
Similar Use Interpretations

When a new business, activity, or land use is not clearly defined and/or identified in the Zoning Ordinance, it falls to the Zoning Administrator to define the new use within the context of the Zoning Ordinance. This is done through a Similar Use Interpretation.

Arlington County Zoning Ordinance (ACZO) §12.2.2 *Similar Use Interpretations* provides the framework and factors to consider when rendering a Similar Use Interpretation. While many of these consideration factors are self-evident, several are less obvious but nonetheless important in rendering a similar use interpretation.

§12.2.2 Similar Use Interpretations

A. Authority

If an application is submitted for a use not listed in the respective use tables, the zoning administrator shall be authorized to make a similar use interpretation, based on a consideration of the following factors:

1. The characteristics of the proposed use in relation to the stated characteristics identified for each use category;
2. The amount of site area, floor space and equipment necessary for the use;
3. The frequency and nature of sales or transactions from the use;
4. The number of on-site employees necessary for the use;
5. Hours of operation;
6. Building and site arrangement;
7. Vehicles necessary for the use;
8. The number of vehicle trips generated by the use;
9. Signs;
10. How the use describes and/or markets itself; and
11. Other factors that the Zoning Administrator determines would affect the consistency of the use with the regulations of this Ordinance and with the purposes of master plans in the County.

SIMILAR USE INTERPRETATION SUPPLEMENTAL

This Supplemental form is meant to serve as a guide for determination requests seeking a Similar Use Interpretation. While not required, it is recommended that a completed Supplemental form be submitted with determination requests for Similar Use Interpretations to facilitate a more accurate and rapid response.

Proposed Business Name:

Brief Description of Use or Business:

Note any similar uses defined and/or identified in the Zoning Ordinance:

Bricks-and-Mortar

Describe the anticipated and/or necessary characteristics of the physical space the proposed use will occupy, as well as a specific address and/or zoning district if known. (e.g., enclosed space that can accommodate up to 10 customers, waiting area, outdoor seating, and kitchen)

Proposed Location(s):

Description of Physical Space Needed for Use:

Total Gross Floor Area:

Note any physical features which are necessary and/or integral to the operations of the proposed use:

- Outdoor Area
- Drive-Thru Customer Service
- Pedestrian Customer Service
- Commercial Kitchen
- Delivery/Loading Dock Spaces
- Standing/Parking for Delivery
- Standing/Parking for Customer Pick-Up
- Sidewalk and/or Freestanding Signage
- Dynamic or Digital Signage

Activity & Operation

Describe the anticipated business activity and operations of proposed use including any delivery activity. (e.g. retail sales, personal services, bulk/wholesale, food beverage preparation, recreation, entertainment, training, instruction, etc.)

Description of Use or Business Activity and Operations:

Days & Hours of Operation:

Clientele & Customers

Note the anticipated clientele the proposed business or activity will serve or accommodate including the estimated daily number of customers/attendees and general demographics.

Daily Customers:

- General Public
- Children
- Adults Only
- Peer-to-Peer Business
- Remote/Off-Site Customers
- Other _____

Staffing

Note the anticipated staffing for the proposed use.

Total # of Employees:

of Full-Time:

of Part-Time:

on-site at one time/per shift: