

COUNCIL WORKSHOP ITEM

ITEM: Zoning Commission Case 2001-02, a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that would allow churches to request exceptions to the Lot and Bulk Regulations of Article XI of the Zoning Ordinance if strict compliance substantially burdens the exercise of religion; St. Mary's of Gostyn Church, Petitioner; James Russ Jr., Attorney and Agent.

DATE: July 3, 2001

PREPARED BY: Amanda G. Browne, Planner
Department of Planning Services

PURPOSE: To consider the recommendation of the Zoning Commission to approve the proposed Text Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance.

DISCUSSION:

The Zoning Commission conducted a public hearing on May 24, 2001 to consider a proposed text amendment that would allow churches to request consideration of exceptions from the strict compliance with the Lot and Bulk Regulations of Article XI of the Zoning Ordinance, if it is found that strict compliance would substantially burden the exercise of religion.

As outlined in the attached Staff Memorandum dated May 18, 2001, churches are listed as a Special Use within the residential zoning districts. The ability for churches to seek such relief is proposed to be structured under the provisions of the Special Use regulations, which require a public hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals, and ultimate approval by the Village Council.

The Zoning Commission voted by a vote of 5:0:1 (with one abstention) to forward a positive recommendation with respect to the proposed amendment.

ATTACHMENTS:

Correspondence to Mayor and Council from Chairman Lawrence Musilak, dated July 3, 2001.
Staff Memorandum dated May 18, 2001 regarding the proposed amendment.
Minutes excerpt of the May 24, 2001 Zoning Commission public hearing.

RECOMMENDATION:

To place consideration of an Ordinance authorizing the proposed text amendment on a future Active Agenda.