

Thank you for your consideration.

Exhibit – Existing Constructed Inter-Parcel Connection



DRB-CBD 24-004 Frank Pittman Design Review Approval BG/CBD Primary/Urgent Care Facility ADJACENT ZONINGS



DRB-CBD 24-004 Frank Pittman Design Review Approval BG/CBD Primary/Urgent Care Facility AERIAL



ASPHALT PAVING

ACCESSIBLE

- ADA ACCESSIBLE RAMP TYPE B

1-STORY BUILDING

(4113 SF)

GEORGIA HIGHWAY 20

(AKA NELSON BROGDON BOULEVARD & CUMMING HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY VARIES

MULCH OR PINE STRAW BED

- EX. LIGHT POLE (BASE ONLY)

PARKING STALL

— CONCRETE PAVING

∠ 24" CURB AND GUTTER.

DUMPSTER WITH -

COORDINATE REMOVAL OF EX. -

CONCRETE WITH ADJACENT

S87°59'38"E 7.48'

PR. SIDEWALK TO TIE —

INTO EX. SIDEWALK

EX. WATER VALVE

AND BOX (TYP.)

PARCEL 7306 051

FRANKLIN INVESTMENT GROUP, LLC

ZONED BG

/ ENCLOSURE

VICINITY MAP - NOT TO SCALE

PARKING DATA

REQUIRED PARKING: 8 SPACES MEDICAL OFFICE = 1 SPACE/500 SF. OF GROSS FLOOR AREA

(3831.33/500) = 7.76 MINIMUM REQUIRED SPACES

LLOWED PARKING: 25 SPACES MEDICAL OFFICE = 1 SPACE/150 SF. OF GROSS FLOOR AREA (3881.97/150) = 25.88 MAXIMUM ALLOWED SPACES

PROPOSED PARKING: 15 SPACES

STANDARD SURFACE: 15 (9'X18', 1 OF THOSE ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE)

PROPOSED BUILDING AREA: 4,222.19 SF.

BUILDING DATA

PARCEL 7306 049

LIDL US OPERATIONS, LLC

─ 6' SIDEWALK TO TIE

INTO EX. SIDEWALK

- 6' SIDEWALK TO TIE

INTO EX. SIDEWALK

30' GEORGIA POWER COMPANY

403.34' ALONG R/W TO A CONCRETE MONUMENT FOUND AT THE NORTHERLY END OF THE MITERED R/W INTERSECTION

POLE LINE) D.B. 52654, PG. 315

BETWEEN GA. HWY 20 & SYCAMORE ROAD.

EASEMENT (15' FROM DISTRIBUTION

DESIGN REVIEW CONCEPT PLAN NOTES

- DIMENSIONS AS SHOWN ARE TO THE FACE OF CURB, IF PRESENT, OR TO THE EDGE OF PAVEMENT, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. BUILDING DIMENSIONS ARE SHOWN TO THE OUTSIDE FACE OF STRUCTURE.
- ALL CURB RADII SHALL BE 3.5' UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED ON THE ALL PLANTINGS SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 1997 BUFFER, LANDSCAPE, TREE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SUGAR HILL
- ZONING ORDINANCE. SIGNAGE FOR THE PROJECT WILL REQUIRE SEPARATE PERMITS. DETAILS PERTAINING TO SIGN DESIGN, INCLUDING: SIZE, LOCATION, AND CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE CITY OF SUGAR HILL PLANNING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL PRIOR TO ERECTION. ALL SIGNS SHALL BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CITY OF SUGAR HILL ZONING ORDINANCE AT THE TIME THE PERMITS ARE REQUESTED.
- ALL EXISTING UTILITIES AS ILLUSTRATED ON THE PLAN ARE APPROXIMATELY LOCATED.
- ALL PROPOSED UTILITIES AS ILLUSTRATED ON THE PLAN SHALL BE
- LOCATED WITHIN UTILITY EASEMENTS AS APPLICABLE. STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL COUNTY, STATE, AND OTHER APPLICABLE ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

WAIVER REQUESTS

- EX. 30" CURB AND GUTTER

1. REMOVE REQUIREMENT FOR ONE TREE FOR EACH 10 SPACES ON THE INTERIOR OF THE PARKING LOT. CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT OVERLAY

2. REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT BUILDINGS SHALL BE SET BACK FROM THE RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN ZERO (0) AND TWELVE (12) FEET.

R7306 089

PROPERTY OWNER:

MLC SUGAR HILL LLC 2877 MAJOR RIDGE TRL DULUTH, GEORGIA 30097 ATTN: SALIM MERCHANT, 706-340-5599

MLC SUGAR HILL LLC

DEVELOPER:

2877 MAJOR RIDGE TRL DULUTH, GEORGIA 30097 ATTN: SALIM MERCHANT, 706-340-5599 Ш

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ISSUE PURPOSE

DESIGN REVIEW

AUTHORIZED AGENT:

PITTMAN & GREER ENGINEERING P.C. 1050 BARBER CREEK DRIVE, BLDG. 400 WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA 30677 706.419.9244

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 5243 NELSON BROGDON BLVD.

TAX PARCEL: R7306 102

TOTAL PROJECT ACREAGE: 0.3443 ACRES (14,996.00 SF.)

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 1' NOAA.

BOUNDARY SURVEY: THIS DRAWING WAS PREPARED USING A PERCISION PLANNING INC. BOUNDARY RETRACEMENT SURVEY FOR SYNOVUS BANK, DATED 04/20/2023 AND THE APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF SYCAMORE SQUARE MASTER DEVELOPMENT FOR FRANKLIN INVESTMENT GROUP, DATED 03/15/2021.

EXISTING ZONING: BG

EXISTING USE: CONVENIENCE STORE WITH GAS PUMPS

PROPOSED USE: MEDICAL OFFICE

FLOOD PLAIN: SUBJECT PROPERTIES ARE WITHIN AREAS HAVING ZONE DESIGNATION OF ZONE X, DETERMINED TO BE OUTSIDE THE 0.2% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOODPLAIN PER FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP NO. 13135C0014G, WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF 03/04/20213, FOR

THERE ARE NO STATE WATERS ONSITE, NOR WITHIN 200' OF THE SITE.

COMMUNITY PANEL NUMBER 130447, (CITY OF SUGAR HILL), GEORGIA.

THERE ARE NO WETLANDS DELINEATED ON SITE.

ZONING REGULATIONS

MINIMUM LOT AREA (WITH SEWER): 40,000 SF. MINIMUM LOT WIDTH (WITH SEWER): 60' BUILD TO LINE: 0' TO 12' MINIMUM SIDE YARD: NA

/INIMUM REAR YARD: NA MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT: 70' MAXIMUM LOT COVERAGE: NA

SERVICE PROVIDERS

WATER: GWINNETT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SANITARY SEWER: GWINNETT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES ELECTRIC: WALTON EMC

COMMUNICATION: AT&T & CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS GAS: ATLANTA GAS LIGHT COMPANY

STORM SEWER: CITY OF SUGAR HILL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SOLID WASTE: BY PRIVATE CONTRACT

SITE DRAINAGE

CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER AND COUNTY APPROVED PIPE WILL BE EMPLOYED TO COLLECT AND DIVERT SURFACE WATER TO THE EXISTING WEIR INLET IN THE RIGHT OF WAY.

PLANT LEGEND

SERVICE BERRY

■ EASTERN REDBUD

PINK FLOWERING DOGWOOD

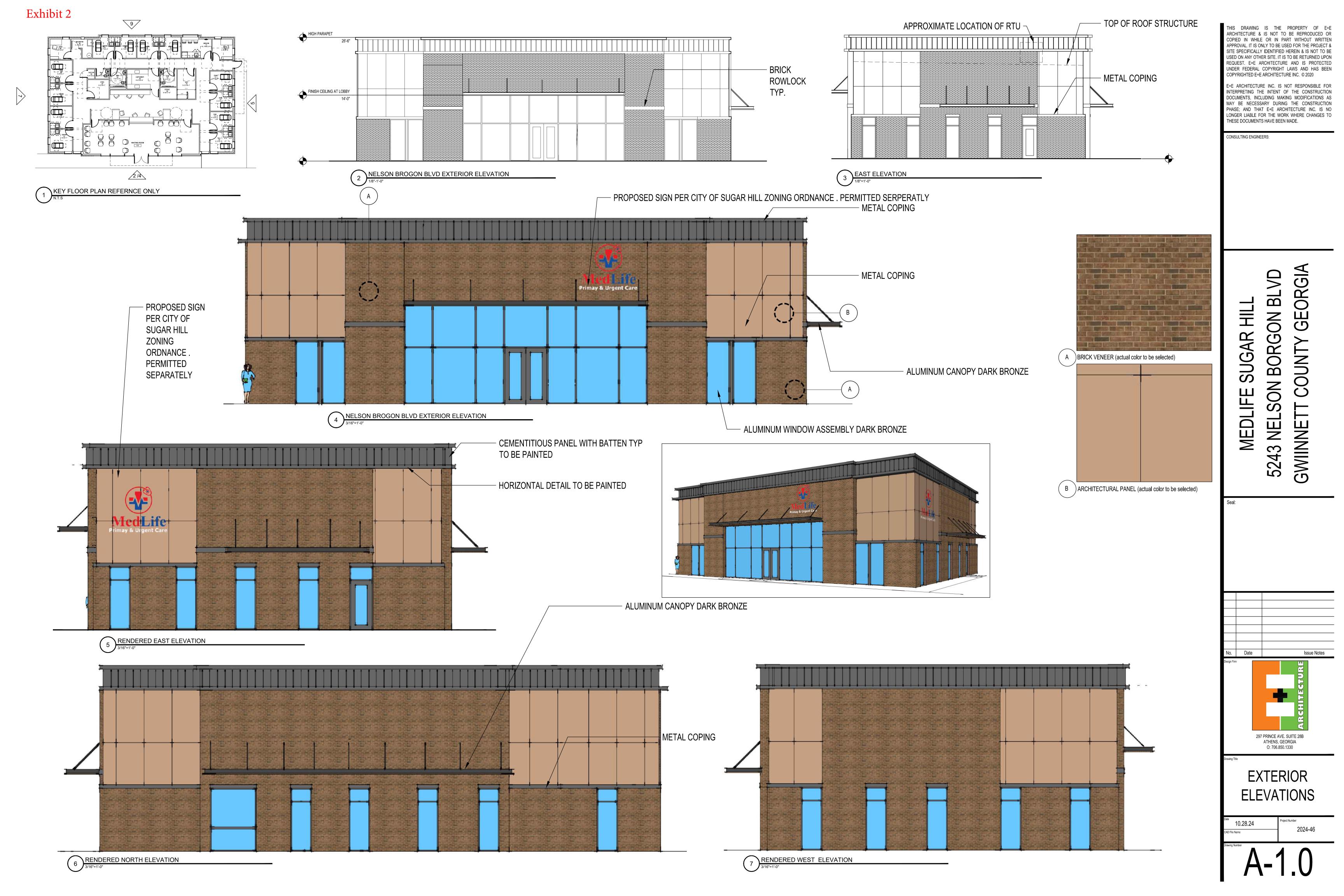
CONSTELLATION DOGWOOD

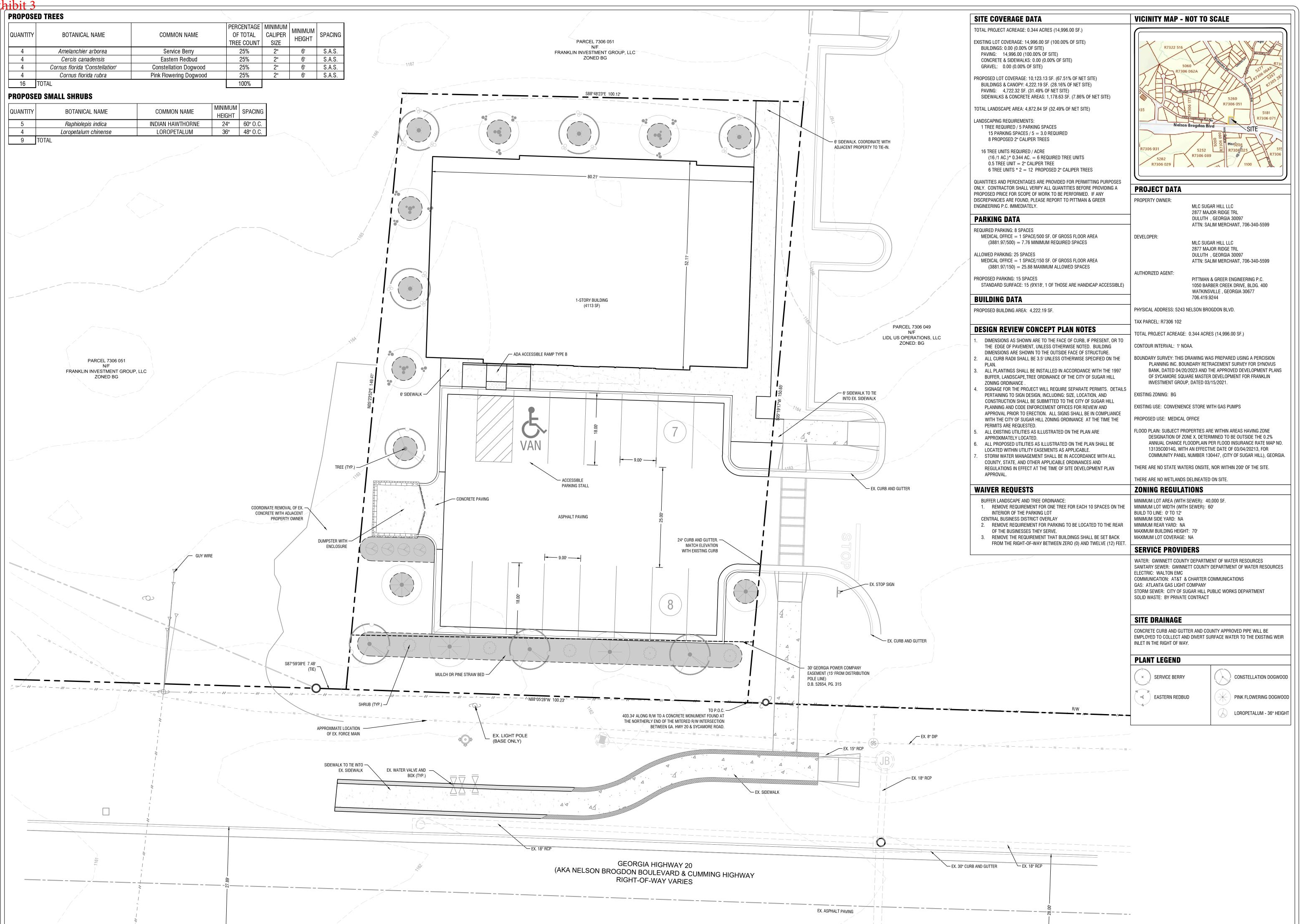
LOROPETALUM - 36" HEIGHT

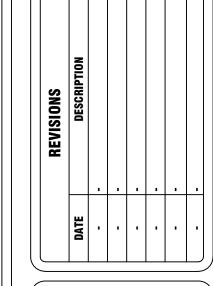
11/01/2024

DESIGN REVIEW CONCEPT PLAN

PROJECT NUMBER 2024-008

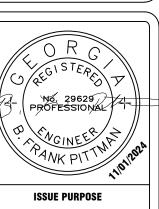




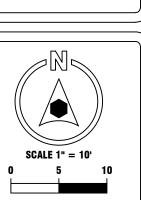




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DESIGN REVIEW



PROJECT NUMBER



11/01/2024

DESIGN REVIEW CONCEPT PLAN