

**To All Applicants: In order for any Variance or Special Exception to be approved, the applicant must demonstrate compliance with the below criteria. If the applicant does not demonstrate compliance with these criteria, the application may be denied.**

### **VARIANCE CRITERIA**

Section 30-43 (3) of the Orange County Code stipulates specific standards for the approval of variances. No application for a zoning variance will be approved unless the Board of Zoning Adjustment finds that the following standards are met:

- **Special Conditions and Circumstances** - Special conditions and circumstances exist which are peculiar to the land, structure, or building involved and which are not applicable to other lands, structures or buildings in the same zoning district. Zoning violations or nonconformities on neighboring properties shall not constitute grounds for approval of a proposed zoning variance.
- **Not Self-Created** - The special conditions and circumstances do not result from the actions of the applicant. A self-created or self-imposed hardship shall not justify a zoning variance; i.e., when the applicant himself by his own conduct creates the hardship which he alleges to exist, he is not entitled to relief.
- **No Special Privilege Conferred** - Approval of the zoning variance requested will not confer on the applicant any special privilege that is denied by this Chapter to other lands, building, or structures in the same zoning district.
- **Deprivation of Rights** - Literal interpretation of the provisions contained in this Chapter would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties in the same zoning district under the terms of this Chapter and would work unnecessary and undue hardship on the applicant. Financial loss or business competition or purchase of property with intent to develop in violation of the restrictions of this Chapter shall not constitute grounds for approval or objection.
- **Minimum Possible Variance** - The zoning variance approved is the minimum variance that will make possible the reasonable use of the land, building, or structure.
- **Purpose and Intent** - Approval of the zoning variance will be in harmony with the purpose and intent of the Zoning Regulations and such zoning variance will not be injurious to the neighborhood or otherwise detrimental to the public welfare.