TOWN OF Herndon VIRGINIA **Planning Commission Public Hearing**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: Special Exception – SE #24-03, 1402 Winterland Ct. - Application for a Special Exception to Permit a Home-Based Child Daycare Use

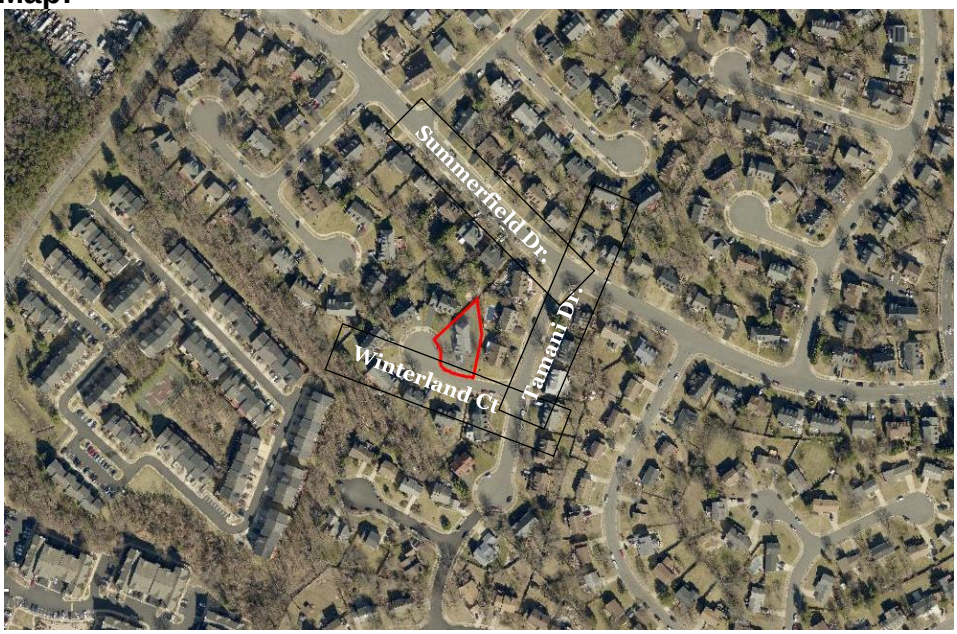
Meeting Date: February 10, 2025.

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Summary Information:

Proposed Modification	This application is to consider special exception to permit a home-based child daycare use within the PD-R, Planned Development-Residential, zoning district. The proposed use will provide care for a maximum of 12 children at one time.
Address	1402 Winterland Ct.
Fairfax County Tax Map Number	0161 18 0154
Owners	Ms. Nidia Retamal
Applicant	Ms. Nidia Retamal
Business/Organization	Anbada Childcare, LLC
Property Use	Residential
Zoning District	PDR, Planned-Development Residential District – Four Seasons
Lot Size	11,959 square feet
Building Size	3,450 square feet of above-grade living area
Adjacent Zoning	**North, South, East, West**: PD-R, Residential – Single Family Detached.
Date of Construction:	1986
Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designation	Neighborhood Conservation

Location Map:



Background & Site Description:

The applicant applied for and received approval of a Zoning Inspection Permit (ZIP#24-026) to operate a child daycare use with a maximum of seven clients at one time as a home-based business at the subject property. ZIP#24-026 was issued on 09/30/2024 and the town has not received any complaints for this address.

The property is located near the intersection of Tamani Drive and Winterland Court, within the Four Seasons neighborhood. It is designated as “Neighborhood Conservation” in the Herndon 2030 Comprehensive Plan[1]. The designation underscores the town's commitment to preserving and maintaining the character and quality of existing residential areas.

The subject property is a PD-R, 11,959 square feet residential lot featuring a primary dwelling unit with approximately 3,450 square feet of above-grade living area. This planned development residential zoning district is characterized by a mix of housing types designed to promote cohesive residential communities with convenient access to shared amenities.

[1] Herndon 2030 Comprehensive Plan https://www.herndon-va.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/17554/638247637418370000

The property's land use designation as a “Neighborhood Conservation” area emphasizes compatibility with surrounding residential uses. The proximity to Tamani Drive and Winterland Court provides convenient access for families utilizing the childcare service while maintaining the residential character of the area.

The zoning ordinance standards seek to balance the increased capacity for childcare services with considerations for traffic management, neighborhood compatibility, and adherence to zoning and planning regulations in the Town of Herndon.

Case Details & Proposal:

The applicant seeks approval to increase the number of children permitted in their home-based childcare business to a maximum of twelve (12). The proposed use will provide care for children in two shifts, operating between 5:00 AM and 11:00 PM, with staggered pick-up and drop-off schedules.

A Family Day Home, licensed by the Virginia Office of Child Care Health and Safety, allows up to 12 children, exclusive of the providers own children or children residing at the home, to be cared for in a single-family residence. The zoning ordinance allows up to 7 children, exclusive of the providers own children and children residing at the home, to be care for in a single-family residence with the approval of a Zoning Inspection Permit. A maximum of 12 children may be cared for with the approval of a Special Exception. The applicant is requesting 12 children to be cared for, as allowed by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Proposed Operations:

The home-based childcare business operates in two shifts to accommodate families with diverse needs, Monday to Friday:

- First Shift: 5:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Second Shift: 4:30 PM to 11:00 PM

The childcare business is supported by a schedule that includes one employee working from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Additionally, two assistants reside on-site and contribute to the daycare operations, ensuring continuous supervision and care for the children.
The property is located on a cul-de-sac. To ensure smooth transitions for families, the applicant has implemented a staggered pick-up and drop-off schedule:

- Morning Drop-Off: 5:00 AM to 7:30 AM
- Afternoon Pick-Up: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

- Afternoon Drop-Off: 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM
- Night Pick-Up: 10:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Additionally, the childcare business serves a disabled child, providing transportation. A bus arrives at the property at 9:05 AM and 4:40 PM to accommodate this need.

Staff Analysis:

Zoning Ordinance Compliance

The zoning ordinance allows a home-based daycare for up to 12 children at one time with the granting of a special exception permit. The use will operate under its current conditions in terms of space occupied by the business, facilities provided, and general operation. The exterior appearance of the building and the existing fenced playground area in the rear yard will not be altered. No additional impervious area or land disturbance is proposed.

Special exceptions may be approved provided they comply with the following standards. Staff evaluated the criteria for review of special exceptions found in Zoning Ordinance Section 78-153.3(e):

Criteria from Section 78-153.3(e)(1)	**Meets/ Does Not Meet**	**Why the application meets or does not meet the criteria of Section 78-153.3(e)**
a. Is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.	Meets	The Comprehensive Plan Land Use Section provides polices for provision of goods and services to the local community and positive economic benefits of new businesses. The proposed uses will be in conformance with the comprehensive plan polices.
b. Is free of conflict with any provision of this chapter and related regulations or any other applicable local, state, or federal laws and regulations.	Meets	The proposed special exception uses are provisioned with the base zoning district and do not create any substantial conflicts with other regulatory requirements. The use and business operations will be conditioned to ensure the use continually meets the purpose and intent of the Planned Development, Residential Zoning District.
c. Does not adversely affect the health or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed use.	Meets with conditions	The proposed uses are generally compatible to the site / neighborhood. The proposed amended conditions will expand the hours of operation (non-business hours) but will limit the impact to parking and vehicle trips by restricting maximum number of clients.

d. Consistent with the purpose and intent of the zoning district in which it is located or will improve compatibility among uses and will ensure efficient development within the town.	Meets	The proposed changes to the conditions will remain compatible with the intent of the uses of the PD-R district.
e. Minimizes adverse visual impact of the proposed use on adjacent lands.	Meets	The proposed changes to the conditions will not generate visual changes to the site.
f. Contributes to a logical and orderly development pattern consistent with accepted or emerging planning practices.	Not Applicable	No physical alterations of the structure expected and thus not subject to this criterion.
g. Minimizes adverse impact on surrounding lands regarding service delivery, parking and loading, odors, noise, glare, and vibration, and should not create a nuisance.	Meets with conditions	Staff recommended the revised conditions to limit the overall capacity and distribution of customers in order to prevent negative impacts to parking, drop-off/pickup, and noise.
h. Avoids significant adverse impacts on the property values of surrounding lands or substantially and permanently injures the use of neighboring property for those uses that are permitted in the zoning district.	Meets	The proposed use has virtually no external impacts and provides needed space utilization for the new business owners.
i. Does not significantly and adversely impact the natural environment, including but not limited to, air, noise, stormwater management, wildlife, vegetation, wetlands, and the natural functioning of the environment.	Meets	The proposed changes to the conditions will not involve any expansion of floor area or conversion of pervious area to impervious area.
j. Results in development that is adequately served by transportation facilities, including whether or not a substantial deterioration of the level of service on the town's transportation network would occur and whether or not the proposed use is designed to ensure safe ingress and egress onto the site and safe road conditions on and around the site.	Not Applicable	No physical alterations of the structure expected and thus not subject to this criterion.
k. Results in development that is adequately served by public facilities (roads, potable water and sewage, schools, parks, police, and fire and emergency medical facilities).	Not Applicable	No physical alterations of the structure expected and thus not subject to this criterion.
l. If infill and redevelopment is consistent with the redevelopment criteria and other applicable guidelines as stated in the Herndon 2030 Comprehensive Plan (adopted August 12, 2008), as amended.	Not Applicable	No physical alterations of the structure expected and thus not subject to this criterion.
m. If located in the floodplain overlay district, meets floodplain overlay standards.	Not Applicable	The building is not located within the FPO.

In addition to these standards, the zoning ordinance has established additional standards for childcare or daycare uses as a home-based business. These standards identified in section 78-80.5 (b) provide the requirements for all home-based businesses.

Home-based business, childcare or daycare—Additional standards. In addition to the standards of section 78-80.5, a home-based childcare or daycare shall be subject to the following additional standards. In accordance with the Herndon Zoning Ordinance standards for home-based businesses, the application complies with the requirements concerning the number of children and nonresident employees. As stipulated under section 78-80.5 and the additional standards for home-based childcare or daycare businesses, the proposed use ensures adherence to the limits on enrollment and staffing, thereby meeting the applicable zoning regulations.

Play area. The proposed application satisfies the minimum requirement of 75 square feet of outdoor play area per child enrolled in the childcare business (900 sq. ft.). A scaled plat demonstrating the designated outdoor play area, which is fully enclosed by a four-foot fence to ensure safety, will be submitted with the application (see annex 2).

Comprehensive Plan Adherence

The proposal is consistent with the Herndon 2030 Comprehensive Plan Neighborhood Conservation Land Use Policies and encourages uses that provide a variety of goods and services as well as promotes economic development that helps increase employment and add to the community tax base.

Parking

The zoning ordinance does not require additional parking for a home-based daycare.

Analysis of Conditions

Staff are recommending six conditions for this special exception, listed in the following conditions analysis table, consistent with previously approved special exceptions. Staff believe these conditions provide reasonable ways in which the existing childcare use can be expanded while properly mitigating potential impacts, as well as achieving the purpose and intent of the applicable zoning district.

#	**Condition**	**Covered by language in the Zoning Code**	**Reason for Condition**
1	Substantial conformance with the submitted application and plan submitted by applicant on November 26, 2024 and for the purpose of a daycare use only.	No	The site shall be developed and maintained in substantial conformance with a submitted special exception plan that is 33 percent or less of the gross floor area and in conformance with section 78-80.5. of the zoning ordinance.
2	Hours of Operation.	No	The permitted hours of operation shall be 5:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

3	Number of Permitted Children.	No	The total number of children present on site for home-based child daycare use shall not exceed 12 at any one time. The ratio of employees to children as required by the state shall be maintained.
4	On-Site Play Area.	No	When playing outside all children shall be within the fenced playground area.
5	Child Drop-off and Pick-up.	No	Child drop-off and pick-up shall be limited to the curbside on the street adjacent to the subject property on Winterland
6	Signage.	No	No signage shall be permitted.

Any violation of the aforementioned conditions or other sections of the Herndon Town Code shall be grounds for revoking the special exception pursuant to the manner described in Section 78-155.3(h).

Fiscal Impact:

The town can collect taxes from home-based businesses.

Planning Commission Alternatives:

The following alternatives are available to the Planning Commission for its decision on SE#24-03.

1. Recommendation for approval.
2. Recommendation for denial. The daycare continues its operations with seven children as a by-right use.
3. Continuance of the application to March 2025.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend the Planning Commission approve the Special Exception with conditions. A home-based business, childcare use has been operating in similar locations since 2010 without negative impacts to the adjacent units or surrounding neighborhood. The expansion of the number of children is minor enough to not generate negative impacts.