



TECHNICAL STAFF REPORT

Planning Board Meeting of October 20, 2016

Eric Buschman, Staff Planner

phone: 410-313-0729

e-mail: ebuschman@howardcountymd.gov

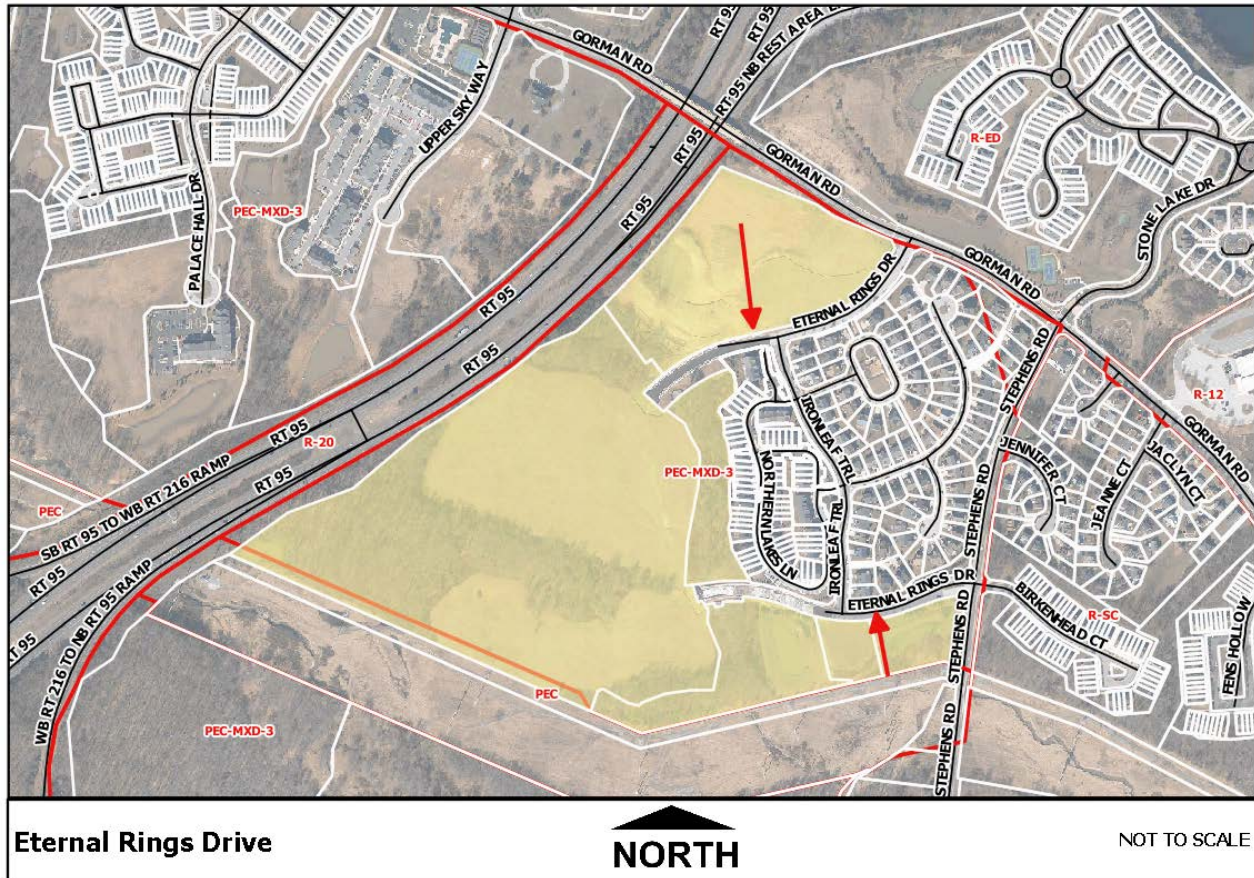
Re: Street Renaming of Eternal Rings Drive

Petitioner: Howard County Department of Police- 9-1-1 Center
Richard Jordan, Address Coordinator

Request: For the Planning Board to approve renaming two isolated sections of Eternal Rings Drive to North Eternal Rings Drive and South Eternal Rings Drive.

Location: The subject roads are located east of Interstate-95, south of Gorman Road and west of Stephens Road in the Laurel area of Howard County, as shown on Tax Map 47 in the Sixth Election District of Howard County, Maryland.

DPZ Recommendation: **Approval**, subject to compliance with any comments from the Planning Board



Adjoining Properties: The street renaming will affect six undeveloped properties owned by the Emerson Community Association, Emerson Development LLC, and Howard Research & Development.

Analysis: This public street renaming request has been initiated by the Howard County Department of Police, 9-1-1 Center, to distinguish between two isolated sections of Eternal Rings Drive. The original concept for Eternal Rings Drive was a loop road extending from Gorman Road to Stephens Road. The road was constructed in two sections, each terminating at Iron Leaf Trail, to be extended as a loop road with the future development of Parcel 1078. The proposed development plan for Parcel 1078 (see DPZ File No. SDP-16-060) now shows both sections of Eternal Rings Drive terminating in cul-de-sacs. This results in two separate roads with the same name. In the interest of public safety and ease of property identification, distinct names should be given to each section.

Section 16.400 of the Howard County Code prohibits duplicate street names in the County. By giving both sections of the road distinct names, it will allow for easier identification of the properties by citizens and a more efficient response from emergency services. Therefore, in the interest of the public's health, safety and welfare, it is necessary to request new street names for both sections of Eternal Rings Drive. There will be no need to change existing house numbers for the adjoining properties, since all six properties are undeveloped.

The names North Eternal Rings Drive and South Eternal Rings Drive were recommended by the 9-1-1 Center in an effort to distinguish between the two sections, while still maintaining the existing naming scheme. The section of Eternal Rings Drive originating from Gorman Road will be renamed North Eternal Rings Drive. The section originating from Stephens Road will be renamed South Eternal Rings Drive. Both roads are used as the primary access to a large residential neighborhood and changing the street name scheme would have a major impact on the existing community. All three adjoining property owners agreed to the proposed street names in a letter dated June 8, 2016.

In accordance with Howard County Policy and Code, Section 16.400, the Planning Board may rename a street at the request of the Department of Planning and Zoning for a valid governmental purpose, such as eliminating duplicate street names for two separate existing road segments.

A certified letter dated August 22, 2016 was sent to the three affected property owners notifying them of the October 20, 2016 public meeting. Legal advertisement appeared in the Howard County Times on September 15, 2016, and in the Baltimore Sun on September 20, 2016. All parties who expressed an interest in this petition have been notified by letter. The Howard County Department of Police, 9-1-1 Center initiated this request and is in support of this street renaming petition.

Recommendation: The Department of Planning and Zoning recommends that the Planning Board **approve** renaming both sections of Eternal Rings Drive to North Eternal Rings Drive and South Eternal Rings Drive.


Valdis Lazdins, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning

10/3/16
Date