

August 3, 2022

Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church  
1022 New Providence Pass  
Madison, Tennessee 37115

Re: Reasonable Accommodation for Religious Institution LED Sign

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church has requested a reasonable accommodation for the property at 1022 New Providence Pass in Madison for an electronic message center for the church's use. Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church states that is essential to its religious mission to be able to communicate its ministries and programs to the community in furtherance of its work. Some of the ministries that needs advertising are feeding homeless students in Metro Nashville Schools and providing clothes, food, and resources to Metro Public Schools.

Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church states that this property is suitable for such purposes and a substantial burden would be imposed if the church were not able to operate the electronic message center at this location.

The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S. C. §2000cc, mandates that no local government shall implement a land use regulation that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution, unless the government demonstrates a compelling governmental interest and that such regulation is the least restrictive means of furthering the compelling governmental interest.

The Tennessee Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Tenn. Code Ann. §4-1-407, mandates that no local government shall implement a land use regulation that impinges or curtails the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution. Based upon the facts and law set forth above, I grant the request for the reasonable accommodation for the proposed sign.

Joel K Hargis,  
Zoning Administrator