

Rezoning Application Page 1 of 4

# **Zone Map Amendment (Rezoning) - Application**

PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION*				PROPERTY OWNER(S) REPRESENTATIVE**		
☐ CHECK IF POINT OF CONTACT FOR APPLICATION				✓ CHECK IF POINT C	PF CONTACT FOR APPLICATION	
Property Owner Name	Please see attached			Representative Name	Theodore Schultz for Theodore Schultz Architect, LLC	
Address				Address	863 Santa Fe Drive	
City, State, Zip				City, State, Zip	Denver, CO 80204	
Telephone				Telephone	303-875-8719	
Email				Email	ted@tlsarchitect.com	
by owners (or authorized r	mendment applications must be epresentatives) of at least 51% o ct to the rezoning. See page 4.	e init f the	iated total	**Property owner shall sentative to act on his/h	provide a written letter authorizing the repre- ner behalf.	
SUBJECT PROPERTY	'INFORMATION					
Location (address):		Plea	ase see	attached		
Assessor's Parcel Numbers	:					
Area in Acres or Square Fe	et:					
Current Zone District(s):						
PROPOSAL						
Proposed Zone District:		U	J-MS-3	, DO-8		
PRE-APPLICATION I	NFORMATION					
In addition to the required pre-application meeting with Planning Services, did you have a concept or a pre-application meeting with Development Services?			<ul> <li>✓ Yes - State the contact name &amp; meeting date Please See Attached</li> <li>No - Describe why not (in outreach attachment, see bottom of p. 3)</li> </ul>		meeting date Please See Attached ach attachment, see bottom of p. 3)	
Did you contact the City C this application ?				yes, state date and meth no, describe why not (in	Please See Attached  outreach attachment, see bottom of p. 3)	



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#### **REZONING REVIEW CRITERIA (ACKNOWLEDGE EACH SECTION)** Consistency with Adopted Plans: The proposed official map amendment is consistent with the City's adopted plans, or the proposed rezoning is necessary to provide land for a community need that was not anticipated at the time of adoption of the City's Plan. Please provide a review criteria narrative attachment describing **how** the requested zone district is consistent with the policies and recommendations found in each of the adopted plans below. Each plan should have its' own subsection. General Review Criteria 1. Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040 DZC Sec. 12.4.10.7.A Check box to affirm and In this section of the attachment, describe **how** the proposed map amendment is consistent with *Denver* include sections in the Comprehensive Plan 2040's a) equity goals, b) climate goals, and c) any other applicable goals/strategies. review criteria narrative attachment 2. Blueprint Denver In this section of the attachment, describe **how** the proposed map amendment is consistent with: a) the neighborhood context, b) the future place type, c) the growth strategy, d) adjacent street types, e) plan policies and strategies, and f) equity concepts contained in Blueprint Denver. 3. Neighborhood/ Small Area Plan and Other Plans (List all from pre-application meeting, if applicable): Highland Neighborhood Plan (1986) Uniformity of District Regulations and Restrictions: The proposed official map amendment results in General Review Criteria: regulations and restrictions that are uniform for each kind of building throughout each district having DZC Sec. 12.4.10.7. B & C the same classification and bearing the same symbol or designation on the official map, but the regula-Check boxes to the right tions in one district may differ from those in other districts. to affirm and include a section in the review Public Health, Safety and General Welfare: The proposed official map amendment furthers the public criteria for Public Health, health, safety, and general welfare of the City. Safety and General Welfare narrative attach- $In the review {\it criteria} \, narrative {\it attachment}, please provide an additional section {\it describing} \, \textbf{how} \, the requested {\it rezoning} \, \textbf{not} \, \textbf{not}$ ment. furthers the public health, safety and general welfare of the City. Justifying Circumstances - One of the following circumstances exists: The existing zoning of the land was the result of an error; The existing zoning of the land was based on a mistake of fact; The existing zoning of the land failed to take into account the constraints of development created by the natural characteristics of the land, including, but not limited to, steep slopes, floodplain, unstable soils, and inadequate drainage; Review Criteria for Non-Since the date of the approval of the existing Zone District, there has been a change to such a degree that the Legislative Rezonings: proposed rezoning is in the public interest. Such change may include: DZC Sec. 12.4.10.8 a. Changed or changing conditions in a particular area, or in the city generally; or, For Justifying Circumb. A City adopted plan; or stances, check box and c. That the City adopted the Denver Zoning Code and the property retained Former Chapter 59 zoning. include a section in the review criteria narrative It is in the public interest to encourage a departure from the existing zoning through application of suppleattachment. mental zoning regulations that are consistent with the intent and purpose of, and meet the specific criteria stated in, Article 9, Division 9.4 (overlay Zone Districts) of this Code. For Neighborhood Context, Purpose and In the review criteria narrative attachment, please provide an additional section describing the selected justifying Intent, check box and circumstance. If the changing conditions circumstance is selected, describe changes since the site was last zoned. include a section in the Contact your pre-application case manager if you have questions. review criteria narrative attachment. The proposed official map amendment is consistent with the description of the applicable neighborhood context, and with the stated purpose and intent of the proposed Zone District. In the review criteria narrative attachment, please provide a separate section describing **how** the rezoning aligns with a) the proposed district neighborhood context description, b) the general purpose statement, and c) the specific intent statement found in the Denver Zoning Code.

Return completed form and attachments to rezoning@denvergov.org

720-865-2974 • rezoning@denvergov.org



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#### **REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

Please check boxes below to affirm the following **required** attachments are submitted with this rezoning application:

- Legal Description of subject property(s). **Submit as a separate Microsoft Word document.** View guidelines at: <a href="https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/transportation-infrastructure/programs-services/right-of-way-survey/guidelines-for-land-descriptions.html">https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/transportation-infrastructure/programs-services/right-of-way-survey/guidelines-for-land-descriptions.html</a>
- Proof of ownership document for each property owner signing the application, such as (a) Assessor's Record, (b) Warranty deed, or (c) Title policy or commitment dated no earlier than 60 days prior to application date. If the owner is a corporate entity, proof of authorization for an individual to sign on behalf of the organization is required. This can include board resolutions authorizing the signer, bylaws, a Statement of Authority, or other legal documents as approved by the City Attorney's Office.
- Review Criteria Narratives. See page 2 for details.

# **ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS (IF APPLICABLE)**

Additional information may be needed and/or required. Please check boxes below identifying additional attachments provided with this application.

- **✓ Written narrative explaining reason for the request** (optional)
- ✓ Outreach documentation attachment(s). Please describe any community outreach to City Council district office(s), Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs) and surrounding neighbors. If outreach was via email- please include email chain. If the outreach was conducted by telephone or meeting, please include contact date(s), names and a description of feedback received. If you have not reached out to the City Council district office, please explain why not. (optional encouraged)
- Letters of Support. If surrounding neighbors or community members have provided letters in support of the rezoning request, please include them with the application as an attachment (optional).
- **✓** Written Authorization to Represent Property Owner(s) (if applicable)
- Individual Authorization to Sign on Behalf of a Corporate Entity (e.g. if the deed of the subject property lists a corporate entity such as an LLC as the owner, this is document is required.)
- **✓ Other Attachments.** Please describe below.
- Property Owner Information
- Subject Property Information
- Pre-Application Information



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# PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY OWNER(S) REPRESENTATIVE CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned represent that we are the owner(s) of the property described opposite our names, or have the authorization to sign on behalf of the owner as evidenced by a Power of Attorney or other authorization attached, and that we do hereby request initiation of this application. I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information supplied with this application is true and accurate. I understand that without such owner consent, the requested official map amendment action cannot lawfully be accomplished.

Property Owner Name(s) (please type or print legibly)	Property Address City, State, Zip Phone Email	Property Owner In- terest % of the Area of the Zone Lots to Be Rezoned	Please sign below as an indication of your consent to the above certification state- ment	Date	Indicate the type of owner-ship documentation provided: (A) Assessor's record, (B) warranty deed, (C) title policy or commitment, or (D) other as approved	Has the owner autho- rized a represen- tative in writing? (YES/NO)
EXAMPLE John Alan Smith and Josie Q. Smith	123 Sesame Street Denver, CO 80202 (303) 555-5555 sample@sample.gov	100%	John Alan Smith Josie O. Smith	01/12/20	(A)	YES
Moon Studios, LLC; Managing Member: John E. Mueller	2107 W. 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211 303-477-2002 Johnmproductions@comcast.n et	100%	Shull hate	7-26-22	(A)	YES
Marcia M. Mueller & John E. Mueller	2115 W 29th Ave, Denver, CO 80211 303-455-0711 mmueller@westbrookrlty.com	100%	Marcia M. hu.	Der 1-26-1 7-24-2	2 (A)	YES
Lee M. Cotone	2119 W 29th Ave, Denver, CO 80211 720-891-0971 lee4121@yahoo.com	100%	Lee M. Cotan	7/29/22	(A)	YES
						YES

Return completed form and attachments to rezoning@denvergov.org

# Zone Map Amendment (Rezoning) - Application

Property Owner Information:

Property 1:

Property Owner Name: Moon Studios, LLC;

John E. Mueller, Managing Member Address: 2107 W. 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211

Telephone: 303-477-2002

Email: Johnmproductions@comcast.net

Property 2:

Property Owner Name: Marcia M.

Mueller & John E. Mueller

Address: 2115 W 29th Ave, Denver, CO 80211

Telephone: 303-455-0711

Email: mmueller@westbrookrlty.com

Property 3:

Property Owner Name: Lee M. Cotone

Address: 2119 W 29th Ave, Denver, CO 80211

Telephone: 720-891-0971 Email: lee4121@yahoo.com Subject Property Information:

Property 1:

Location (address):

2107 W. 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211

Assessor's Parcel Number:

0228319016000

Area in Acres or Square Feet: 7,000 SF Current Zone District: U-MS-3

Property 2:

Location (address):

2115 W. 29th Ave, Denver, CO 80211

Assessor's Parcel Number:

0228319015000

Area in Acres or Square Feet: 3,500 SF Current Zone District: G-MU-3, UO-3

Property 3:

Location (address): 2119 W. 29th Ave, Denver, CO 80211

Assessor's Parcel Number:

0228319014000

Area in Acres or Square Feet: 3,500 SF Current Zone District: G-MU-3, UO-3

Pre-Application Information:

Pre-application meeting with Francisca Penafiel 10/13/2020

- Clarification emails: 12/3/20, and 12/18/20

City Council District Office Contacts:

- 1. Teams meeting with Council Person, Amanda Sandoval 10/29/20
- 2. Zoom meeting with HUNI 12/08/20
- 3. Teams meeting with Council Aide District 1, Naomi Grunditz 01/06/21
- 4. Zoom meeting with HUNI 08/10/21
- 5. Zoom meeting with HUNI 12/14/216. Zoom meeting with HUNI 03/08/22

- 7. Zoom meeting with HUNI 04/12/22 8. Zoom meeting with HUNI 05/03/22

#### 2107 & 2111 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Ave.

THE EAST 1/2 OF THE LOTS 16 TO 19, BLOCK 11, UNION ADDITION
SITUATED IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 28, T.3.S., R.68.W. OF THE SIXTH P.M.
CITY & COUNTY OF DENVER, STATE OF COLORADO

### 2115 W. 29th Ave.

PARCEL A:

THE EAST 1/2 OF THE WEST 70 FEET OF LOTS 16 TO 19, INCLUSIVE, BLOCK 11, UNION ADDITION

TOGETHER WITH:

PARCEL B:

AN EASEMENT IN, TO, UPON AND OVER THE NORTH TEN (10) FEET OF THAT
PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED
AS THE WEST 35 FEET OF LOTS 16 THROUGH 19, BLOCK 11, UNION ADDITION,

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER, STATE OF

COLORADO, RECORDED MAY 15, 2001 AT RECEPTION NO, 2001076125

SITUATED IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 28, T.3.S., R.68.W. OF THE SIXTH P.M.

CITY & COUNTY OF DENVER, STATE OF COLORADO

#### 2119 W. 29th Ave.

THE WEST 35 FEET LOTS 16 TO 19, BLOCK 11, UNION ADDITION,
SITUATED IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 28, T.3.S., R.68.W. OF THE SIXTH P.M.
CITY & COUNTY OF DENVER, STATE OF COLORADO

# 2107 W 29TH AVE

Owner

MOON STUDIOS LLC 2111 W 29TH AVE DENVER, CO 80211-3801

Schedule Number

02283-19-016-000

**Legal Description** 

UNION ADD B11 E/2 OF L16 TO 19

**Property Type** 

OFFICE W/MIXED USE

**Tax District** 

DENVER

#### **Print Summary**

Style:	OTHER	Building Sqr. Foot:	5466
Bedrooms:		Baths Full/Half:	0/0
Effective Year Built:	1935	Basement/Finish:	0/0
Lot Size:	7,000	Zoned As:	U-MS-3
Lot Size:	7,000	Zoned As:	U-MS-3

Note: Valuation zoning may be different from City's new zoning code.

C	ırre	nt	Ye	ar
U	1116	111	10	a.

Actual Assessed Exempt			
Land	\$770,000	\$99,360	\$0
Improvements	\$1,689,700	\$337,320	
Total	\$2,459,700	\$436,680	

Prior Y	ear
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Actual Assessed Exempt			
Land	\$770,000	\$100,480	\$0
Improvements	\$1,689,700	\$338,700	
Total	\$2,459,700	\$439,180	

### Real Estates Property Taxes for current tax year

System Upgrade Underway:
Due to a system upgrade, payment information is taking longer to update and may not reflect the current status of your account.

Mill Levy \* 74..618 \*
Please click on additional information below to check for any delinquencies on this property/schedule number and for tax sale information.

ease click off additional information services	Installment 1 (Feb 28 Feb 29 in Leap Years)	Installment 2 (Jun 15)	Full Payment (Due Apr 30)
Date Paid	2/25/2022		
Original Tax Levy	\$16,385.36	\$16,385.36	\$32,770.72
Liens/Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Paid	\$16,385.36	\$0.00	\$16,385.36
Due	\$0.00	\$16,385.36	\$16,385.36

#### **Additional Information**

Note: If "Y" is shown below, there is a special situation pertaining to this parcel. For additional information about this, click on the name to take you to an explanation.

Additional Assessment	N Prior Year Delinquency 6	N
Additional Owner(s)	N	
Adjustments 6	N Sewer/Storm Drainage Liens •	N
Local Improvement Assessment ①	N Tax Lien Sale 🚯	N
Maintenance District 6	N Treasurer's Deed 19	N
Pending Local Improvement	N	

Real estate property taxes paid for prior tax year: \$32,776.38

#### Assessed Value for the current tax year

Assessed Land	\$100,480.00	Assessed Improvements	\$338,700.00
Exemption	\$0.00	Total Assessed Value	\$439,180.00

# 2107 W 29TH AVE

Owner

MOON STUDIOS LLC 2111 W 29TH AVE DENVER, CO 80211-3801

Schedule Number

02283-19-016-000

**Legal Description** 

UNION ADD B11 E/2 OF L16 TO 19

**Property Type** 

OFFICE W/MIXED USE

**Tax District** 

DENVER

#### Real Estates Property Taxes for current tax year

System Upgrade Underway:
Due to a system upgrade, payment information is taking longer to update and may not reflect the current status of your account.

Mill Levy \* \*
Please click on additional information below to check for any delinquencies on this property/schedule number and for tax sale information.

	Installment 1 (Feb 28 Feb 29 in Leap Years)	Installment 2 (Jun 15)	Full Payment (Due Apr 30)
Date Paid	2/25/2022		
Original Tax Levy	\$16,385.36	\$16,385.36	\$32,770.72
Liens/Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Paid	\$16,385.36	\$0.00	\$16,385.36
Due	\$0.00	\$16,385.36	\$16,385.36

#### **Additional Information**

Note: If "Y" is shown below, there is a special situation pertaining to this parcel. For additional information about this, click on the name to take you to an explanation.

Additional Assessment •	N Prior Year Delinquency •	N
Additional Owner(s)	N	
Adjustments •	N Sewer/Storm Drainage Liens •	N
Local Improvement Assessment 6	N Tax Lien Sale 🚯	N
Maintenance District •	N Treasurer's Deed <b>1</b>	N
Pending Local Improvement	N	•

# 2115 W 29TH AVE

Owner

MUELLER,MARCIA M MUELLER,JOHN E 2111 W 29TH AVE DENVER, CO 80211-3801

**Schedule Number** 

02283-19-015-000

**Legal Description** 

E1/2 OF W 70FT OF L 16 TO 19 INC BLK 11 UNION ADD

**Property Type** 

SFR Grade C, D, or E, w/RK

Tax District

**DENVER** 

#### **Print Summary**

Property Description			
Style:	1 STORY	Building Sqr. Foot:	1490
Bedrooms:	4	Baths Full/Half:	2/0
Effective Year Built:	1900	Basement/Finish:	0/0
Lot Size:	3,500	Zoned As:	G-MU-3

Note: Valuation zoning may be different from City's new zoning code.

A			Yea	_
	rre	nt	Yea	r

Actual Assessed Exempt			
Land	\$381,200	\$27,260	\$0
Improvements	\$280,900	\$20,080	
Total	\$662,100	\$47,340	

#### Prior Year

Actual Assessed Exempt			
Land	\$381,200	\$27,260	\$0
Improvements	\$280,900	\$20,080	
Total	\$662,100	\$47,340	THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE

#### Real Estates Property Taxes for current tax year

	near Estates Property Taxes for Curr	ent tax year	*			
	System Upgrade Underway: Due to a system upgrade, payment information is	s taking longer to update and may no	t reflect the current status of	your account.		
N	fill Levy * <b>74.195</b> * lease click on additional information below to ch	eck for any delinguencies on this i	property/schedule number	and for tax sale information.		
	loads and all additional miles makes policy to an	Installment 1 (Feb 28 Feb 29 in Leap Years)		Installment 2 (Jun 15)	Full Payment (Due Apr 30)	
	Date Paid					
	Original Tax Levy	\$1,756.19		\$1,756.20	\$3,512.39	
	Liens/Fees	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Interest	\$35.13		\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Paid	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Due	\$1,791.32		\$1,756.20	\$3,512.39	
	Additional Information					
	Note: If "Y" is shown below, there is a specia	al situation pertaining to this parce	el. For additional informati	on about this, click on the name to ta	ke you to an explanation.	
	Additional Assessment 6		N Prior Year	Delinquency 6		N
	Additional Owner(s) 19		Y			
	Adjustments 6		N Sewer/St	orm Drainage Liens 6		N
	Local Improvement Assessment		N Tax Lien S	Sale (1)		N
	Maintenance District •		N Treasurer	's Deed 6		N
	Pending Local Improvement		N			
	Real estate property taxes paid for prior tax y	ear: \$3,413.97				
1	Assessed Value for the current tax y	ear				
	Assessed Land	\$27,260.00	Assessed Improvement	its	\$20,080.00	
	Exemption	\$0.00	Total Assessed Value		\$47,340.00	

# 2119 W 29TH AVE

Owner

COTONE,LEE M 4121 HOOKER ST DENVER, CO 80211-1621

**Schedule Number** 

02283-19-014-000

**Legal Description** 

W 35FT OF L 16 TO 19 INC BLK 11 UNION ADD

Property Type

SFR Grade C

**Tax District** 

DENVER

#### **Print Summary**

2 STORY	Building Sqr. Foot:	1701
2	Baths Full/Half:	2/0
1896	Basement/Finish:	0/0
3,500	Zoned As:	G-MU-3
	1896	2 Baths Full/Half:  1896 Basement/Finish:

Note: Valuation zoning may be different from City's new zoning code.

Current Year	Cu	ırre	nt	Year
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Actual Assessed Exempt			
Land	\$381,200	\$27,260	\$0
Improvements	\$310,900	\$22,230	
Total	\$692,100	\$49,490	VV-100000000000000000000000000000000000

#### **Prior Year**

Actual Assessed Exempt			
Land	\$381,200	\$27,260	\$0
Improvements	\$310,900	\$22,230	
Total	\$692,100	\$49,490	

#### Real Estates Property Taxes for current tax year

System Upgrade Underway:
Due to a system upgrade, payment information is taking longer to update and may not reflect the current status of your account.

Mill Levy \* 74.195 \*

Please click on additional information below to check for any delinquencies on this property/schedule number and for tax sale information
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	Installment 1 (Feb 28 Feb 29 in Leap Years)	Installment 2 (Jun 15)	Full Payment (Due Apr 30)
Date Paid	3/22/2021	3/22/2021	3/22/2021
Original Tax Levy	\$1,835.94	\$1,835.97	\$3,671.91
Liens/Fees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Paid	\$1,835.94	\$1,835.97	\$3,671.91
Due	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

#### **Additional Information**

Note: If "Y" is shown below, there is a special situation pertaining to this parcel. For additional information about this, click on the name to take you to an explanation.

Additional Assessment	N Prior Year Delinquency •	N
Additional Owner(s)	N	
Adjustments •	N Sewer/Storm Drainage Liens 6	N
Local Improvement Assessment	N Tax Lien Sale <b>⊕</b>	N
Maintenance District 6	N Treasurer's Deed 🐧	N
Pending Local Improvement	N	

Real estate property taxes paid for prior tax year: \$3,569.02

#### Assessed Value for the current tax year

Assessed Land	\$27,260.00	Assessed Improvements	\$22,230.00
Exemption	\$0.00	Total Assessed Value	\$49,490.00

Brandon A. Shaver Senior City Planner Community Planning and Development 1437 Bannock Street City and County of Denver Denver, Colorado 80202

July 28, 2022

RE:

Moon Studios, LLC, a Colorado Limited Liability Company 2107-2111 West 29th Avenue Denver, Colorado 80211

Dear Brandon,

This is to confirm that Moon Studios LLC is a single member Limited Liability Company formed on February 3, 2015 with the Colorado Secretary of State, ID No. 20151086539. John E. Mueller is the authorized owner/member to sign on behalf of the Moon Studios, Limited Liability Company.

Sincerely,

John E. Mueller Moon Studios LLC

Member

Brandon A. Shaver Senior City Planner Community Planning and Development 1437 Bannock Street City and County of Denver Denver, Colorado 80202

July 18, 2022

Dear Brandon,

Please be advised through this letter that Theodore Schultz, Architect is acting as the representative for Moon Studios, LLC in the rezoning application for 2107-2011 West 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211.

Thank you,

John E. Mueller, Member Moon Studios, LLC Brandon A. Shaver Senior City Planner Community Planning and Development 1437 Bannock Street City and County of Denver Denver, Colorado 80202

July 18, 2022

Dear Brandon,

Please be advised through this letter that Theodore Schultz, Architect is acting as the representative in the rezoning application for 2115 and 2119 West 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211.

Thank you,

Marcia Mueller 1-19-2022

Owner:

2115 W. 29th Ave.

John E. Mueller

2115 W. 29th Ave.

Lee Cotone 7/19/22

Owner:

2119 W. 29th Ave.

## Written Narrative - Explaining Reason for Request

The applicants who own 2107, 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue are requesting the following rezoning of the three adjacent parcels to U-MS-3, DO-8 as follows: The current zoning U-MS-3 of parcel 2107 W. 29th Avenue to be changed to U-MS-3, DO-8; the current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3 of both the 2115 and 2119 parcels be changed to U-MS-3, DO-8

#### 27 June 2021

## **Property Owners:**

2107 W. 29th Avenue: Moon Studios, LLC; John E. Mueller, Managing Member (Current zoning U-MS-3)

2115 W. 29th Avenue: John E. and Marcia M. Mueller (current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3) 2119 W. 29th Avenue: Lee M. Cotone (current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3)

## **Property Owners' Representative:**

Theodore Schultz, Manager Theodore Schultz, Architect, LLC

#### **Current condition:**

There are three, adjacent, subject parcels:

- 2107 W. 29th Avenue is prominently located at the intersection where 15th Street terminates and turns to W. 29th Avenue and where Umatilla and Boulder Streets also converge into what is a vitally important and prominent corner in the Highland Neighborhood. This parcel is current zoned U-MS-3.
- 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Ave. each have a single family home on a 3,500 s.f. parcel of land, for a total of 7,000 sf of land and are both zoned G-MU-3, UO-3.

The combined three parcels total 14,000 sf of land and face W. 29th with 175' of frontage from Umatilla Street west to the alley. To the north, there are slot-townhomes, zoned G-MU-3, UO-3. The current vacant lot to the west, just past the alley and currently used as a parking area for the Wheeler building, has been rezoned to G-MU-3. The alleyway is currently used for parking access, trash and recycle services for 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue and is of key importance to providing parking access and services for the combined site.



Uniquely, these three abutting parcels lie at the interface of the rotated Downtown Core Denver Street Grid and the Jeffersonian Cardinal-oriented Street Grid (which organizes the balance of the city). As a result of these two unique interfacing grids, the parcels form a small, consistent "peninsula" of land, located at the lower end of the Highland Neighborhood - literally "LOHI". This prominent corner can be viewed as the "head" of 15th Street for anyone driving, biking or walking from downtown Denver. Notably the location serves as a point of connection, transition and gateway to the Neighborhood especially as it sits below the view plane of the iconic Asbury Church (at 30th and Vallejo) seen prominently above the site and intersection.

The current intersection where the properties are located was at the apex for the early Denver Tramway Streetcar network (1880's) where trolleys traveled in and out of downtown. In part because of this, the five streets intersection today is both visually disorienting and physically challenging for all mobilities to pass through. A consistent zoning of the three parcels at this prominent corner will better define the northwest corner of the intersection into a more connected, vibrant and visually enticing project with the surrounding neighborhood.

The proposed rezoning to residential and commercial mixed-use will better unify the three parcels into one development, provide alley access to the 2107 W. 29th Avenue site for parking and trash, while providing a unified transition from the cohered "peninsula" of land and the intersection to the adjacent slot homes, historic single-family residences, and apartments to the north. Rezoning will tie in the three-story residential and commercial development along W. 29th Avenue from Umatilla to Zuni. The project will provide a more coherent connection to the commercial uses along the "Old Highland Business District" Historic District on 15th Street and will truly make this corner the gateway to the Highland Neighborhood.

## **Recent rezoning history:**

In 2010, 2107 W. 29th Avenue was rezoned to MS-3 (Main Street; 3 stories), from R-3, since the historic use was a church. This rezoning was during the review process but prior to the completion of the citywide rezoning later in 2010. This rezone was to accommodate the existing users, including the property owner's photography studio and a separate graphic design studio. MS-3 was chosen as the preferred and appropriate Zone District and was unanimously supported by Highland United Neighborhood, Inc. for the following reasons documented in the 2010 rezoning application:

"MS-3 Zoning has the following attributes which assure that the premises continue to have a prominence at the intersection and will accommodate artist's studios and allow other businesses to use the building. MS-3 will continue the efficient utilization of land, near a transit area and sustainable development in a commercial corridor, and improve appearance and function of a commercial corridor. MS-3 building standards are ideal for the property as it is at such a high-profile corner. Those features include display windows (lots of glass), a broad mix of allowed use, flexible parking standards and a height of 45'. The property is highly suited to MS-3 as it is located in a mixed-use area of residential and

commercial. Blueprint Denver identifies this area as "Mixed-use" and "Area of Change."

## Reason for Request to Rezone:

The rezoning from U-MS-3 of parcel 2107 W. 29th Avenue to U-MS-3, DO-8 and the companion rezoning of parcels 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue from G-MU-3 to U-MS-3, DO-8 will not bring significant differences in terms of context description, design standards, general intent or building form intent:

- G-MU-3 allows 3-story Townhouse Form and the 3-Story Apartment Building Form. U-MS-3 allows Townhouse or Shopfront Building Forms of the same height in stories.
- In the U-MS-3 there are smaller setback requirements and an allowance of 45' in height versus 40' in height when compared to the G-MU-3.
- Both districts look for walkable neighborhoods and good relation to the street. U-MS-3 requires more transparency / street level activation.
- There are similarities in uses allowed. Multi-unit residential can be achieved in both districts. G-MU-3 permits many commercial uses such as Libraries, Day Cares and Limited Use of such entities as schools, community centers, public safety, religious and public assembly buildings.
- The U-MS-3 district expands on those potential uses found in the G-MU-3 with additional retail, restaurant and office type uses.
- The intent of the DO-8 Overlay Zone District is to further expand on the above qualities of U-MS-3 and "encourage neighborhood mixed-use areas that support nonresidential active uses at street level, promote active, pedestrian-oriented building frontages, and provide sufficient space for transitions between the public realm and private residential dwellings". This reasoning to add the DO-8 overlay to the three parcels was developed in collaboration the City of Denver and with the Highland United Neighborhood Planning and Community Development Committee as more activation of the site was desired by all parties.

The U-MS-3, DO-8 zone district will provide many desired outcomes articulated in the Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040, in its subset plan Blueprint Denver and in the Highland Neighborhood Plan. It is the intent of the Owners to create a cohesive peninsula of land under the zone district U-MS-3, DO-8 that will better relate to the U-MS-3 zoning along the adjacent 15th Street corridor and better transition from C-MX-5 to the east on Umatilla and Boulder Streets and from the U-MX- 3 across 29th Avenue to the south.

Many similarities between the current zoning and proposed U-MS-3, DO-8 remain in terms of allowed residential uses, character, setback and building form while largely maintaining current restrictions on scale and mass. The surrounding properties will ultimately benefit by a more cohesive site, which will mean a more relatable project that better transitions to adjacent types of development.

Taken together, the site features, location and nearby uses point to the benefit of rezoning the 2107, 2115 and 2119 W. 29th parcels to make a coherent corner site at W.

29th Avenue and Umatilla Street. The City encourages zoning that is contiguous with abutting, relatable, naturally cohesive sites. A rezoning of this site is called for in the Highland Neighborhood Plan, is consistent with Blueprint Denver and the 2040 Comprehensive Plan (see the accompanying "Review Criteria Narrative"). Additionally, it is consistent with the proposed design overlay by Councilperson Amanda Sandoval for "Active Center and Corridor Design Overlay" in some Highland Neighborhood corridors. While this site is not specifically within one of these corridors, it does fit the expressed neighborhood vision of ensuring Main Street properties are truly mixed-use (not solely residential, large block apartment buildings or townhouses) while ensuring a more visually appealing, walkable development with street level retail knitting together the adjacent commercial streets. The remapping encourages a nod to the past historic prominence of the site and envisions a future project that embraces community benefit and uses and highlights the unifying features of a healthy neighborhood.

We look forward to working with and further gaining from ideas and input from Neighborhood Groups, City Council and staff towards creating this very positive change for the Neighborhood and the City.

Sincerely,

Ted Schultz, Principal

For Theodore Schultz, Architect, LLC

Property Owner's Representative for the Rezoning

# Review Criteria Narrative Describing Consistency with Adopted Plans

The applicants who own 2107, 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue are requesting the following rezoning of the three adjacent parcels to U-MS-3, DO-8 as follows:

The current zoning U-MS-3 of parcel 2107 W. 29th Avenue to be changed to U-MS-3, DO-8; the current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3 of both the 2115 and 2119 parcels be changed to U-MS-3, DO-8

June 27, 2022

## **Property Owners:**

2107-2111 W. 29th Avenue: Moon Studios, LLC; John E. Mueller, Managing Member (Current zoning U-MS-3)

2115 W. 29th Avenue: John E. and Marcia M. Mueller (current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3) 2119 W. 29th Avenue: Lee M. Cotone (current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3)

# **Property Owners' Representative:**

Theodore Schultz, Manager Theodore Schultz, Architect, LLC

The property owners and their representative have studied and utilized the "Highland Neighborhood Plan" (adopted by the then Denver Planning Department with participation from Neighborhood Task Forces), the "Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040" and its subset plan "Blueprint Denver" (both developed by the City of Denver) to guide and influence the proposed rezoning. The proposed rezoning of the three parcels 2107, 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue is consistent with and adheres to visions, goals and strategies of each plan as outlined in *italics* in the following summaries:

# **Highland Neighborhood Plan**

Summary of Plan Goals (6 in total, found on pages 10 through 12):

## **Goal 1) Heightened neighborhood pride**

As expressed in the accompanying Written Narrative prepared by the Owners, having a consistent zoning across the three adjacent lots of 2107, 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue would afford the opportunity for a unified development on this prominent "peninsula" of land that serves as a gateway to the Highland Neighborhood. Consistent zoning is the key to realize the community-wide benefit inherent in this important site.

Currently 2107 W. 29th Avenue is zoned U-MS-3. By extending the same zoning to the two neighboring properties to the west and adding the Overlay District DO-8 to all three, the U-MS-3, DO-8 would allow the option for consistent store front uses on the site and a better functioning and more unifying project for the neighborhood. Potential for com-

mercial uses represents the significant difference between U-MS-3 and G-MU-3 (height, density and residential uses are very similar).

An active, cohesive storefront would tie together the existing commercial corridors of Historic 15th Street, 29th Avenue, Central, Boulder and Umatilla Streets. There is vibrancy in these adjacent streets with many iconic establishments that help make Lower Highland a destination and Denver a great city. It is the expectation of the owners that the development will contribute to the vitality and pride of the neighborhood and city.

### Goal 2) Maintain and stabilize residential character

Highlands is a neighborhood of strong residential character accented with historic commercial corners and streets as well as newly developed mixed-use. It is essential to maintain the character of the established neighborhood with safe and pleasant streets while providing opportunities for a variety of housing types and commercial nodes serving the neighborhood on appropriate, transitional sites. In terms of residential character, the zone districts have the following distinctions and similarities:

- -G-MU-3 allows residential uses in a 3-story maximum Townhouse or Apartment Building Form.
- -U-MS-3 allows similar residential uses to the Apartment Form in its allowed 3-story maximum Shopfront Form but with the added potential of specific commercial uses. The ground floor would be more pedestrian friendly with street activation and tie-in to the existing, historic uses along 15th Street. The DO-8 overlay would heighten this opportunity.

# Goal 3) Balance mix of housing types

It is important to offer many housing types in the Neighborhood to keep it vibrant and accessible. The desired flexibility for housing of the current zoning is largely maintained in this rezoning proposal with the potential for multi-residential units of varying sizes allowed in the Shopfront Form.

## Goal 4) Promote business development

U-MS-3, DO-8 zoning would help achieve the goal of promoting business development, bringing beneficial business right where it belongs, adjacent to and complimenting existing surrounding ground floor retail stores and services. The five-way intersection of 15th Street, W. 29th Avenue, Umatilla Street and Boulder Street (a one block, one way street) is currently disjointed. The site rezoning will allow integration of the surrounding street retail by providing complimentary storefronts and services that will enhance and unify the intersection. The site affords tremendous opportunities to take advantage of the view corridor to and from adjacent lower downtown Denver, while keeping the view-plain fully open to the iconic Highland Church to the northwest.

# Goal 5) Encourage neighborhood participation

The Owners of the subject properties are long-time residents of the Highland Neighborhood. It is their intent to collaborate with and seek input from their neighbors. The applicant has had multiple meetings with the Highland United Neighborhood Association

Community and Planning Development Committee and has garnered their written support for the redoing, and has previously met twice with Councilperson Amanda Sandoval or her staff to present the vision for the properties and receive input. In both instances the participants recognized the importance of the project, given its prominent location at the gateway to the Highland area.

# Goal 6) Zoning - lessen future neighborhood development impacts and promote zoning changes which are consistent with neighborhood goals

The Highland Neighborhood Plan was developed after thorough input from a diverse group of citizens and task forces. The Plan clearly identifies specific zoning changes recommended to realize the above neighborhood goals. On page 66 the Plan specifically notes the subject sites along with the corner lot to be redeveloped under a PUD. The map below from Page 13b shows clearly the extent of the desired PUD from the corner of 29th Avenue and Umatilla Street west to the alley:

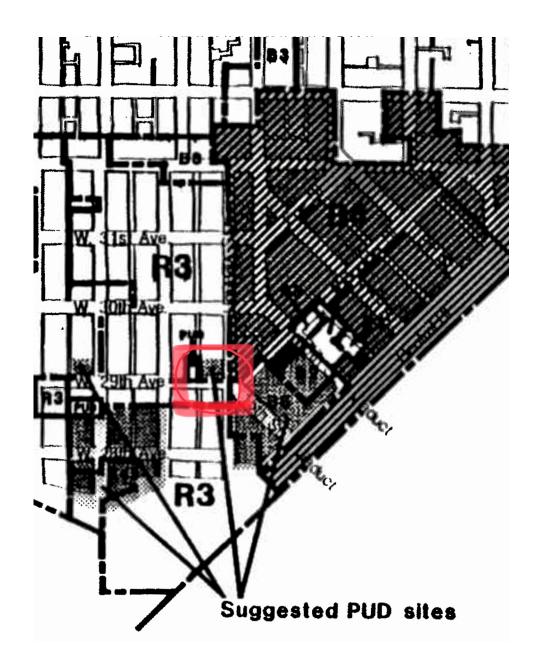
#### 6. P.U.D.

New developments or significant redevelopments should go through the existing Planned Unit Development process and be evaluated according to the goals established in the plan.

#### Locations:

- A. The "Highland Block", 15th Street between Boulder and Central Streets.
- B. The lower Bluffs area bounded by West 29th Avenue on the north, west 27th Avenue on the south, Vallejo Street on the east, and the alley east of Wyandot on the west.
- C. The northwest corner of west 29th Avenue and Umatilla.
- D. Northwest corner of W. 29th Avenue and Wyandot.

The subject site sits at the critically important intersection of (4) Sub-areas of the Plan and at the apex of a "Primary Area of Revitalization". The Sub-areas and Primary Area of Revitalization goals (shown below) emphasize the need for the site to transition from an under-utilized and functionally obsolete commercial building and residences to an active retail mixed-use development, better connecting the property to the larger neighborhood. Main Street Zoning and the DO-8 overlay was devised for this very purpose: to foster transition through well planned and well-sited mixed-use, activation and in the creation of active hubs.



Below are highlighted specific goals and recommendations from the (4) overlapping and inclusive Sub-areas at this site (Sub-areas 6,7,10 and 11) with a clear demonstration of the superiority of U-MS-3, DO-8 to reach those goals.

# Sub-Area 6 ("Bluffs Area" bounded by 32nd Avenue to 29th Avenue; Umatilla Street to Zuni Street)

This PUD is specifically called for in written form on page 40 under "Suggested Land Use":

Suggested Land Use: - Moderate density residential
- P.U.D. northwest corner of Umatilla
Street and W. 29th Avenue.
- Transition area along Umatilla, and
Tejon Streets - residential

- P.U.D. northwest corner of W. 29th Avenue and Wyandot Street.

## Sub-Area 7 ("the area along 29th Avenue between Umatilla and Zuni Streets")

Within the Sub-area 7, U-MS-3 zoning is a more appropriate zoning than G-MU-3, especially because of the notable mixed-use "characters" outlined below. "Design linkages", noted under the "recommendations", emphasize historic and pedestrian connections specifically through storefront window designs and other active street-scale additions. As previously noted, store fronts are not allowed in the current zoning at 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue and it is the opinion of the applicants and of the neighbors we have conferred with that store front retail will better activate the entire site as outlined in the Plan (not just at the corner, where it is currently allowed).

Reproduced from the Plan (also on page 40) are the Character, Goal and Recommendations for this corridor:

Sub-Area 7

Location: Area along W. 29th Avenue between

Umatilla and Zuni Streets.

Character: Mixture of office, semi industrial,

retail, and residential uses. Building structures are in good condition. The

current zoning is B-4.

Goal: Develop area primarily for office,

retail, and services.

#### Recommendations:

- Create design linkages with neaby historic areas on 15th Street, Stonemen's Row, and along Zuni Street by emphasizing the historic character and creating pedestrian connections. Some important features are:

- . streetscaping
- . sidewalk lighting
- seating
- . storefront windows designs

# Sub-Area 10 (The Bluffs bounded by 32nd Avenue, Umatilla, Boulder and Tejon Streets)

The single goal (copied below) for this area "encourage(s) mixed-use residential, office, and retail development" and specifically notes mixed-use retail and office "focused toward Boulder Street". Other parts of this sub-area emphasize mixed-use residential. The subject site abuts the higher-intensity area of Boulder and Umatilla Streets where retail and office are encouraged and where Main Street Zoning exists.

Goal:

Preserve residential uses and encourage mixed use residential, office, and retail development with emphasis on residential. Mixed use retail and office should be focused toward Boulder Street and be sensitive to their residential neighbors in terms of providing landscaping and buffering between the two uses.

Sub-Area 11 (the area between 15th, Pecos, Central and Boulder Streets)

On page 44 of the Plan the "Highland Block" notes the mixed-use importance of the area.

Goal:

Develop as mixed use commercial, retail and residential area. The "Highland Blook" on 15th and 16th Street between Boulder and Central Street should be developed in a way which preserves its historical significance and creates a major gateway to the neighborhood.

#### Recommendations:

- Encourage unified development of the Highland Block.
  - the block should continue to act as an activity area and focal point for the neighborhood.
  - develop as a mixed use residential, retail and office project.

#### Primary Area of Revitalization: 15th Street - Boulder to Central

On pages 20 / 21 this stretch of street is singled out as one of the "most significant blocks in the neighborhood". The subject site sits at the head of this block. The following recommendations are made for this location:

#### Recommendations:

- Encourage unified development through the P.U.D. process.
- Encourage a mixed use office, retail, and residential development.
- Encourage a higher percentage of residential as part of the development.

In summary, the corner site of 2107-19 West 29th Avenue is singled out as one of the most important sites in the Neighborhood and consequently should be rezoned with the goals of the adjoining/overlapping Sub-Areas and Primary Revitalization area in mind. The ability to coherently redevelop the site and create a better linkage between the Lower Highlands and the "Highland Block" at this key corner of the Highland neighborhood cannot be underscored enough to meet the above goals.

2107 West 29th Avenue (7,000 s.f. - U-MS-3), is a modest size site with perimeter streets that (topographically) ascend up the streets of Umatilla and 29th Avenue. Designing a building to take into consideration the goals of the Neighborhood Plan while addressing alley access, parking, trash and services access and designing viable retail while considering economic vitality and mobility and which architecturally reflects the prominence of the corner would be challenging without the additional sites that reach the alley. The corner will function far better for the community with alley access afforded to this steep and challenged site.

In summary, by rezoning the three sister sites of 2107, 2115 and 2119 West 29th Avenue it will allow for a better, cohesive development with more functional design while providing for a participatory, active, community neighborhood mixed-use project. The three lots together would assure more vitality, connectivity as well as a calming transition at the apex of the Highland neighborhood.

# **Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040**

Written to provide a holistic and sustainable vision to guide the future of Denver, the Comprehensive Plan 2040 creates a vision and goals to tie together the city's various plans and policies. Central to the Plan are (3) applicable Vision Elements to this proposed rezoning each with it's own set of goals and strategies to meet those goals.

Below is an analysis *in italics* of how this combined rezoning from G-MU-3, UO-3 and U-MS-3 to a unified U-MS-3, DO-8 meets the specific goals outlined under the (3) Vision Elements.

<u>Vision Element 1</u>: Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive (what equitable, affordable, and inclusive means to Denver: Diverse, Friendly and Open; Access to Amenities and Services; Affordable Housing and Transportation Choices)

**Goal 1** - Ensure all Denver residents have safe, convenient and affordable access to basic services and a variety of amenities.

### Applicable Strategies

**A.** Increase development of housing units close to transit and mixed-use developments. The specific, local Highland Neighborhood Plan identifies this subject property as a highly desired location for a mixed-use development to serve the Neighborhood and for

the creation of housing units imbedded in such locations (see analysis of the Neighborhood Plan above). The Denver Comprehensive 2040 Plan places high priority in locally developed plans using the Comprehensive Plan as a city-wide guide. In this case, the plans come to the same determination.

**B**. Implement a high-quality, affordable and accessible multi-modal transportation system.

The ability to have nearby neighborhood services and amenities as allowed in the U-MS-3 but not in the G-MU-3 provides the opportunity to access the site without the use of a car in a neighborhood where the need for local retail and commercial uses remains high. The overlay of DO-8 heightens this potential.

**C**. Improve equitable access to resources that improve quality of life, including cultural and natural amenities, health care, education, parks, recreation, nutritious food and the arts.

U-MS-3, DO-8 offers the ability to develop a variety of commercial spaces that would provide nearby residential and office users convenient access to services or with the ability to gather, mingle, shop, eat and experience "resources that improve quality of life."

**Goal 2** - Build housing as a continuum to serve residents across a range of incomes, ages and needs.

# Applicable Strategies

**A.** Create a greater mix of housing options in every neighborhood for all individuals and families.

U-MS-3 zoning also encourages many housing options and in this case is similar to the current G-MU-3.

**B**. Ensure city policies and regulations encourage every neighborhood to provide a complete range of housing options.

U-MS-3 allows the "Shopfront" building form which is not found in the G-MU-3. The "Shopfront" remains consistent with current neighborhood housing, which is especially important on this transitional site.

**C**. Foster communities of opportunity by aligning housing strategies and investments to improve economic mobility and access to transit and services.

U-MS-3 allows for housing at this apex of four streets (29th Avenue; 15th, Boulder, and Umatilla Streets) and provides access to a variety of transit options including bus, walking, biking and automobile access. The site fronts the Blueprint Denver-identified "Main Commercial Arterial" of 15th Street (one of the key arterials in and out of downtown Denver). Both traffic and bike lanes front the site on the south. The site is also within a quarter mile of the "High Transit Corridor" of Speer Boulevard, is near the 20th Street overpass and is within walking distance of the 16th Street Pedestrian Bridge with direct access to Platte Street, Commons Park and Lower Downtown and the Inter Modal Transportation Center of Union Station. The site is also in walking distance via the Plat-

te River Trail to Empower Field, Coors Field via Commons Park or 20th Street, and the Ball Center (formerly Pepsi Center), via Speer Blvd., or 15th Street. The Modern Art Museum is nearby - also on 15th Street and the important Historic Theater District in downtown Denver is a 20 minute walk from the site. The importance of this site in relation to walkability, transportation, amenities and services cannot be overstated. The potential of amenities and services on site in the U-MS-3, DO-8 serves to reinforce the implementation of this strategy.

**D**. Increase the development of senior-friendly and family-friendly housing, including units with multiple bedrooms in multi-family developments. *U-MS-3 allows for dense types of dwelling where G-MU-3 is more geared to single-family units and townhouses. The unique character of the site means that housing will be complimentary to a variety of housing types already in the neighborhood.* 

<u>Vision Element 2</u>: Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods (What strong and authentic neighborhoods mean to Denver: Diverse, Friendly and Open; Access to Amenities and Services; Equity; Access to Opportunity; Sense of History and Cultural Heritage; Walkable, Bikeable, Accessible and Transit-friendly; Affordable Housing and Transportation).

**Goal 1** - Create a city of complete neighborhoods.

# Applicable Strategies

A. Build a network of well-connected, vibrant, mixed-use centers and corridors. The U-MS-3, DO-8 rezoning along the W. 29th Avenue frontage up to the alley from the corner site at the intersection with Umatilla Street frontage will insure connectivity to the surrounding neighborhood. The site location, height and type of use will connect to the already existing vibrant blocks surrounding the site in two ways: the site will transition to the more residential part of the Neighborhood extending from the site to the north and northwest while unifying and capping the commercial part of the Neighborhood from the south, east and northeast of the site. The unified site is the key to the (4) specific Neighborhood Sub-Areas and the Primary Area of Revitalization adjoining the site as noted in the Highland Neighborhood Plan.

**B**. Ensure neighborhoods offer a mix of housing types and services for a diverse population.

U-MS-3 offers diverse residential building forms that vary from what is available in the G-MU-3 zoning and will compliment the G-MU-3 zoning that will remain in place to the north up Umatilla Street and to the west along 29th Avenue. This U-MS-3 zoning compliments and transitions the CMS-5 zoned properties across Umatilla Street and the other higher density zonings in the blocks leading toward Downtown. The U-MS-3 allows for a diverse mix of services that is expressly not available in the G-MU-3 and is further enhanced by the Neighborhood-expressed desire for the DO-8 overlay, as well.

**C**. Ensure neighborhoods are safe, accessible and well-connected for all modes. The integration of the desired commercial uses allowed in the U-MS-3 (which already includes three-story limited residential) will activate and tie-in the surrounding streets

here at this four-street intersection. The integration and transition of uses that this rezoning promotes is all about intentional, well-planned connection at the street intersection level, city grid transition level and neighborhood transition level that all occur here.

**D**. Encourage quality infill development that is consistent with the surrounding neighborhood and offers opportunities for increased amenities. *The rezoning as proposed will provide exactly this.* 

**Goal 2** - Enhance Denver's neighborhoods through high-quality urban design.

## Applicable Strategies

**C**. Create people-oriented places that embrace community character with thoughtful transitions, aspirational design and an engaging public realm.

The conceptual design includes a plaza for retail and commercial use at the street level which is an intentional design element to encourage shop owners and neighbors to gather. Both Blueprint Denver and The Comprehensive Plan 2040 encourage private spaces which reach out to the public; creating connections, transitional spaces, gateways to new businesses, openness and architectural surprises. This design component continues the historical nature and authenticity of the neighborhood. Re-zoning the subject parcels to a more unifying U-MS-3, DO-8 zoning will allow a far better opportunity than G-MU-3 or U-MS-3 without the enhancing overlay to be "people-oriented", "engaging" and "transitional". This is especially important at this prominent corner sitting at the head of the identified "Main Commercial Arterial" that is 15th Street and at this site also defined as a "Gateway to the Highland Neighborhood".

**D**. Use urban design to contribute to economic viability, public health, safety, environmental well-being, neighborhood culture, and quality of life. The corner site of 2107 W. 29th Avenue was rezoned purposefully to U-MS-3 in 2010. This proposed rezoning seeks to extend the U-MS-3 to the adjoining 7,000 sf of land (west of the corner site to the alley) and to add the enhancing overlay DO-8 to all three subject parcels in order to more fully meet the goals of the Neighborhood Plan for this specific node, addressing the economic vitality, community, culture and safety issues that comes from vibrant and good planning. It is clear that G-MU-3 is the incorrect zoning for the subject parcels of 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue since it severely limits the overall potential inherent in this strategy.

**Goal 4** - Ensure every neighborhood is economically strong and dynamic.

# Applicable Strategies

**A**. Grow and support neighborhood-serving businesses. *U-MS-3, DO-8 will allow multi-tenant, neighborhood-serving businesses at this long-identified ideal node and center.* 

**B**. Embrace the international nature of our neighborhoods through support of immigrant-owned businesses.

The design criteria for storefronts under U-MS-3, DO-8 includes a high degree of transparency and engagement to the street and is well suited for a variety of businesses. The concept for the project envisions multiple small spaces that will allow flexibility: tenants can interact, expand or divide as requirements change, businesses grow or the market demands. The plaza will take advantage of the extraordinary view to the city of Denver, while creating an area for outdoor dining, events and interactions.

**Goal 8** - Conduct intentional, equitable and measurable neighborhood planning.

## Applicable Strategies

**A.** Create diverse and inclusive opportunities for communities to participate in planning. It is vital that this rezoning application process exemplify the above. This application is by long-time owners and participants in the neighborhood. The owner/applicants have discussed the merits of this rezoning with many immediate neighbors, Councilperson Sandoval and her staff and officially with the Highland United Neighborhood Association who have added their written support for the rezoning. We have shared our conceptual plans and ideas and listened intently to their much-appreciated input, applied improvements to the plans based on that collective thinking and look forward to more feedback going forward.

<u>Vision Element 4:</u> Economically Diverse and Vibrant: (what economically diverse and vibrant means to Denver: Access to Opportunity; Access to Quality Education, Training and Lifelong Learning; Business-Friendly and Entrepreneurial; Diverse Employment Options; Equity)

**Goal 3** - Sustain and grow Denver's local neighborhood businesses.

#### Applicable Strategies

**A**. Promote small, locally-owned businesses and restaurants that reflect the unique character of Denver.

U-MS-3, DO-8 will provide the potential for additional small, unique businesses to serve the Highland Neighborhood already known for its diversity, creative cuisine and authentic businesses.

<u>Goal 10</u> - Create a vibrant food economy and leverage Denver's food businesses to accelerate economic opportunity.

### Applicable Strategies

**A.** Develop Denver as an epicenter for the regional food economy.

U-MS-3, DO-8 at the subject properties will enhance the opportunity to locate new, various small, local and regional sellers or purveyors of food that already make Lower Highland, Highland and Platte Street authentic. These areas thrive on being where people are able to gather and on any given day choose from different cuisines that suit their interests.

**B**. Support the creation, expansion and economic vitality of Denver food businesses.

The goal of economic vitality, as stated in the Highland Neighborhood Plan, remains a priority in the 2040 Plan. Retail and restaurant food business establishments will be drawn to the site for the view lines both into the plaza and out towards downtown Denver, the visually aesthetic storefronts, the accessibility and proximity to other thriving businesses where a chance still remains to know the owner - who in turn knows the customer. Small footprint design will attract a variety of food or restaurant users, which will create growth of this kind of business, options for diners and employment opportunities close to housing.

# **Blueprint Denver**

Blueprint Denver is a sub-set plan of the Comprehensive 2040 Plan above and, among other tasks, specifically guides rezoning efforts in Denver. "People building projects can use Blueprint Denver as a guide to the strategic and intentional location of new development that exhibits design quality and provides amenities to benefit residents, employees and visitors." The following demonstrates how this specific small rezoning fits with the recommendations and goals set forth.

There are **(10) principal goals** in this subset plan that "reflect the voice of our community (and) . . .create a guiding framework for the plan vision and recommendations." Blueprint Denver then goes on to list **(3) Elements of Complete Neighborhoods** each with many unique **Strategies** to meet the **(10) goals**.

Below are the <u>(10) principal goals</u> with our comments *in italics* as to how this proposed rezoning meets each goal and lists of the related, specific **Strategies** from each **Element** that are set into action by virtue of this approved rezoning:

**Goal 1** - Serve all Denver residents with a diverse range of affordable housing options and quality employment opportunities throughout the city.

The proposed U-MS-3, DO-8 zoning maintains the ability to offer unique housing in a vibrant neighborhood containing diverse housing options. Within a few block radius of the corner (29th Avenue and Umatilla Street) housing includes multi-family; moderate income; for sale lofts, townhomes and condominiums; apartments, senior care living, Section 8, subsidized housing and single-family residences. Additionally important is the ability to add quality employment opportunities not available in the current G-MU-3 zone district.

**Goal 2** - Ensure all Denver residents have safe, convenient and affordable access to basic services and a variety of amenities.

Providing U-MS-3, DO-8 on the contiguous three lots will assure the opportunity for a better designed project and convenient access to more services and amenities. The three lot development ultimately takes more beneficial advantage of the site location and provides more opportunity for working near home - and for shopping near home and work. Each of these components help our city thrive. During the Pandemic we real-

ized the importance of retail businesses and restaurants as places to see our neighbors and gather together. We also better understand how small retailers are important to the economic health of our city and state. As applicants we want to ensure the design and development of the corner attracts retailers who help reflect the vibrancy and diversity of our city and contribute to the economic prosperity of the Highland area.

## <u>Supporting Element from Blueprint Denver:</u>

"Land Use and Built Form" Element of Complete Neighborhoods / Economics / background: "Denver is home to a number of large shopping areas (including Cherry Creek, Downtown, and Northfield) and hundreds of neighborhood shopping areas (from a local marketplace to a neighborhood commercial centers). The range of shopping, dining, and active options include the latest fashion from iconic global brand stores to the neighborhood corner grocery. Denver is noted to have one of the highest concentrations of chef-driven restaurants and brewpubs. Denver's retail scene helps our neighborhoods to provide the places where we love to meet friends and family or relax by reading or shopping. Supporting and retaining existing local businesses that reflect Denver's diversity is key."

Strategies beneath this Element to meet this goal 2 as well as goals 4 and 6 below with rezoning to U-MS-3, DO-8:

- **6A**. Support locally-owned businesses—new and old—to expand and evolve to meet the changing needs of residents and visitors. Support could include assisting businesses, especially in the most underserved or distressed neighborhoods, with regulatory processes, education, training, helping with marketing or increasing access to capital.
- **6B**. Attract the world's innovative retail brands to provide shopping experiences and options for both residents and visitors.
- 6C. Promote Denver as a destination for healthy living and economic opportunity.
- **6D.** Build on Denver's national and regional entertainment options to continue to blend the arts, entertainment, shopping and hospitality into unique Denver experiences.

**Goal 3** - Develop safe, high-quality mobility options that prioritize walking, rolling, biking and transit and connect people of all ages and abilities to their daily needs. *U-MS-3, DO-8 creates the environment to foster use of these alternative modes of transportation by creating near-by services both within the neighborhood and commercial hub which will contribute to a more walkable, varied-mobility neighborhood and help unify the existing and confusing intersections, crosswalks as well as create sidewalk engagement and uses:* 

Supporting **Element** from Blueprint Denver

"Mobility" Element of Complete Neighborhoods/ background: "All streets in Denver should safely accommodate people walking and rolling by providing a safe

and comfortable pedestrian environment. On all streets, prioritize people walking and rolling over other modes of transportation. Streets can better accommodate the needs of all users when the design of the street takes into consideration the needs of the surrounding land-use character."

<u>Strategies</u> beneath this <u>Element</u> to meet this <u>goal 3</u> as well as <u>goal 1 above and goal 4 below</u> with rezoning to U-MS-3, DO-8 and the creation of cohesion, an active plaza and storefronts:

- **1D**. Increase the number of services and amenities that are available by walking, rolling and biking by integrating more local centers and corridors into residential areas, especially for areas that score low in Access to Opportunity.
- **1E**. Promote mixed-use development in all centers and corridors
- **3A**. Ensure safe pedestrian crossings, especially along the High Injury Network identified by Vision Zero.
- **3B**. Develop access management policies especially in centers and corridors in the downtown, urban center and general urban contexts to reduce conflicts between driveways/ garages and pedestrians and cyclists.
- **3C**. Ensure that café seating in the public right-of-way provides ample and high-quality space for pedestrians and streetscaping, especially in areas with high pedestrian volumes.
- **3D**. Develop policies for shared spaces in appropriate locations to safely accommodate all users, flexible spaces and opportunities for events.
- **Goal 4** Support a welcoming business environment and the growth of employment centers around the city to promote work and educational opportunities for all residents. The U-MS-3, DO-8 as proposed with mixed-use residential on the 2nd and 3rd level will support retail and businesses in a mutually enabling environment. In addition, the modest addition of retail will support the businesses in the adjacent "Old Highland Business District" Historic District and in the Highland Block. Both the residential and retail developments in those nearby areas will, in turn support the planned retail, which is long-standing goal of the Neighborhood. The uses invited in U-MS-3, DO-8 are the type of uses the Neighborhood Plan specifically desires in well planned areas.

<u>Goal 5</u> - Focus higher intensity growth in walkable, mixed-use centers and along transit priority streets.

The rezoning is conceived to "complete the circle" by complimenting the retail and service businesses along the "Old Highland Business District" Historic District on 15th Street with its "high-medium uses" (additional housing and retail businesses) while continuing the "low-medium uses" which already exist along the W. 29th Avenue corridor from the intersection to Zuni Street (uses as defined in Blueprint Denver - see more discussion on this below).

Supporting **Element** from Blueprint Denver:

"Land Use and Built Form" Element of Complete Neighborhoods / "Design Quality and Preservation" / background: "Mixed-use buildings should engage the street level and support pedestrian activity. The bulk and scale should be respectful of the surrounding character, especially in transitions to residential areas. Historic buildings can exemplify desired design outcomes in a place.

Strategies beneath this Element to meet this goal 5 as well as goals 6,7 and 8 below with rezoning to U-MS-3, DO-8; creating "exceptional design outcomes in key centers and corridors" through well thought out and participatory changes through (re)zoning:

- **3E.** Revise the zoning (code) to provide standards for new mixed-use development that better responds to the surrounding context. Standards to examine for improvement include build-to ranges, transparency minimums, lot coverage, and entry features.
- **3F**. Implement additional zoning tools to create appropriate transitions between places, especially for areas where centers and corridors are close to residential places. This may include standards related to height, massing and uses.
- **3H**. Use urban quality evaluation and metrics, often developed through small area planning and assessments, to help define design problems and to help identify possible solutions.

<u>Goal 6</u> - Enhance the overall character and sense of place of neighborhoods through all stages of development and reinvestment.

The small but critical addition of 7,000 sf land zoned G-MU-3 into the U-MS-3 zoning of the adjacent 7,000 sf sister parcel and adding the enhancing DO-8 overlay to all three parcels unifies what would otherwise be a fragmented site. The "sense of place" is currently disrupted at both this intersection and the corner. This can be corrected through the rezoning. The desire to transform the underlying use of the full corner site has been recognized specifically by the Highland Neighborhood Plan and confirmed by the City of Denver when they approved the rezoning of the corner (2107 W. 29th Avenue) to U-MS-3 in 2010. This is a continuation and enhancement of that vision. The opportunity currently exists to complete the goals stated repeatedly in the various Plans which the Neighborhood has supported for years.

<u>Goal 7</u> - Foster great urban design and the creation of authentic places that thoughtfully integrate streets, public spaces and private property.

The approval of allowed commercial uses in the subject, adjacent parcels to the corner will go a tremendous way in the process of "thoughtfully integrating" and resolving many of the challenges of the intersection at W. 29th Avenue; 15th, Boulder and Umatilla Streets. Through the design, the intent is to "open up" the building and encourage the public to use the corner in a more vital and inviting way.

**Goal 8** - Promote enduring and compatible design that responds to an evolving community while embracing historic assets and cultural heritage.

The "low-medium" character of the neighborhood which is defined as "up to 3-stories" will not change in this proposed rezoning and is based on the surrounding historical

context. The commercial uses allowed in the U-MS-3, DO-8 will "embrace the historic assets and cultural heritage" by bridging the mixed-use commercial uses directly across the multi-pointed intersection.

**Goal 9** - Guide growth to maintain connections to the outdoors, respond to climate change and protect our environment and natural resources.

U-MS-3, DO-8 promotes uses that open to the street and create vitality where it is needed in commercial hubs. People using this local asset will be able to access it by modalities of outdoor movement. Denver has a new, visionary Green Code that will reduces the greenhouse gas footprint of new or renovated buildings. The housing and businesses in the development will be required to be meet these codes. The optimal goal is to reduce the environmental footprint of the neighborhood by making resources and services more centralized, accessible and local.

**Goal 10** - Promote a healthy community with equitable access to healthy living for all residents.

Healthy communities thrive in well-planned neighborhoods that promote strong connections to neighbors and interaction between people. The U-MS-3 and the DO-8 overlay comprise a well thought out zone district designed to meet many of our social needs and sustenance. This site is ideally suited to promote healthy and active living via good zoning, site development and transportation considerations which are all clearly laid out in the Neighborhood Plan and Blueprint Denver.

# Supporting **Element** from Blueprint Denver:

"Quality of Life Infrastructure" Element of Complete Neighborhoods / background: "A complete neighborhood is where people of all ages and abilities have safe and convenient access to places and things needed in daily life. This includes a variety of housing types, grocery stores, child care, schools, libraries, social services and other services, as well as active transportation options. The interconnectedness of places and creating complete neighborhoods and places supports community health and well-being."

Strategies beneath this Element to meet this goal 10 as well as goals 2 and 7 above with rezoning to U-MS-3, DO-8; to "work with public and private partners to improve access to shops, restaurants, entertainment, civic uses, services and a variety of daily needs for all Denver residents":

- **8B**. During small area planning, identify opportunities to expand healthy, culturally-relevant food access and programming.
- **10A.** Prioritize street and trail improvements and connections leading to and through existing and future centers and corridors.
- **10B**. Develop incentives to promote human scaled, accessible and inclusive mixed-use centers and corridors.
- **10C**. Promote development that compatibly integrates and includes daily needs such as child care centers, grocery stores and community-serving retail.

#### **Blueprint Denver Future Places and Neighborhood Contexts**

Blueprint Denver and its "Future Places" color-coded maps shows the land proposed for this rezoning as "Residential" and anticipating a "Low-Medium" density of growth between 2017 and 2040. The "Residential" category of use is defined in the Plan in this manner:

"These are areas where the predominate use is residential. Although they are primarily residential, they are supported by a variety of embedded uses needed for a complete neighborhood including schools, recreation and nodes of commercial/retail uses."

Additionally, under "Urban Context" the subject property is designated "Urban Low-Medium Residential" in character under "Neighborhood Contexts":

"Low-Medium Residential is a "mix of low- to mid-scale multi-unit residential options. Small-scale multi-unit buildings are interspersed between single- and two-unit residential. Limited mixed-use along some arterial and collector streets and some intersections. Vacant institutional uses at intersections or select sites along some residential arterial and collector streets may be appropriate locations to introduce additional residential intensity. A variety of lower scale residential forms including row houses and small multi-unit buildings are found. Buildings are generally 3 stories or less in height".

Below are our comments *in italics* as to how this proposed rezoning to U-MS-3, DO-8 fits in with these Blue Print Denver identifications and contexts:

This rezoning fits with the above definitions of "Low-Medium Residential" as the 3-story height described is allowed in both the current G-MU-3 and in the proposed U-MS-3. The Highland Neighborhood Plan states that this vital corner is appropriate, even ideal, for low to mid scale multi-unit residences with mixed-in commercial, cohesive use. The subject properties joined with the corner site will enable a beneficial project. These concepts are expressed under the category in the plan of "Local Corridors" as defined this way:

"Corridors are mixed-use places of different scales oriented along a street. They provide spaces for people to engage in social activities and entertainment, such as shopping and dining. Corridors are often embedded in neighborhoods and serve nearby residents".

And also borrow and adopt from under the Definition of "Local Urban Centers" defined in section 5.3 this way:

A Local Urban Center "primarily provides options for dining, entertainment and shopping. May also include some residential and employment uses. Typically frequented by residents of the neighborhood. Activity levels are lower than other cen-

ter types, with the highest activity during evenings and weekends. Where residential occurs, it should primarily be located to encourage active street frontages. The public realm is typically defined by lower-scale buildings with active frontages providing a more intimate, pedestrian scale. Heights are generally up to 3 stories and generally will not have a transition area as the low intensity easily integrates into the surrounding neighborhood."

U-MS-3 is designed to accommodate a Local Urban Center - one that fits the goals of each of the applicable plans and is shown to be desired at this site. West 29th Avenue is defined in Blueprint Denver as a "Residential Arterial" and 15th Street (which terminates at the corner and transitions to W. 29th Avenue) is defined as a "Main Commercial Arterial". Each of these streets are identified in Blueprint Denver for high priority of Biking and Pedestrian Uses for "Future Modal Priority" and fit the prescriptions for social engagement in "Local Corridors" as defined above.

### Note on Health, Safety and Welfare:

The proposed official map amendment furthers the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City as evidenced in the satisfaction of the many visions and goals expressed in the above analyzed Plans (which were created in order to foster public health, safety and general welfare). The proposed rezoning to U-MS-3, DO-8 creates the vitality, connection and opportunity that is absent in the G-MU-3 for this identified site.

The Highland Neighborhood Plan states on page 1:

"This plan is intended to promote patterns of land use, urban design, circulation and services which encourage and contribute to the economic, social and physical health, safety and welfare of the people who live and work in the neighborhood."

The proposed rezoning directly realizes a goal of the plan to remap the subject site to a commercial mixed-use to achieve the above. The overall Neighborhood as well as (4) Sub-areas and a Primary Area of Revitalization identified in the plan are bettered in this way for the people who live and work there.

Both Comprehensive Plan 2040 and its subset plan Blueprint Denver state in their introductions this prominent goal:

"In 2040 . . . Denver is a city of safe, accessible and healthy communities."

By satisfying many Vision Elements shared across these two Plans (as demonstrated in the Plan analyses above) the proposed rezoning better realizes this goal by making the Highland Neighborhood and City more "Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive"; by creating a "Strong and Authentic Neighborhood" that is "More Economically Diverse and Vibrant."

## Notes on how the rezoning aligns with:

a) the proposed U-MS-3 district <u>Urban Neighborhood Context Description</u> in the Denver Zoning Code (Section 5.2.1)

SECTION 5.1.1 GENERAL CHARACTER - The Urban Neighborhood Context is primarily characterized by single-unit and two-unit residential uses. Small-scale multi-unit residential uses and commercial areas are typically embedded in residential areas. Singleunit residential structures are typically the Urban House building form. Multi-unit building forms typically include the Row House building form embedded with other residential form types. Commercial buildings are typically the Shop front and General building forms that may contain a mixture of uses within the same building. Single- and two-unit residential uses are primarily located along local and residential arterial streets. Multiunit residential uses are located along local streets, residential and mixed use arterials, and main streets. Commercial uses are primarily located along mixed-use arterial or main streets but may be located at or between intersections of local streets. U-MS-3 aligns with this character as Shop Front form is identified above. The multi-unit, mixed-use and commercial use that is available in this zone district can be on Residential Arterials (W. 29th Avenue at the subject sites), Main Commercial Arterials (15th Street at the existing U-MS-3 site at the corner) and also at or between intersections. This site is well suited to U-MS-3 as it lies on a multi-pronged intersection and the subject sites when joined with the corner site lie between Umatilla Street and the alley intersection.

SECTION 5.1.2 STREET, BLOCK AND ACCESS PATTERNS - The Urban Neighborhood Context consists of a regular pattern of block shapes surrounded by an orthogonal street grid. Orthogonal streets provide a regular pattern of pedestrian and vehicular connections through this context and there is a consistent presence of alleys. Block sizes and shapes are consistent and primarily include detached sidewalks (though attached sidewalks are also found), tree lawns where provided for by detached sidewalks, street and surface parking, and landscaping in the front setback.

The subject sites are part of a regular block and have alley access and face orthogonally W. 29th Avenue. A benefit of this rezoning is that the corner site of 2107 W. 29th Avenue could have alley access across the subject sites. Given the topography at this Highland site, there is currently no feasible parking or trash access for the single corner site.

SECTION 5.1.3 BUILDING PLACEMENT AND LOCATION - Residential buildings typically have consistent, moderate front setbacks, shallow side setbacks and consistent orientation. Commercial buildings typically have consistent orientation and shallow front setbacks with parking at the rear and/or side of the building.

The rezoning would provide parking for the currently stand-alone corner site. A goal of this rezoning is to provide consistent orientation at the subject sites to go with the same zoning of the corner site. The total frontage along W. 29th Avenue would be a modest 175' of U-MS-3, DO-8 after the rezoning. The consistency in use, setbacks, massing,

form and transparency would be highly beneficial and more consistent with this desired character in the Urban Context.

SECTION 5.1.4 BUILDING HEIGHT - The Urban Neighborhood Context is characterized by low scale buildings except for some midrise commercial and mixed use structures, particularly at nodes or along arterial streets.

This rezoning would not change the three- story scale that is already existing in the current zoning at this node and abutting this Residential Arterial.

SECTION 5.1.5 MOBILITY - There is a balance of pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle reliance with greater access to the multi-modal transportation system.

Through the rezoning to U-MS-3, DO-8 this desired character of multi-modality would be better achieved as noted in the discussion of the (3) Plans above.

# b) The <u>General Purpose Statement</u> for the proposed zone district in the Denver Zoning Code (Section 5.2.5.1.A-G, shown below, for U-MS-3):

A. The Main Street zone districts are intended to promote safe, active, and pedestrianscaled commercial streets through building forms that clearly define and activate the public street edge.

This is a central goal to the proposed rezoning to U-MS-3. The (3) analyzed plans above confirm the subject properties as an ideal location for this purpose.

B. The Main Street zone districts are intended to enhance the convenience, ease and enjoyment of transit, walking, shopping and public gathering along the city's commercial streets.

This too is a central goal to the proposed rezoning to U-MS-3 and the (3) analyzed plans above confirm the subject properties as an ideal location for this purpose also.

C. The Main Street district standards are also intended to ensure new development contributes positively to established residential neighborhoods and character, and improves the transition between commercial development and adjacent residential neighborhoods.

U-MS-3 at the subject properties works to create these desired character and transitions in scale, mass and use between the existing commercial and residential surrounding the site. The proposed overlay district of DO-8 specifically enhances this desired character and transition between commercial and residential uses.

D. Main Street zone districts are typically applied linearly along entire block faces of commercial, industrial, main, mixed-use and residential arterial streets (as designated in Blueprint Denver) or, less frequently, on single zone lots at the intersection of local/collector streets within a residential neighborhood.

U-MS-3 works across these subject sites as they are linearly along the "entire block" along W. 29th Avenue from the alley to Umatilla Street when cohered with the sister property at 2107 W. Umatilla Street that is already zoned U-MS-3. W. 29th Avenue is defined as a "Residential Arterial" in Blue Print Denver and 15th Street (which this block heads at this unique intersection) is defined as a 'Main Commercial Arterial."

E. In all cases, the Main Street zone districts should be applied where a higher degree of walk ability and pedestrian activity is desired than required in a Corridor, Mixed Use, or Residential Mixed Use zone district.

The (3) Plans analyzed above all call for more vibrant activity and multi-modal flexibility in an area such as where this rezoning to U-MS-3, OD-8 is proposed.

F. In the Urban Neighborhood Context, the Main Street zone districts may also be embedded within a larger commercial shopping center or mixed-use area to promote a pedestrian-active street front within a larger mixed use or commercial development. The proposed rezoning does lie in the Urban Neighborhood Context and seeks to unify, transition from and serve the larger mixed-use commercial around it with pedestrian active street fronts within this larger context. This is a primary goal of the rezoning.

G. The Main Street zone districts are intended to promote an urban, mixed-use, built-to environment regardless of neighborhood context. Main Street buildings have a shallow front setback range. The build-to requirement are high and the maximum building coverage is significant.

The build-to and maximum coverages required in the U-MS-3, OD-8 fit will into the historic context immediately around the subject sites.

# c) The <u>Specifc Intent Statement</u> found in the Denver Zoning Code (5.2.5.2 Specific Intent: - Main Street 3 (U-MS-3)

U-MS-3 applies primarily to local or collector street corridors or may be embedded within a commercial shopping center or mixed-use area, where a building scale of 1 to 3 stories is desired.

The proposed rezoning to U-MS-3 meets this specific intent as the subject properties front on W. 29th Avenue defined as a "Residential Arterial" in Blue Print Denver and are a vital part of a mixed-use area. The current G-MU-3 zoning already calls for a maximum of three stories, therefore desired this scale will not change.

## **Summary**

The proposed subject site rezoning from G-MU-3, UO-3 to U-MS-3, DO-8 / U-MS-3 to U-MS-3, OD-8 extends the existing U-MS-3 zoning at the corner lot (from 7,000 sf to 14,000 sf) and adds the enhancing overlay DO-8 to the three subject properties. This ensures the long-standing Highland Neighborhood Plan goal of creating a mixed-use, vibrant development at the gateway to the Lower Highland Neighborhood. Blue Print Denver and Denver Comprehensive Plan 2040 repeatedly demonstrate the appropriateness of this site for redevelopment under U-MS-3, OD-8. We cannot think of a better way to accomplish the goals laid out in each of the three visionary plans, but through the integration of the three parcels into a more effective zone district, U-MS-3, OD-8.

We appreciate the engagement and approvals from and look forward to the further discussions and interactions with our neighbors in Highland, Highland United Neighborhood, Inc., our local representatives and the city of Denver.	
Sincerely,	
Marcia M. Mueller Owner 2115 W. 29th Avenue	John E. Mueller Owner 2115 W. 29th Avenue
Lee M. Cotone Owner 2119 W. 29th Avenue	Theodore Schultz, Principal for Theodore Schultz, Architect, LLC Property Owner's Representative

#### **Written Narrative**

#### Description of Recent Changes to Immediate Area of the Proposed Rezoning

The applicants who own 2107, 2115 and 2119 W. 29th Avenue are requesting the following rezoning of the three adjacent parcels to U-MS-3, DO-8 as follows:

The current zoning U-MS-3 of parcel 2107 W. 29th Avenue to be changed to U-MS-3, DO-8; the current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3 of both the 2115 and 2119 parcels be changed to U-MS-3, DO-8

June 27, 2021

#### **Property Owners:**

2107 W. 29th Avenue: Moon Studios, LLC; John E. Mueller, Managing Member (Current zoning U-MS-3)

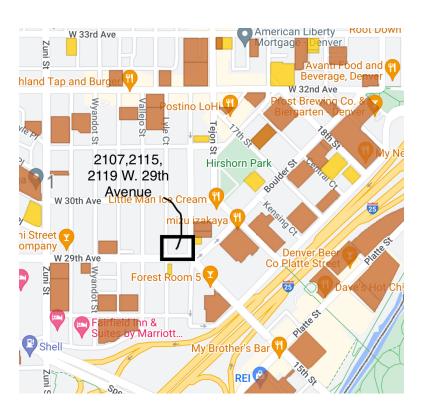
2115 W. 29th Avenue: John E. and Marcia M. Mueller (current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3) 2119 W. 29th Avenue: Lee M. Cotone (current zoning G-MU-3, UO-3)

#### **Property Owners' Representative:**

Theodore Schultz, Manager Theodore Schultz, Architect, LLC

#### **Current condition:**

The map copied below, published and updated by Community Planning and Development in Denver, shows the Site Development Plans (SDP) in the surrounding Lower Highland and Platte Street area with existing, approved SDP developments highlighted in brown and SDPs that are "in process" highlighted in yellow.



The map starkly reveals the amount of change that has occurred in the last fifteen years. These developments underscore how dynamic the Neighborhood is, everchanging and evolving to meet the demands for housing, retail, restaurants and amenities. The subject property is noted in the black highlight at the center core and gateway to the Lower Highland Neighborhood. There have been many keynote developments in the vicinity of the site during the last two decades which have created more interest in living, working and playing in the Lower Highlands and related areas.

#### **Selected Keynote Developments:**

April, 2000: The renovation of Forney Museum for the 90,000 s.f. REI Flag ship Store, which is near the Downtown Aquarium (Reopened 2005) and Children's Museum (Expanded 2019).

2001: The redevelopment of Commons Park. (Platte Valley).

August 2001: Opening of Academia Ana Marie Sandoval, a dual language Montessori, DPS Magnet Elementary School.

2002: Millennial Bridge Opens

December 2006: Highland Bridge Opens

July 4, 2008: Redevelopment of Olinger Mortuary - Opening of Little Man Ice Cream.

March 2014: UNICO begins purchases of 100,000 sf of historic properties for the ongoing redevelopment of the buildings for retail and office, triggering the ongoing development of approximately 600,000 s.f. of office and retail space.

October 2017: Grand Opening of the Redevelopment of Confluence Park

2007, 2012, 2017: The expansion of the Auraria Campus was driven by the 2007 initial Master Plan concept of an "institutional neighborhood", but has now been enhanced by the 2012 and 2017 Master Plans which include new dynamic buildings and also additional pedestrian, bike, and mobility access including light rail.

No one is more acutely aware of these changes and their impact than John and Marcia Mueller, collective owners of 2107 and 2115 W. 29th Ave. Marcia has lived in this part of LoHi for 35+ years. She renovated the Union Block Building located at 1501-3 Boulder St. in 1984 with four additional renovations over the years until the sale of the building in 2016. When she moved to LoHi, multiple historic buildings were vacant and there were only a couple of renovated properties at the subject intersection, including the historic Inverness Building (2500 15th Street), which she helped renovate and manage. During her first five years she lived in LoHi, two major buildings were destroyed by fire on 15th Street totaling over 175,000 s.f., evidence that a lack of

residents and businesses was cause for concern. She and John began renovating 2107 West 29th Ave., in 1989.

In the 1980's and 90's multi-family apartment buildings and many homes were also neglected or in need of occupants. The area mirrored that of Lower Downtown where buildings were under-utilized. Double recessions in the 1980's exacerbated the population stagnation of Denver and Lower Highland. Mayor Federico Pena's infrastructure, arts and science bond project in 1990 changed things dramatically. Revamping the road system created better access into the city via Speer Boulevard,15th and 20th Streets and Park Avenue. The 15th and 16th Street Viaducts were demolished and the 16th replaced with a pedestrian bridge. Coors Field and the Theater and Arts District were also a result of the bond sale. In1991 the sale of bonds financed Denver International Airport firmly placing Denver "on the map".

The redevelopment of all of the major roadways leading into the city helped access many of Denver's neighborhoods. Slowly there was a recognition that living near downtown Denver was rewarding with access to sports and entertainment facilities, parks, rivers, museums and restaurants.

Marcia and John Mueller chose to make the area their home and plant roots in LoHi which included raising a family and choosing to have their businesses in the Neighborhood. John Mueller's photography studio has been long located at 2107 W. 29th Avenue and Marcia's office for 15 years has been at 15th and Platte Street. Many young families have since, and are currently doing the same. The Neighborhood is also home to retirees, people who live in subsidized housing, seniors living in local care facilities, people who are immigrants, and a myriad of apartment dwellers. Lower Highland and Denver's overall population has increased dramatically since the 1980's, and the growth in population and households is expected to increase by approximately 10.4% in both categories in the next five years. While The neighborhood has changed dramatically it has not lost the sense of community or diversity (as noted in the demographic information attached below).

#### Stitching together old and new:

Dynamic cities are ever changing. By nature, a robust infrastructure, opportunities for change, a participatory government, design innovation and flexibility create livable cities. Denver has shown the ability to change (or adapt to change) over the last forty years, adding new types of environmentally friendly office buildings, renovating or maintaining relevant historic properties, creating new housing types, adding zoning flexibility to the city codes - all in an effort to attract or maintain residents and businesses to grow roots in the city.

<u>Current Demographics (see attached following CoStar Demographic Report from September 14, 2021):</u>

The below graphs show an increasing population for the Neighborhood (albeit at a lessening rate year over year and further lessening of that rate projected into the future). There is a significant variety of incomes, ages, housing types and household make-ups. Race is predominantly white and hispanic per the data. The demographics dovetail the Neighborhood Plan, the Denver Comprehensive Plan and Blueprint Denver in demonstrating the need for diverse housing, employment and business opportunities and for walkable neighborhoods that will allow people to "grow roots" into the Neighborhood and invest in its long-term well being.

#### **Maintain Character / Create Opportunity:**

The impetus behind this specific rezoning to U-MS-3, DO-8 is to maintain the integrity, character and historic positives of the past in activating the street level with small business in nodes where it belongs. The rezoning reinforces the positive effects that have helped the Neighborhood thrive from the time when the Highland Neighborhood Plan was implemented in 1986. U-MS-3, DO-8 for this small but important site localizes, weaves into and connects to the recent development in the immediate area. U-MS-3 underlies the ability to create a well-designed and generous building for this site that has been long-identified as critical to the Neighborhood by activating the ground level.

Again, we look forward to continued working with Neighborhood Groups, City Council and staff towards creating this small but very positive change as an example of well thought-out rezoning in bridging of past and present.

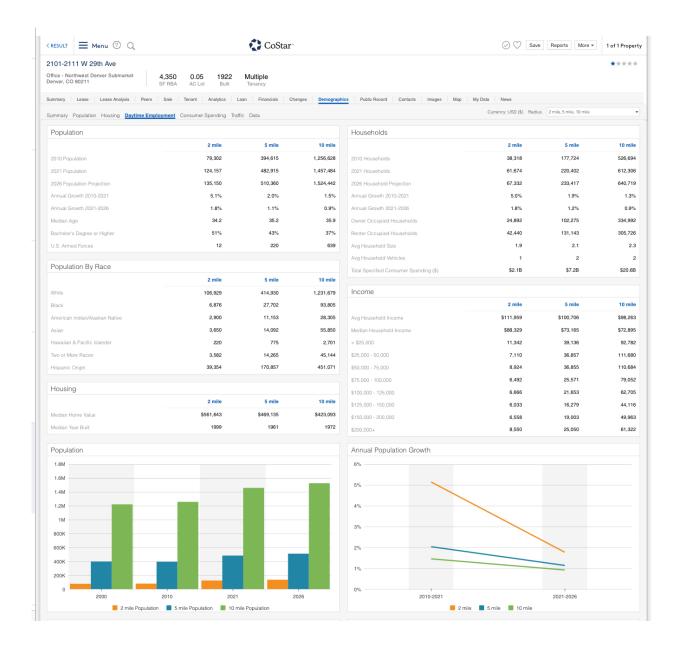
Sincerely,

Ted Schultz, Principal

For Theodore Schultz, Architect, LLC

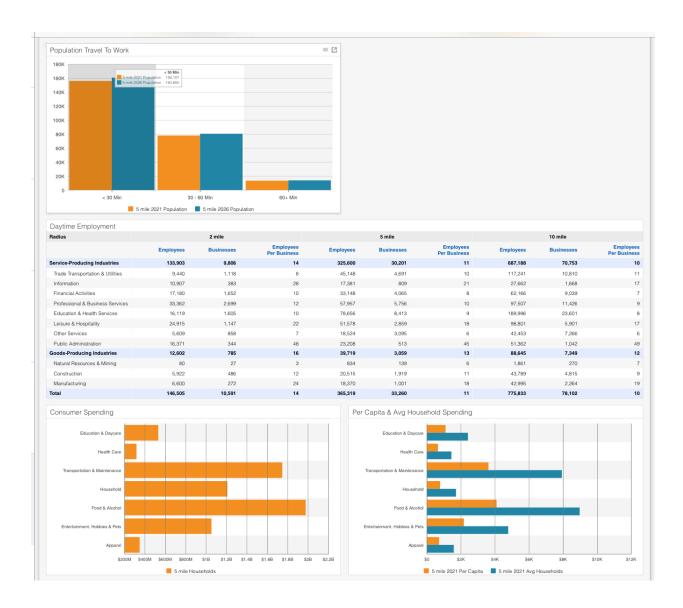
Property Owner's Representative

CoStar Demographic Report from September 14, 2021 (following pages):









# Highland United Neighbors, Inc.

P.O. Box 11235, Denver, Colorado 80211

#### PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Authorized by the Board of Directors to represent HUNI in all zoning and planning matters.

May 21, 2022

Ted Schultz Marcia Mueller

Re: 2111-2115-2119 West 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Proposed Rezoning from G-MU-3 to U-MS-3

#### Dear Ted and Marcia:

The Planning and Community Development (PCD) Committee of Highland United Neighbors, Inc. (HUNI), met again recently to discuss your latest proposal for rezoning these three parcels to U-MS-3. The committee voted 4-0 to support your application for rezoning subject to two conditions that we discussed with you on May 3<sup>rd</sup>: adding the DO-8 overlay to the rezoning and applying for a Zone Lot Amendment that would require both Umatilla and 29th Avenue frontages to be considered primary streets. Our strong preference would be for you to apply for the ZLA simultaneously with the rezoning so that these could move forward at the same time.

We think this approach will balance your need for flexibility with the neighborhood's need for some protections for this important site at the top of 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

Thank you for your efforts to find a good solution! Please keep us posted on your progress through the application process so that we can offer our support at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

HIGHLAND UNITED NEIGHBORS, INC.

Tunoty Closes

Timothy C. Boers, AIA

Chair, Planning and Community Development Committee

Cc: HUNI Board President

Committee Members

Brandon Shaver

Councilwoman Amanda Sandoval

Council Aide Naomi Grunditz