

April 2, 2020

Re: City of Camden Zoning Board of Adjustment

Dear Sir/Madam:

Please accept this letter as an update regarding the scheduling of all pending City of Camden Planning and Zoning Board matters. The Department of Planning and Development is now asking ALL pending applicants to agree to an extension of time within which the respective board, either Planning or Zoning, must act for a period of up to sixty days from April 1, 2020. This additional time is needed as the Planning and Zoning Boards are having to cancel meetings and are actively attempting to coordinate an ability, to the extent possible, to adapt to remote meeting capabilities.

In light of the dangers imposed by COVID-19, the Governor issued Executive Order No. 103 on March 9th, which declared both a public health emergency and a state emergency. Most recently, the Governor issued an Executive Order which limits all gatherings of persons in the State of New Jersey to ten persons or fewer and urges all citizens to practice social distancing. The CDC has defined social distancing as the practice of “remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters from others when possible).

It is acknowledged that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, et seq., the “Open Public Meeting Act”, public meetings may be held by means of communication equipment, N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b), to include streaming services and other online meeting platforms. However, it also requests the City provide means of public comment when a meeting is held remotely. The City of Camden is not currently equipped with the technology required to ensure that the public would be provided with a meaningful way to provide public comment and for cross-examination if necessary. In addition, the City municipal offices are currently closed, which prevents the public from gaining access to pending applications that are on file with the Department of Planning and Development.

In light of these facts, and in an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Department of Planning and Development is asking all pending applicants to agree to an extension of time within which the Planning and Zoning Board must act for a period of sixty days from April 1, 2020. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Kyle F. Eingorn, Esquire via email (keingorn@dbblegal.com) or at (856) 354-8866.

Please email me back an acknowledgement of your approval and consent.

Your courtesy is extremely appreciated at this unprecedented time, and we will provide updates as the situation continues to evolve.

Very truly yours,

Director of Planning and Development
City of Camden