

December 12, 2023

Islamic Center of Nashville
2513 12th Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
APN: 11801002000

RE: Reasonable Accommodation for Religious Institution LED Sign

To whom it may concern:

Islamic Center of Nashville has requested a reasonable accommodation for the property at 2513 12th Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee for an electronic message center for the Islamic Center's use. The Islamic Center states that it is essential to its religious mission to be able to communicate its ministries, worship times, and classes to the community in furtherance of its work. The Islamic Center states that this property is suitable for such purposes and a substantial burden would be imposed if the Islamic Center 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 to use the property located at 2513 12th Avenue South in Nashville, Tennessee for the Islamic Center's proposed electronic message center.

If you disagree with this accommodation, you file an appeal with the Board of Zoning Appeals within 30 days of the date of this letter. Once 30 days has elapsed, no appeal may be filed. To file an appeal, please email the Board of Zoning Appeals at bza@nashville.gov to request an "Item A Appeal" and reference the location stated in the letter.

Sincerely,

Joel K. Hargis
Metropolitan Zoning Administrator