Alternative Compliance Web Map: User’s Guide

Introduction

The Alternative Compliance web map is an interactive mapping tool designed to make the Department of Planning & Zoning’s (DPZ) alternative compliance (AC) process more transparent and accessible to the public. The application allows users to search for and identify AC requests and their locations in a variety of ways. Once located, information related to individual project AC requests can be accessed; including staff contacts, links to relevant code requirements and DPZ approval letters (once issued).

Overview

Components of the Application

1- Map Navigation Tools 2- Important Information 3- Search Tools
1- Map Navigation Tools

- **Map Overlay**
  This function allows users to overlay data on top of a base map to provide context and site information. High-resolution aerial photographs (2017) can help users see what is “on the ground” throughout the county, while zoning and property boundaries show project limits and reference allowed land uses and development controls.

- **Pictometry/EagleView**
  Selecting this button allows users to activate a new window, replacing the high-resolution aerial photographs and property and place data, such as road and place names. This viewer provides more recent and higher resolution photographs than the “2017 Aerial Photo” layer. To exit the Pictometry window and return to the web map, simply select the red “X” in the upper-right corner of the display.

- **House Number**
  Activating this button will display house numbers for each property, but they are only visible when zoomed-in to the neighborhood level. Simply re-select the button to deactivate the address labels.

- **Current Location**
  This function shows the approximate on-screen location of the user.

- **Navigation**
  - Use scroll on your mouse to zoom in and out.
  - Press and hold the left mouse button to adjust the map view.
  - Left and right facing arrows on either side of the map allow users to go back to a previously viewed mapped location at the previously selected scale.
  - The + and – buttons and the slider between them at the top left allows zooming in and out.
  - Double-clicking on the map will zoom-in
2- Important Information
This section, located in the top-left of the application window, briefly describes the AC. It also provides a link to DPZ’s “Development Process and Procedures” and a form to provide DPZ with feedback regarding the AC application (click the mail icon).

3- Search Tools
This section allows users to filter, browse, and locate AC decisions. There are four methods for searching: Address, Double Click on Map, Newly Submitted Plans, and Keyword.

- Address
Searching by address allows users to input a street address into the search box and provides additional options for “advanced search,” such as filtering the results by year or by distance from the input address.

- Double Click on Map
Users can double-click on the map to select a location. Based on the settings in the advanced search, such as the search distance, AC results will be displayed for the location and those within the distance threshold provided.

When “Double Click on Map” is highlighted in the search tools section, the function will be active and will return results with each double-click. It is advisable to use the mouse scroll wheel to zoom in or out using this function to avoid confusion.

- Newly Submitted Plans
This function provides two search methods. The first allows choosing ACs submitted within a defined time frame - the past 7, 15, 60, 60 and 90-days. Selecting one displays all ACs for the period up to the query date, (e.g., selecting 7 will show all ACs from the last week and 30 will show them for the past month). The second method allows users to define a date range by either typing in dates or choosing from a drop down calendar to show all submitted ACs during the period.
- **Keyword**
  By typing a word, such as a street name, project name, or project code into the form, the app will list potential ACs containing the keyword. For example, by entering a street name all ACs containing that street name will be returned.

**Viewing Displayed Results**
Once a search is conducted results will be returned in two ways. First, a list of ACs will display in the sidebar below the search tools. Second, the location of ACs will display within the map view window.

Selecting an AC from either the list on the left-side of the screen, or the map view window, will display an expanded window of detailed AC information. These include the code section the AC seeks to modify, a link to that code section, and submission details (date, project, and assigned staff planner). Clicking on the code number, using the left mouse button, will display a new window with the associated section of the Subdivision Regulations. To exit from this window and return to the map view, click the red "X" in the upper right corner of the window.