



# ST. TAMMANY PARISH

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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*Kevin Davis*

*Parish President*

## BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT VARIANCE/APPEAL REQUEST (APPLICATION FORM & SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS)

- A.) In order to apply for a variance/appeal request, a building permit official or a qualified member of the planning department must have either: denied a permit application request to an individual; indicated to same that a violation of land use zoning law would occur if the individual filed for a permit, or that an individual was aggrieved by an adverse determination made by a parish official relative to the interpretation of code pertaining specifically to Land Use Regulation Ordinance No. 523.
- B.) The variance/appeal application form (attached) should be filled out and completed by the applicant and returned, either in person (preferred), or by mail to: St. Tammany Parish Planning Department, c/o Ron Keller, Senior Planner, P.O. Box 628, Covington, Louisiana 70434.
- C.) To make application, the applicant **MUST** remit a completed application form along with the following additional items or documentation, if applicable, in order to support the variance/appeal request:
- The applicant must be specific when filling out the application as to what is being asked for relative to the variance(s) requested, (e.g. a variance for a front yard setback from 25' required by the parish, to 20' requested by the applicant).
  - A survey and/or site plan neatly drawn to scale on no larger than (11" x 17") paper, with a north arrow, depicting all structures and improvements on the property as well as any other proposed structures or improvements relative to the violation of parish law.
  - A brief written narrative describing the specific circumstances of the request that the applicant feels would warrant a variance/appeal being granted by Board of Adjustment.
  - A copy of the denied building permit, if applicable.
  - An original signed and dated letter of no objection from the adjacent property owner(s), if attainable, affected by the applicant's variance/appeal request.
  - An original signed and dated approval letter from the authorized agent of the homeowners association, if applicable.
  - Submission of any pictures or additional information or documentation in order to facilitate support for the applicant's variance/appeal request.
- D.) Application Fee Schedule:

Standard Variance/Appeal Request .....	\$200.00
(After the Fact) Variance/Appeal Request .....	\$500.00

BOA CASE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (for office use only)

**ST. TAMMANY PARISH BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT  
(VARIANCE/APPEAL APPLICATION FORM)**

*(Please print on the following lines below:)*

**APPLICANTS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home Phone #) (Cell Phone #)

**PROPERTY LOCATION FOR VARIANCE REQUESTED: ZONING:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address	City	State	Subdivision (if applicable)
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*(Please check the applicable boxes below:)*

- REQUEST FOR:**
- A variance of Land Use Regulation Ordinance No. 523.
  - Appeal of an adverse decision made by a parish official(s).
  - Appeal the interpretation by a parish official(s) of Land Use Regulation Ordinance No. 523.

**VARIANCE/APPEAL REQUESTED:**

- building setbacks (reduction of front, side and/or rear yard setbacks)
- landscape buffers (reduction of front, side and/or rear yard buffer setbacks)
- landscaping within buffers (reduction of the number of trees, bushes and/or shrubs)
- parking area requirements (reduction of parking stalls, parking greenspace islands, etc...)
- signage requirements (increase of sign area and/or sign height, lighting, coloring, etc...)
- other \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify other variance/appeal on line above)

*(Please state on the following lines below your specific request for a variance/appeal:)*

Example: Applicant is requesting a variance for a front yard setback requirement from 25' required by the parish, to approximately 20' requested.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE OF APPLICATION**

## **POWERS OF THE BOARD TO GRANT VARIANCES/APPEALS**

The St. Tammany Parish Board of Adjustment is limited in its power to grant variance/appeal requests as mandated by State and Parish Law. The board must consider the following in order to determine if a variance/appeal is eligible for granting:

1. ***Is the variance/appeal request self-imposed?***  
Variances/appeals may not be granted by the board if the request is considered a “personal preference”.
2. ***Does the variance/appeal request constitute a financial hardship?***  
Variances/appeals may not be granted by the board if the request is considered strictly a financial hardship.
3. ***Does the variance/appeal request present an unpractical difficulty or unnecessary hardship?***  
If the applicant can prove through testimony and presentation of factual documentation and/or evidence to the board that an impractical difficulty or unnecessary hardship would be imposed if a variance/appeal was not granted, then the board may consider granting the variance/appeal request.
4. ***Does the variance/appeal request impose an adverse effect on the adjacent neighbors property or surrounding neighborhood?***  
If the variance/appeal request adversely effects an adjacent property owner and/or the surrounding neighborhood in general, and testimony is forthcoming from same that can proven within reason that an adverse affect would be imposed, the board may decide not to grant the applicant’s variance/appeal request.
5. ***Will the granting of the variance/appeal request constitute establishing a precedent?***  
The board may deny the granting of a variance/appeal request which may result in the establishment of a dangerous or unfavorable precedent to the parish.