



AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 27 OF THE CODE OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners is authorized to exercise zoning powers to protect and promote the County's health, safety, and general welfare;

**WHEREAS**, the role of the Zoning Board of Appeals is to evaluate applications relating to variances, special exceptions, well as appeals of an administrative official;

**WHEREAS**, the intent is to provide clarity to applicants who are filing applications before the Zoning Board of Appeals as well as to aide members of the Zoning Board of Appeals in evaluating applications;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, and be it hereby ordained by the Authority of same, that Chapter 27 of the Code of DeKalb County, as revised in 2015, is hereby amended as follows:

**PART I. ENACTMENT**

**Sec. 7.5.3. - Applications for variances; and criteria to be used by the zoning board of appeals in deciding applications for variances.**

Variances from the provisions or requirements of this chapter other than variances described in section 7.5.4 shall be authorized only upon making all of the following findings in writing:

1. ~~By reason of exceptional narrowness, shallowness, or shape of a specific lot, or by reason of exceptional topographic and other site conditions~~ There are extraordinary or exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property (such as, but not limited to, lot size, lot shape, ~~floodplain, major stand of trees, steep slope~~ specimen tree(s), steep slope(s), or preservation of historic characteristics of the property), which were not created by the owner or applicant; ~~; by reason of such conditions~~, the strict application of the requirements of this chapter would deprive the property owner of rights and privileges enjoyed by other property owners in the same zoning district.
2. The requested variance does not go beyond the minimum necessary to afford relief, and does not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the zoning district in which the subject property is located.
3. The grant of the variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the zoning district in which the subject property is located.
4. The literal interpretation and strict application of the applicable provisions or requirements of this chapter would cause undue and unnecessary hardship.
5. The requested variance would be consistent with the spirit and purpose of this chapter and the DeKalb County Comprehensive Plan text.