FEB 02 2021

### CITY OF PROVIDENCE ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW

### APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE OR SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Check Each Type Zoning Relief Sought:	Variance – Use *  Variance – Dimensional*  Special Use Permit **
* Attach Appendix A to apply for a Use or Dimensional	Variances
**Attach Appendix B to apply for a Special Use Permit	941 Dyer Avenue
Applicant: Blackstone Slater LLC	Address Cranston, RI 02920
E-mail cbilotti@naiadvisors.com	Zip Code
	(401) 499-1506
Phone (401)214 - 2434 Home/Office	Mobile (Cell)
Trome, Office	941 Dyer Avenue
Owner: Blackstone Slater LLC	Address Cranston, RI
	Zip Code 02920
E-mail cbilotti@naiadvisors.com	4
Phone (401) 214-2434	_(401) 499-1506
Home/Office	Mobile (Cell)
Lessee:	A diduces
Lessee:	AddressZip Code
E-mail	Zip Code
Phone:	
Phone: Home/Office	Mobile (Cell)
Does the proposal require review by any of the follow  Downtown Design Review Committee  I-195 Redevelopment District Commiss Capital Center Commission Historic District Commission	
1. Location of Property: 275 Slater Avenue, Pro	vidence, Rhode Island
2. Zoning District(s):  Special purpose or overlay district(s):	
3a. Date owner purchased the Property: Novem	nber 5, 2019
3b. Month/year of lessee's occupancy:	

3.	Dimensions of each lot:				
	Lot # 1 Frontage	72.45' d	epth 149.82'	Total area 10,871	sq. ft.
	Lot # Frontage	d	epth	Total area	sq. ft.
	Lot # 1 Frontage Frontage Lot # Frontage Frontage	d	epth	Total area	sq. ft.
4.	Size of each structure located				
	Principal Structure:	Total a	gross square fo		
	Footprint		Height	Floors	
	Accessory Structure: To Footprint	tal gross sq	uare footage Height	Floors	
5.	Size of proposed structure(s): Footprint 2,3445	Total 1	gross square fo Height <u>30'</u>	otage:Floors _2	Postuk
ба.	Existing Lot coverage: (include	le all buildin	gs, decks, etc.)	n/a	-
6b.	Proposed Lot coverage: (inclu	ide new cons	truction) 21.5	56%	n-translatio
7a.	Present Use of Property (each vacant				
7b.	Legal Use of Property (each legisles fa	ot/structure imily dwelli	) as recorded in	n Dept. of Inspection &	Standards:
8.	Proposed Use of Property (ea single far	ch lot/struc nily dwellin	ture):		
9,	Number of Current Parking	Spaces:	n/a		
10.	Describe the proposed construction See Memo attached hereto as	uction or all Exhibit A	terations (each	lot/structure):	
11.	Are there outstanding violatic	e	ing the Proper	ty under any of the follo	owing:
	RI State Buildin Providence Hot				
12.	List all Sections of the Zonir section:	_	ce from which	relief is sought and de	scription of each
		no attached	hereto as Exhib	it A	

See Memo attached hereto as Exhibit	t A
	(s) that members of the Zoning Board of Review and its staff y in order to view the Property prior to any hearing on the
The undersigned further acknowledge(s) tha	t the statements herein and in any attachments or appendices false statement in this application may be subject to criminal
and/or civil penalties as provided by law,	including prosecution under the State and Municipal False tly responsible with their attorneys for any false statements.
and/or civil penalties as provided by law, Claims Acts. Owner(s)/Applicant(s) are join  Owner(s): Blackstone Slater, LLC	including prosecution under the State and Municipal False
and/or civil penalties as provided by law, Claims Acts. Owner(s)/Applicant(s) are join  Owner(s):	including prosecution under the State and Municipal False tly responsible with their attorneys for any false statements.
and/or civil penalties as provided by law, Claims Acts. Owner(s)/Applicant(s) are join  Owner(s): Blackstone Slater, LLC By: The Bilotti Group, Inc., Its Manager	including prosecution under the State and Municipal False tly responsible with their attorneys for any false statements.  Applicant(s):
and/or civil penalties as provided by law, Claims Acts. Owner(s)/Applicant(s) are join  Owner(s): Blackstone Slater, LLC By: The Bilotti Group, Inc., Its Manager  Type Name  By: X	including prosecution under the State and Municipal False tly responsible with their attorneys for any false statements.  Applicant(s):  Type Name

All requirements listed and described in the Instruction Sheet must be met or this application will not be considered complete.

### APPENDIX A

### APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE(S)

Rhode Island General Laws § 45-24-41(c) requires that the Applicant for a variance demonstrate:

- (1) That the hardship from which the applicant seeks relief is due to the unique characteristics of the subject land or structure and not to the general characteristics of the surrounding area; and is not due to a physical or economic disability of the applicant, excepting those physical disabilities addressed in § 45-24-30(16);
- (2) That the hardship is not the result of any prior action of the applicant and does not result primarily from the desire of the applicant to realize greater financial gain;
- (3) That the granting of the requested variance will not alter the general character of the surrounding area or impair the intent or purpose of the zoning ordinance or the comprehensive plan upon which the ordinance is based;
- (4) That the relief to be granted is the least relief necessary; and
- (5) (a) For a use variance: That the land or structure cannot yield any beneficial use if it is required to conform to the provisions of the zoning ordinance;
  - (b) For a dimensional variance, that the hardship suffered by the owner of the subject property if the dimensional variance is not granted amounts to more than a mere inconvenience.

### Please provide the following information:

	pecify any and all unique characteristics of the land or	r structure t	hat cause the hardship?
	See Memo attached hereto as Exhibit A		
(:	a) Is the hardship caused by an economic disability?	Yes	No_x_
(	b) Is the hardship caused by a physical disability?	Yes	No <u>x</u>
(	c) If the response to subsection (b) is "yes," is the physwith Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 121 Yes No		ty covered by the Amer
		spect to the	Property that resulted i

	primarily in order to obtain greater financial gain.  See Memo attached hereto as Exhibit A
<b>5.</b>	State any and all facts that support your position that you are seeking the least relief necessary to lessen or eliminate the hardship (for example, why there are no viable alternatives to your proposed plan).  See Memo attached hereto as Exhibit A
7.	If you are seeking a USE VARIANCE, set forth all facts that demonstrate that the Property cannot have any beneficial use if you are required to use it in a manner allowed in the zoning district.  n/a

### APPENDIX B

### APPLICATION(S) FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT

	hat demonstrate the of neighboring pro		sed special use	will not substa	entially injure th	1e use
State all facts neighboring pro	that demonstrate	that the pro	oposed special	use will not	significantly de	
	nat demonstrate th		ed special use v	vill not be detri	mental or injuri	ous to

IF THE APPLICANT IS AN EDUCATIONAL OR HEALTH CARE INSTITUTION, COMPLETE PAGES 10 AND 11 BELOW

### HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS OR EDUCATIONAL FACTILITIES ONLY

5.	Date on which you last filed an Institutional Master Plan ("IMP") with the City:
	Date on which the City issued final approval of your most recent IMP:
5.	Specify the manner in which the proposed use conforms with your IMP.
7.a.	Identify all dimensional requirements that apply to the proposed institutional use (you may refer to sections of the Ordinance).
b.	Does the proposed use comply with all the dimensional requirements listed above?
c.	Yes No  If your answer to subsection b is "no," state why the special use cannot be established without a dimensional variance.
8.	Identify the sections of the Ordinance that govern parking for the proposed use.
	Describe the manner in which the institution is providing for parking for the proposed use. (or attach proposed parking plan).

***************************************		
	posed use is in conformance we ces to the specific objectives of the	

## ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW CITY OF PROVIDENCE

IN RE:

Application of Blackstone Slater, LLC for dimensional variance

Property located at 275 Slater Ave, o/k/a AP 40, Lot 373

**Date Submitted:** 

February 1, 2021

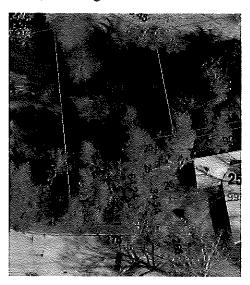
Hearing Date:

March 10, 2021

**NOW COMES**, Blackstone Slater, LLC, and hereby submit, by and through the undersigned, this Memorandum in Support of their Application for a Dimensional Variance. This lot was part of a major subdivision which was approved and recorded in October, 2019. *See* attached final plan approval and recorded plan as **Exhibit A**.

As part of the final plan, the surveyor set out the "average front setback along Slater" on the plans as 20.4 ft. See Exhibit A. The measurement is noted on Lot 275 on the final plan for reference. See Exhibit A. This measurement complies with the requirements of Zoning Ordinance Sec. 402(B) which establishes the "built-to zone."

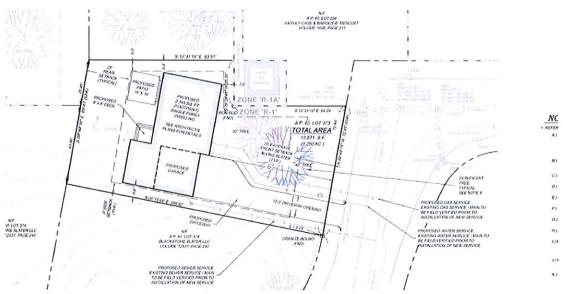
The lot is currently vacated, with vegetation at the front of the lot:



The unique configuration of the Property is further emphasized by outlining the unique configuration of 276 Blackstone Blvd, which lot has a small piece that cuts in to the Subject Property:



Blackstone Slater has a potential purchaser for the Property who would like to set the house back for landscaping and buffering purposes. *See* site plan submitted with application. At the original hearings on the subdivision, the neighbors expressed the concern in keeping the front of the lots wooded to minimize impact. In order to fit the garage and home on the lot, the plan is designed to set the house behind the remaining significant tree, which is required to remain per the Plan Commission approval. Accordingly, because of the unique shape and features of the lot, in that it becomes wider toward the rear of the lot, the house is to be placed in the wider rear portion of the lot, resulting in the requested relief from the build-to zone of 20.4 ft.



See submitted site plan. The house, as proposed on the plans, is proposed to be located 72.2 ft. into the lot, which lot has a total of almost 150 ft. of depth. The entirety of the structure will otherwise be constructed within the dimensional setbacks and the building envelope. See submitted site plan.

As set forth herein, and as will be shown at the hearing, the Application satisfies the standards for a dimensional variance, in that:

(1) The hardship from which the applicant seeks relief is due to the unique characteristics of the subject land or structure and not to the general characteristics of the surrounding area; and is not due to a physical or economic disability of the applicant, excepting those physical disabilities addressed in § 45-24-30(a)(16).

As noted above, the shape of the lot, and the retention of the tree in the front yard, necessitates the location of the house to the rear of the lot, where it has enough width to set the reasonably-sized home on the lot, away from view from the street and abutters. The unique configuration of the lot can be seen on the plans, as well as the tree that is to remain. The combination of those two constraints on construction led to the instant request for relief.

### (2) The hardship is not the result of any prior action of the applicant and does not result primarily from the desire of the applicant to realize greater financial gain;

The Courts have held that "the label [of self-created hardship] seems to be most properly employed where one acts in violation of an ordinance and then applies for a variance to relieve the illegality." Sciacca v. Caruso, 769 A.2d 578, 584 (R.I. 2001) citing 7 Patrick J. Rohan, Zoning and Land Use Controls § 43.02[6] at 43-66 (1998). Here, the Applicants believe it is good planning and design to place the structure toward the back of the lot, where it fits within the building envelope, and preserves the tree in the front of the lot. Additionally, such increased setback will lessen impact of a new home on the neighborhood, and not result in either an awkwardly shaped house, or undersized house which could devalue the neighborhood, or a number of side setback dimensional variances to wedge the home in toward the front of the lot.

# (3) The granting of the requested variance will not alter the general character of the surrounding area or impair the intent or purpose of the zoning ordinance or the comprehensive plan upon which the ordinance is based.

The dimensional variance is for a legally permitted use—a single family structure to be located at the lot, which is currently vacant. The proposed structure complies with all other dimensional requirements, and the design, in locating the structure to the rear of the lot where it will not be largely visible helps minimize the new structure's impact on the adjacent area. Additionally, the proposed home is one of several to be located on Slater Avenue, on a side of Slater that currently has all vacant (or under construction) lots.

### (4) The relief to be granted is the least relief necessary.

As is shown on the plan, the house is set back just inside of where the lot increases in width, and no more, allowing the house, patio and deck to still be within the building envelope and not encroaching on either side or rear setback requirements. Additionally, the house is set back just past the significant tree to remain.

### (5) The hardship suffered by the owner of the subject property if the dimensional variance is not granted amounts to more than a mere inconvenience.

Compliance with the 20.4' build-to front setback would require an oddly-shaped house or potentially one where only the garage is visible. The increased setback allows the house to be located where it is less visible from the street, providing more privacy to the owners, and less impact to adjacent neighbors, all while retaining the significant tree noted by the Plan Commission and not encroaching into setbacks with directly adjacent properties.

We look forward to presenting the request for relief before this Honorable Board and answering any questions or addressing any concerns you may have.

Blackstone Slater, LLC By its Attorney,

Joelle C. Rocha, Esq.

Duffy & Sweeney, LTD.

321 S. Main Street, Suite 400

Joelle C. Rocha

Providence, RI 02903

Tel: 401-455-0700 Fax: 401-455-0701

jrocha@duffysweeney.com

# EXHIBIT A



City Plan Commission Jorge O. Elorza, Mayor

# Decision of the City Plan Commission granting Final Plan Approval for Major Subdivision 18-028 MA at 280 and 288 Blackstone Boulevard and 325 Slater Ave

(AP 40 Lots 370, 371 and 372) October 25, 2019

Doc No: 00240282 Book:12525 Pase

197

Owner:

Nicholson 2018 LLC

c/o Thomas Nicholson 440 Conant Road Weston MA 02493

Applicant: The Bilotti Group Inc

941 Dyer Ave Cranston Ri 02920

The City Plan Commission (CPC) granted preliminary plan approval of the subject major subdivision at a meeting on February 19, 2019 and delegated final plan approval to the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) who approve the plan based on the findings of fact and conditions of approval noted below.

### **Project Overview**

The subject property is zoned R-1 and R-1A and is composed of three lots with a combined area of approximately 3 acres. The main residential building is located on 288 Blackstone Boulevard (AP 40 Lot 370) which measures 129,182 SF. The lots at 280 Blackstone Boulevard (AP 40 Lot 371) and 325 Slater Ave (AP 40 Lot 372) measure 16,702 SF and 76,988 SF respectively. Lots 370 and 371 will remain unchanged. Lot 372 will be subdivided into 6 buildable lots in the R-1 zone.

### **Findings of Fact**

The DPD made the following findings of fact in accordance with section 806 of the CPC's development review regulations:

1. Consistency with Providence Tomorrow: The Comprehensive Plan
The subject property is located in an area that the Future Land Use Map of Providence Tomorrow:
The Comprehensive Plan has designated for single-family residential development, which is intended for the construction of single-family residences on separate lots with an area typically between 3,200 and 6,000 SF. The subdivision conforms to the comprehensive plan as the resultant lots would be in conformance with the development intended by this land use designation and would be similar to existing residential development surrounding the site. Each lot would exceed the typically observed lot size within this designation, with no lot smaller than 10,000 SF. This would be in character with

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this portion of Blackstone Boulevard that is characterized by large lot single-family residential development.

### 2. Compliance with Zoning Ordinance

The DPD finds that the proposed lots would meet the minimum dimensional requirements for lots in the R-1 and R-1A zones. Lots 370 and 371 are located in the R-1A zone and measure 35,492 SF and 16,702 SF respectively and provide more than the required 75 foot frontage. Lot 372 measures 76,988 SF and is located in the R-1 zone where the minimum size for new lots is 5,000 SF with 50 feet of frontage. The lot will be subdivided into 6 lots that will exceed the minimum dimensional requirements for the zone.

The DPD finds that all proposed lots will meet and exceed the minimum dimensional requirements for their respective zones.

### 3. Environmental Impact

The plan identifies all onsite trees and their diameter. Per the plan, site landscaping is composed of a mix of small, medium and large trees, which are color coded according to their status. Significant trees that will be preserved are shaded green. Significant trees that are recommended for removal based on the City Forester's opinion are shaded blue, large trees that will not be disturbed are shaded pink. Four large trees that will be removed are shaded grey. The DPD finds that the applicant will meet the ordinance's landscaping requirements.

The DPD finds no negative environmental impacts as the applicant is expected to come into conformance with all applicable environmental regulations.

#### 4. Buildable Lot

The DPD finds that no lot lines will pass through the main residential building as depicted on the master plan. The DPD finds that there will be no constraints to development as all proposed lots will meet the minimum lot size requirements for their respective zones upon subdivision and that there are no other physical impediments to development.

### 5. Street Access

The DPD finds that adequate vehicular and pedestrian access will be provided to all of the lots, either from Blackstone Boulevard or Slater Ave. Per the CPC's requirement at the master plan stage, the subdivision plan was submitted to the Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW) to review the locations of curb cuts. The DPW has no objections to the plan.

#### **ACTION - FINAL PLAN APPROVAL**

Based on the foregoing discussion and citation of the relevant findings of fact, the DPD finds that the proposed subdivision conforms to the zoning ordinance and comprehensive plan. The DPD hereby approves the final plan.

Choyon Manjrekar Administrative Officer

In accordance with Rhode Island General Laws Section 45-23-63, this decision must be recorded in the land evidence records within thirty-five (35) days after the CPC's vote.

In addition, in accordance with Rhode Island General Laws Section 45-23-67, this decision shall be posted in the **office of the City Clerk for a period of 20 days.** Any appeals to this decision must be immediately transmitted to the DPD. If no appeals are filed, this letter may be removed 20 days after it has been posted.

Doc No: 00240282 Book:12525 Pase: 199

RECEIVED:

Providence
Received for Record
Oct 28,2019 at 09:06A
Document Num: 00240282
John A Murphy
Recorder of Deeds

