#### **Community Planning and Development**

Planning Services



201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 205
Denver, CO 80202
p: 720.865.2915
f: 720.865.3052
www.denvergov.org/CPD

**TO:** City Council Neighborhoods and Planning Committee

**FROM:** Theresa Lucero, Senior City Planner

**DATE:** January 14, 2016

**RE:** Official Zoning Map Amendment Application #2015I-00142

668-670 North Inca Street

Rezoning from PUD #144 to U-RH-3A

#### Staff Report and Recommendation

Based on the criteria for review in the Denver Zoning Code, staff recommends that Planning Board recommend *approval* to City Council for map amendment application #2015I-00142 for a rezoning from PUD #144 to U-RH-3A.

#### Request for Rezoning

Area of Property:

Application: 2015I-00142

Address: 668-670 North Inca Street

Neighborhood/Council District: La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association, La Alma

Neighborhood Association, Denver's Art District on Santa Fe, Santa Fe Drive Redevelopment Corporation, Denver Urban Resident Association, Denver Neighborhood Association, Inc.;

Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation 12,500 SF square feet or 0.29acres

Current Zoning: PUD #144
Proposed Zoning: U-RH-3A

Property Owner(s): reVision Real Estate, LLC

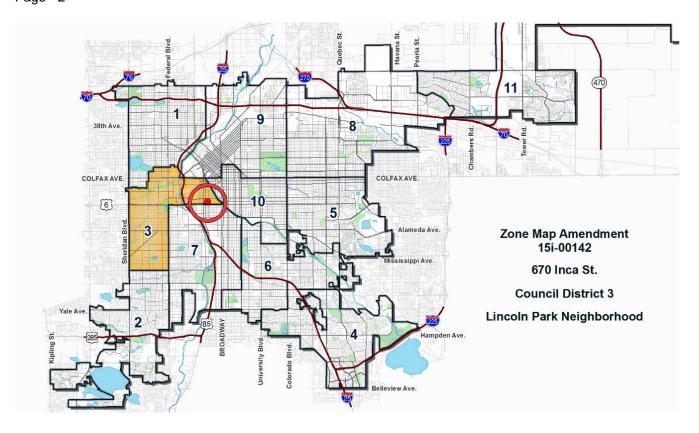
Owner Representative: Tim Politis, One Line Studio, LLC

#### Summary of Rezoning Request

- The subject property is a single parcel which is vacant on the north half of the property and the south half of the property contains one existing single-family residential structure that was built in 1886.
- The property owner proposes to rezone the subject property to develop the vacant portion of the property with townhome units.

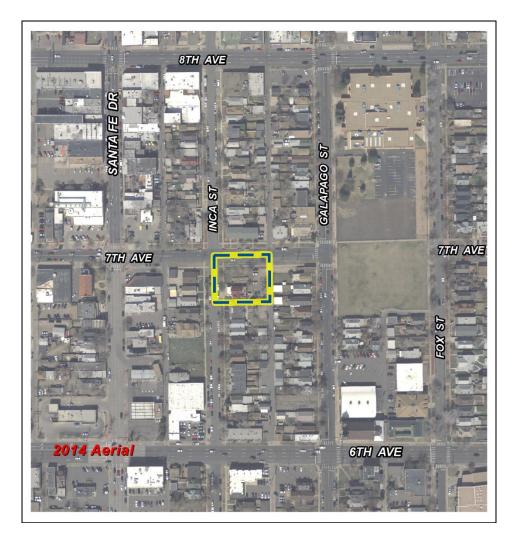
The proposed <u>U-RH-3</u>A (<u>Urban</u>, <u>Row House</u>, with a <u>3</u>-story height limit) zone district is intended for use in small-scale urban residential and commercial areas where Urban House and Row house forms are typical. Row House districts are multi-unit zone districts allowing Row House buildings up to 2.5 stories with a maximum overall structure width facing the street. The "<u>A</u>" suffix indicates apartments up to 3 stories are allowed on corner lots where at least one of the intersecting streets is a collector or arterial street, as well as urban house, detached accessory dwelling units, duplex and tandem house building forms. Further details of the zone districts can be found in Article 5 of the Denver Zoning Code (DZC).







Rezoning Application #2015I-00142 668-670 Inca Street January 14, 2016 Page - 3 -



Rezoning Application #2015I-00142 668-670 Inca Street January 14, 2016 Page - 4 -

#### **Existing Context**

The subject property is located in south central Denver in the Lincoln Park Statistical Neighborhood. The property is in the southeast portion of the neighborhood. Surrounding the subject site are:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue 1 block south
- Santa Fe Drive 1 block west
- Denver Health 4 blocks east
- Broadway 8 blocks east
- Speer Boulevard 9 blocks east

Area parks include Sunken Gardens Park at 8<sup>th</sup> & Speer Boulevard, Lincoln Park at 11<sup>th</sup> & Mariposa Street and the Cherry Creek Trail adjacent to Speer Boulevard. Area schools include West High School/West Leadership Academy located at 11<sup>th</sup> and Elati Street, Denver Center for International Studies at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Fox Street, and Girls Athletic Leadership School at 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Galapago Street. St. Joseph's Catholic Church is 2 blocks east.

The physical context of the neighborhood is a traditional street grid with rectilinear blocks with alleys. Sidewalks are generally detached with tree lawns separating the sidewalk.

The following table summarizes the existing context adjacent to the subject site:

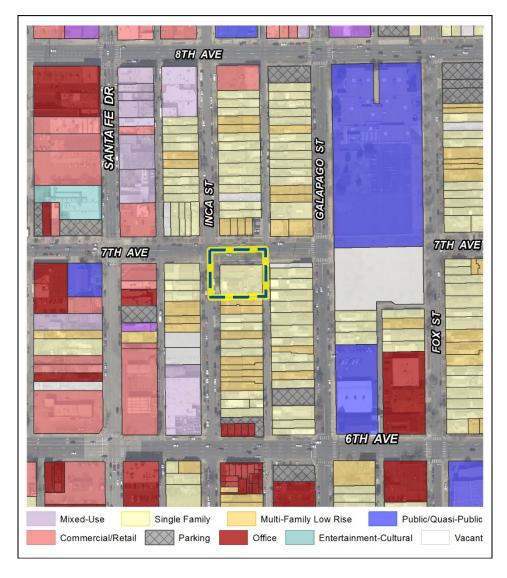
	Existing Zoning	Existing Land Use	Existing Building Form/Scale	Existing Block, Lot, Street Pattern	
Site	PUD #144	Residential/vacant	2-story residential building	Regular grid streets shaping a consistent pattern of rectilinear blocks with alleys; Vehicle parking is	
North	U-RH-3A/UO- 3	Rowhouse	2-story residential building (4 units)		
South	U-RH-3A/UO- 3	Residential	1-story duplex	both surface and garage and to the rear of buildings	
East	U-RH-3A/UO- 3	Residential	1-2-story single-family residential structures	(alley access).	
West	U-RH-3A/UO- 3	Residential	1-2-story single-family residential structures		

### 1. Existing Zoning



Because the existing zone district is a PUD, the subject property was not rezoned in the 2010 citywide rezoning. The PUD is a Former Chapter 59 district approved in 1984. The PUD allows the existing structure to be maintained as a single family house or be used as an office and design studio. No new structures were contemplated by the PUD.

## 2. Existing Land Use Map



**Existing Land Use** 

## 3. Existing Building Form and Scale



Rezoning Application #2015I-00142 668-670 Inca Street January 14, 2016 Page - 8 -

#### Summary of City Agency Referral Comments

As part of the DZC review process, the rezoning application is referred to potentially affected city agencies and departments for comment. A summary of agency referral responses follows:

**Asset Management:** Approved, no comments.

Parks and Recreation: Approved

Public Works – City Surveyor: Approved, no comments.

**Environmental Health:** Approved with the following comments. General Notes: Most of Colorado is high risk for radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas. Due to concern for potential radon gas intrusion into buildings, DEH suggests installation of a radon mitigation system in structures planned for human occupation or frequent use. It may be more cost effective to install a radon system during new construction rather than after construction is complete.

Scope & Limitations: DEH performed a limited search for information known to DEH regarding environmental conditions at the subject site. This review was not intended to conform to ASTM standard practice for Phase I site assessments, nor was it designed to identify all potential environmental conditions. In addition, the review was not intended to assess environmental conditions for any potential right-of-way or easement conveyance process. The City and County of Denver provides no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information provided.

#### **Public Review Process**

#### **Informational Notice**

 CPD staff provided informational notice of receipt of the rezoning application to affected members of City Council and registered neighborhood organizations on October, 22, 2015.

#### **Planning Board**

 The property was legally posted for a period of 15 days announcing the January 6, 2016, Denver Planning Board public hearing, and written notification of the hearing was sent to all affected registered neighborhood organizations and City Council members. At the January 6 meeting Planning Board unanimously recommended approval of the proposed rezoning.

#### **Neighborhoods and Planning Committee**

 Following Planning Board review the rezoning application will be referred to the Neighborhoods and Planning (PLAN) Committee of the City Council for review at a public meeting. The PLAN Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 20, 2016. Electronic notice of the meeting will be sent to all affected Registered Neighborhood Organizations 10 days in advance of the meeting. At the meeting Committee members will vote on whether to move the application forward to a public hearing before the full City Council. Rezoning Application #2015I-00142 668-670 Inca Street January 14, 2016 Page - 9 -

#### City Council

 Following PLAN Committee review, the rezoning application is typically referred to the full City Council for final action at a public hearing. The City Council public hearing is tentatively scheduled for February 29, 2016. Electronic notice of the public hearing will be sent to all affected Registered Neighborhood Associations and notification signs will be posted on the property 21 days in advance of the hearing.

#### **Registered Neighborhood Organizations (RNOs)**

 To date, CPD has received no comment letters from Registered Neighborhood Organizations.

#### **Other Public Comment**

To date, no other public comment letters have been received.

#### Criteria for Review / Staff Evaluation

The criteria for review of this rezoning application are found in DZC, Sections 12.4.10.7 and 12.4.10.8, as follows:

#### **DZC Section 12.4.10.7**

- 1. Consistency with Adopted Plans
- 2. Uniformity of District Regulations and Restrictions
- 3. Public Health, Safety and General Welfare

#### **DZC Section 12.4.10.8**

- 1. Justifying Circumstances
- 2. Consistency with Neighborhood Context Description, Zone District Purpose and Intent Statements

#### 1. Consistency with Adopted Plans

The following adopted plans apply to this property:

- Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000
- Blueprint Denver (2002)
- La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan (2010)

#### **Denver Comprehensive Plan 2000**

The proposal is consistent with many Denver Comprehensive Plan strategies, including:

- Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2-F "Conserve land by promoting infill development within Denver at sites where services and infrastructure are already in place" (p. 39).
- Land Use Strategy 3-B "Encourage quality infill development that is consistent with the character of the surrounding neighborhood; that offers opportunities for increased density and more amenities; and that broadens the variety of compatible uses" (p. 60).
- Legacies Strategy 3-A "Identify areas in which increased density and new uses are desirable and can be accommodated" (p. 99).

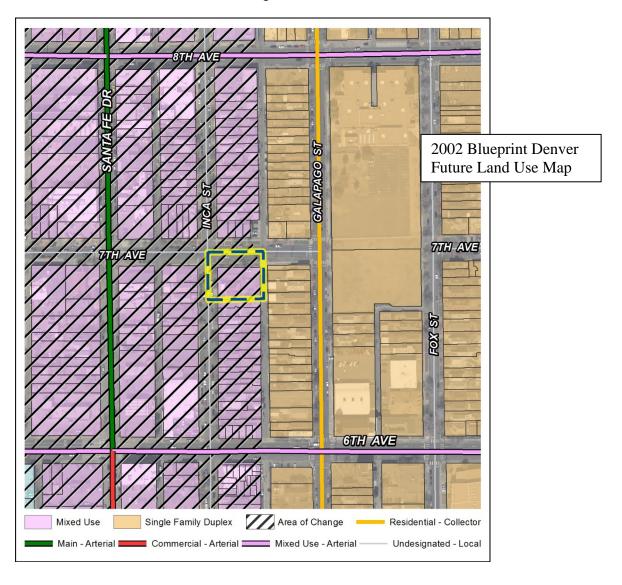
The rezoning is consistent with these Plan recommendations. The proposed U-RH-3A zone district allows a variety of residential land uses and limited civic and commercial uses. Building forms allowed are urban house, detached accessory dwelling units, duplex and tandem house forms. The map

Rezoning Application #2015I-00142 668-670 Inca Street January 14, 2016 Page - 10 -

amendment will enable the redevelopment of the vacant portion of the property with townhome units at a scale that is consistent with the existing neighborhood.

#### **Blueprint Denver**

According to the 2002 Plan Map adopted in Blueprint Denver, this site has a concept land use of Mixed Use and is located in an Area of Change.



#### **Future Land Use**

The Blueprint Denver Mixed Use concept land use designation is described in the Plan as containing "a sizeable employment base as well as housing" and "Intensity is higher in mixed-use areas than in other residential areas. Land uses are not necessarily mixed in each building or development or even within each block. But within the neighborhood, residential and non-residential uses are within walking distance of one another" (p.41). The proposed redevelopment of

Rezoning Application #2015I-00142 668-670 Inca Street January 14, 2016 Page - 11 -

townhomes is consistent with this land use concept because additional residential density will contribute to the vitality of the Santa Fe mixed use area.

#### Area of Change / Area of Stability

As noted, the subject property is in an Area of Change. In general, "The goal for Areas of Change is to channel growth where it will be beneficial and can best improve access to jobs, housing and services with fewer and shorter auto trips...A major goal is to increase economic activity in the area to benefit existing residents and businesses, and where necessary, provide a stimulus to redevelop...common traits are close proximity to a commercial arterial street, along a historical trolley route, adjacent to existing or planned light-rail stops, or locations in older industrial area or in large vacant areas" (p. 127).

The rezoning application is consistent with the Blueprint Denver Area of Change recommendation of channeling growth where it can improve access to services with fewer and shorter auto trips. Expanding and redeveloping property in close proximity to the mixed use Arts District on Santa Fe Drive make this proposal consistent with the goals of Areas of Change.

#### Street Classifications

Blueprint Denver classifies both Inca Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue as Undesignated Local streets. According to Blueprint Denver, local streets are "*tailored more to providing local access.*" The U-RH-3A zone district allows for a slightly higher-intensity residential land use envisioned for Areas of Change.

#### La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan (2010)

The La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan was adopted by City Council in September 2010, and applies to the subject property. The Plan updates and incorporates recommendations from earlier plans. Pertinent Plan components include Vision and Goals, Framework Plan and Character Area Plans.

#### Vision and Goals

An overall goal of the Plan is "Redevelopment is focused in three areas: the 10<sup>th</sup> & Osage Station area, the Santa Fe Corridor and along 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue west of Osage Street." Another overall goal is "Stability is improved within existing residential areas, and supported by zoning within established residential character areas" (p. 15). The U-RH-3A zone district supports the goal of stabilizing existing residential areas by matching the proposed zone district to that of the surrounding properties.

#### Framework Plan

The Framework Plan provides a broad perspective and overall concepts to guide neighborhood development. This portion of the Plan states the "northern and southern residential character areas in La Alma/Lincoln Park are designated Areas of Stability" (p. 20). For the subject property the Framework Plan recommends:

- "Apply appropriate small lot residential zoning in residential Areas of Stability to maintain the character of the neighborhood while allowing moderate infill and density" (p. 22).
- "Building height should...Be limited to 1-2 stories in the northern residential area and 1-3 stories in the southern residential neighborhood" (p. 24) (See Land Use and Building Heights Maps below.).

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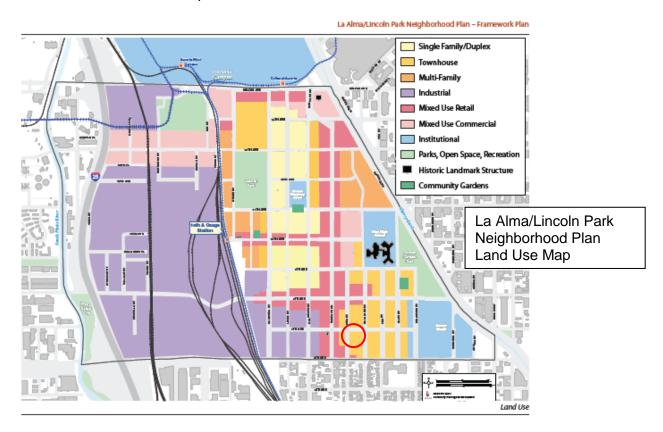
The U-RH-3A zone district implements the recommendation of allowing moderate infill and density at a maximum building height of 3 stories.

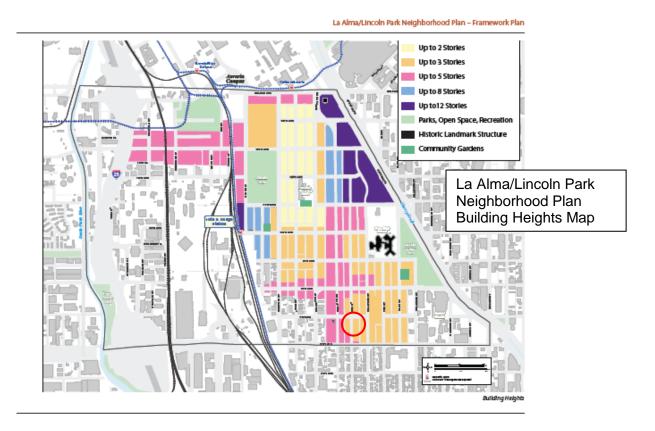
#### **Character Area Plans**

The La Alma/Lincoln Park Plan establishes character areas, or areas with distinct characteristics. The subject property is in the southern "*Residential Area*", one of the two Residential Areas defined by the Plan. Plan recommendations for this area include:

- "Safeguard the character of established neighborhoods that contain an intact inventory of buildings characteristic of a particular construction era such as Victorian, Craftsman, or Mid-Century Modern" (p. 45).
- "The southern residential character area is roughly bounded by Inca Street to the west, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the north, Delaware to the east and 6th Avenue to the south. The southern residential area should be zoned an urban neighborhood rowhouse district that allows up to two and a half story rowhouses, and apartments up to 3 stories on certain corner lots (e.g. U-RH-3A)" (p. 46).

The U-RH-3A zone district implements these recommendations.





#### 2. Uniformity of District Regulations and Restrictions

The proposed rezoning to U-RH-3A will result in the uniform application of zone district building form, use and design regulations.

#### 3. Public Health, Safety and Welfare

Because the proposed map amendment implements the area plan, the proposed official map amendment furthers the public health, safety and general welfare of the City.

#### 4. Justifying Circumstances

The application identifies changed or changing conditions as the Justifying Circumstance under DZC Section 12.4.10.8.A.4, "The land or its surrounding environs has changed or is changing to such a degree that it is in the public interest to encourage a redevelopment of the area or to recognize the changed character of the area."

The application identifies the proximity of the property to downtown, the redevelopment and new density at the 10<sup>th</sup> & Osage light rail station, and the success of the Santa Fe Arts District as the reason for increased demand for new housing in the area. As discussed above, the La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan recognizes the changes taking place in the area and supports safeguarding the character of the residential areas in the neighborhood with new development of modest scale. This is an appropriate justifying circumstance for the proposed rezoning.

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# 5. Consistency with Neighborhoods Context Description, Zone District Purpose and Intent Statements

The proposed U-RH-3A zone district is within the Urban Neighborhood context. This context is characterized by low-scale residential and commercial uses embedded in residential areas. Residential structures are typically urban house or rowhouse/townhouse structures. Commercial structures may contain a mixture of uses. Single-unit and multi-unit residential land uses are located on local streets, while commercial uses are located on mixed use or main streets. Street and block patterns are shaped by a grid street system with a consistent presence of alleys. Sidewalks are typically detached and mobility is a balance of pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle systems. The La Alma/Lincoln Park neighborhood with its grid street system, mixture of single family and low-scale multi-unit residential land uses is an Urban Neighborhood.

The U-RH-3A zone district is a multi-unit zone district intended for use in Urban Neighborhoods to protect and promote desirable residential areas where low-scale building forms are consistent with existing development. The two and a half story rowhouse building form allowed by the zone district is consistent with the area urban neighborhood context and with the district intent of preserving the existing scale of the area.

#### Staff Recommendation

Based upon the analysis set forth above, CPD staff finds that the application for rezoning the property located at 668-670 Inca Street to a U-RH-3A zone district meets the requisite review criteria. Accordingly, staff recommends approval.

#### **Attachments**

- 1. Application
- 2. Approved Legal Description



# **REZONING GUIDE**

**Rezoning Application Page 1 of 3** 

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

PROPERTY OWNER(S) REPRESENTATIVE**				
☐ CHECK IF POINT OF CONTACT FOR APPLICATION				
Representative Name				
Address				
City, State, Zip				
Telephone				
Email				
**Property owner shall provide a written letter authorizing the representative to act on his/her behalf. es autho-				
Please attach Proof of Ownership acceptable to the Manager for each property owner signing the application, such as (a) Assessor's Record, (b) Warranty deed or deed of trust, or (c) Title policy or commitment dated no earlier than 60 days prior to application date.				

Last updated: February 4, 2015

Return completed form to rezoning@denvergov.org



# **REZONING GUIDE**

**Rezoning Application Page 2 of 3** 

REVIEW CRITERIA				
	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.			
General Review Criteria: The proposal must comply with all of the general review criteria DZC Sec. 12.4.10.7	Please provide an attachment describing relevant adopted plans and how proposed map amendment is consistent with those plan recommendations; or, describe how the map amendment is necessary to provide for an unanticipated community need.			
	☐ Uniformity of District Regulations and Restrictions: The proposed official map amendment results in regulations and restrictions that are uniform for each kind of building throughout each district having the same classification and bearing the same symbol or designation on the official map, but the regulations in one district may differ from those in other districts.			
	Public Health, Safety and General Welfare: The proposed official map amendment furthers the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City.			
Additional Review Criteria for Non-Legislative Rezonings: The proposal must comply with both of the additional review criteria  DZC Sec. 12.4.10.8	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 on development created by the natural characteristics of the land, including, but not limited to, steep slopes, floodplain, unstable soils, and inadequate drainage.  The land or its surroundings has changed or is changing to such a degree that it is in the public interest to encourage a redevelopment of the area to recognize the changed character of the area.  It is in the public interest to encourage a departure from the existing zoning through application of supplemental 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.  Please provide an attachment describing the justifying circumstance.  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.			
REQUIRED ATTACHI	MENTS			
Please ensure the followin	g required attachments are submitted with this application:			
☐ Legal Description (red☐ Proof of Ownership D☐ Review Criteria	quired to be attached in Microsoft Word document format) ocument(s)			
ADDITIONAL ATTAC	HMENTS			
Please identify any additio	nal attachments provided with this application:			
☐ Written Authorization	to Represent Property Owner(s)			
Please list any additional a	ttachments:			

Last updated: February 4, 2015

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## **REZONING GUIDE**

**Rezoning Application Page 3 of 3** 

### PROPERTY OWNER OR PROPERTY OWNER(S) REPRESENTATIVE CERTIFICATION/PETITION

We, the undersigned represent that we are the owners 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 statement (must sign in the exact same manner as title to the property is held)	Date	Indicate the type of owner-ship documentation provided: (A) Assessor's record, (B) warranty deed or deed of trust, (C) title policy or commitment, or (D) other as approved	Property owner repre- sentative written authori- zation? (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 Jesie O. Smith	01/01/12	(A)	NO
			WilDane			

Last updated: February 4, 2015

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311 | FOR INFORMATION & CITY SERVICES

201 W. Colfax Ave., Dept. 205 Denver, CO 80202

Property Address:	668 - 670 N Inca Street
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Legal Description:

Lots 1 to 4, Inclusive, Block 17, Elmwood Addition to the City of Denver, City and County of Denver, State of Colorado.



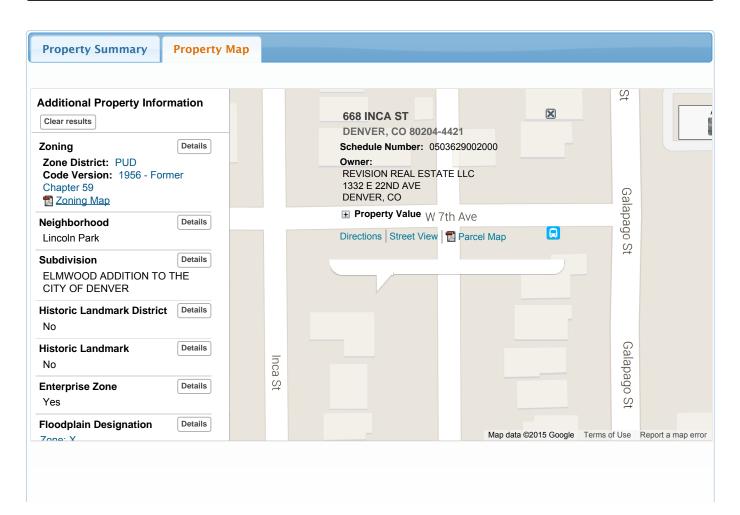
Denver Property Assessment and Taxation System (3.2.3)

**New Search** 

#### **668 INCA ST**

Owner	Schedule Number	Legal Description	Property Type	Tax District
REVISION REAL ESTATE LLC 1332 E 22ND AVE DENVER, CO 80205- 5221	0503629002000 <b>PIN</b> 161113661	L 1 TO 4 INC BLK 17 ELMWOOD ADD	RESIDENTIAL	DENV

Summary Assessment Assessment Protest Taxes Comparables Neighborhood Sales Chain of Title



Denver 10/05/2015

reVision Real Estate LLC 1332 E 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave Denver, CO 80205

Tel: 303 376 7930 Fax: 303 388 7613

Email: knasser@revisioninc.com

RE: rezoning the property at 668-670 Inca Street in Denver

To whom it may concern,

Tim Politis, registered architect in Colorado and owner of One Line Studio LLC, is authorized to represent and act on the behalf of reVision Real Estate LLC in rezoning the property at 668-670 Inca Street in Denver, Colorado.

If you have any questions, please contact us by phone or email at the number or address listed above.

Thank you Khalil H Nasser PhD

Owner, reVision Real Estate LLC

# Revision Real Estate LLC

**Limited Liability Organizational Documents** 



## Revision Real Estate, ILC

#### MEMBERS MEETING

This members meeting is hereby convened this  $19^{\rm th}$  day of September, 2007, at 2 PM and at the office of T W Cresswell PC, 7220 W Jefferson Ave, Ste 440, Lakewood, CO 80235 for the purpose of initiating operations of Revision Real Estate, LLC (the company), electing managing members, and other procedures.

#### BE IT RESOLVED...

At this meeting, Khalil Nasser was elected Managing member of the company with all executive powers of said office. There being no other employees or associates of the company, no officers' positions are deemed necessary.

There being no further business at hand, motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the motion carried by vote.

In Witness Whereof the undersigned attest to the accuracy of the foregoing writing of the minutes of the Voting members meeting. Such foregoing minutes includes 1 pages.

Manager

Khalil Nasser

#### WAIVER/CONSENT TO ACTION

The Voting members of Revision Real Estate, LLC whose signatures appear below hereby consent to the actions of this meeting (annual or special) held this  $26^{\rm th}$  day of July, 2007. The voting members below also waive any due requirements of notice and/or acknowledge the adequacy of any notice afforded them.

Chali Naggor

# REVISION REAL ESTATE LLC OPERATING AGREEMENT

ARTICLE II, Section 2.1 Initial Members.

Exhibit A.

The initial members of the company are:

Khalil Nasser



#### **EIN Assistant**

Your Progress:

1. Identify

2. Authenticate

3. Addresses

4. Details

5. EIN Confirmation

Please confirm your selection.

Due to the number of members in your limited liability company, you are considered a Single-Member Limited Liability Company (LLC) as the type of structure applying for an EIN.

. Since you are a single-member LLC, you will initially be classified as a disregarded entity for the

purposes of filing a federal tax return.

• If the only member of the LLC is an individual, the LLC income and expenses are reported on Form 1040 (U.S. Individual Income Tax Return), Schedule C, E, or F.

■ If the only member of the LLC is not an individual, the LLC income and expenses are reported on the owner/member's tax return.

- . If you do not wish to accept the default classification of disregarded entity, you can:
  - File Form 8832 (Entity Classification Election) to elect corporate status, or
  - File Form 2553 (Election by a Small Business Corporation) to elect S corporation status.
- · Single-member LLCs may not file a partnership return.

You may not continue if:

· You are an individual and are the owner of a single-member LLC with employees, and you do not already have a sole proprietor EIN.

No & EIN Needed

If you need to change your type of structure, we recommend that you do so now, otherwise you will have to start over and re-enter your information. Additional help may be found by reviewing all types of organizations and structures before making your selection.

**Help Topics** 

- Why do I need two EINs if I am a single-member LLC with employees?
- What is Form 1040?
- What is Form 8832?
- What is Form 2553?

<< Change Type

Continue >>

#### Narrative: Denver Zoning Code Review Criteria

#### Consistency with Adopted Plans

The subject property, located at 668-670 N. Inca Street is currently surrounded by adjacent properties designated within a U-RH-3A zone. By converting the subject property from its current zoning of PUD to U-RH-3A, the new designation will align the property to be consistent with the existing zoning on the neighboring properties.

The rezoning of the property to U-RH-3A is consistent with the findings of the following adopted plans:

- Blueprint Denver: A Land Use and Transportation Plan (2002)
- La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan (2010)

Blueprint Denver, published in 2002, identifies the subject property within a highlighted 'Area of Change' promoting Mixed-Use developments with a higher intensity of use.

According to Blueprint Denver,

The purpose of Areas of Change is to channel growth where it will be beneficial and can best improve access to jobs, housing and services with fewer and shorter auto trips. A major goal is to increase economic activity in the area to benefit existing residents and businesses, and where necessary, provide the stimulus to redevelop. New investment in these areas should encourage the retention of low-income residents and ensure diverse development that benefits all residents of the city.

Presently, the existing PUD zoning limits development to the existing structure thereby underutilizing the available property by leaving a large vacant portion of the site with limited potential for development at the southeast corner of 7th and Inca. By its nature as an outlier in this urban neighborhood district, the vacant land is left to neglect, is prone to the receipt of litter, and creates a sense of discontinuity in the neighborhood in term of building form, setbacks, build-to requirements and building height.

In contrast, by changing the zoning to U-RH-3A, consistent with the intent of the Blueprint Denver recommendation to encourage development in this area, there is an opportunity to enhance the neglected corner and continue the existing characteristics of the neighborhood including consistent setbacks, build-to requirements and building heights.

The 2010 La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan identifies the subject property within an area allocated for townhouses (page 23) with a height of up to 3 stories (page 25). Regarding the proposed development, page 46 of the 2010 plan indicates:

The southern residential character area is roughly bounded by Inca Street to the west, 9th Avenue to the north, Delaware to the east and 6th Avenue to the south. The southern residential area should be zoned an urban neighborhood rowhouse district that allows up to two and a half story rowhouses, and apartments up to three stories on certain corner lots (e.g., U-RH-3A).

The subject property is located within the designated area described in the text above which identifies U-RH-3A as the preferred zoning with the intended building form of rowhouses supporting the proposed zoning change for this property.

#### 2. Uniformity with District Regulations

The proposed official map amendment will result in regulations and restrictions that are uniform for each kind of building throughout the U-RH-3A district per the adopted Denver Zoning Code.

This is not to say that the change of zoning on the subject property will lead to a development that lacks unique character. The subject property can contain unique improvements that take into consideration the neighboring context that builds upon the existing neighborhood character. By replacing the current PUD zone with the proposed U-RH-3A zone, we are able to take into consideration the fundamental building blocks for consistency and neighborhood uniformity including building form, setbacks, build-to requirements, building height and street activation that are characteristic to the surrounding neighborhood and build upon the surrounding context.

#### 3. Furthers the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City

The rezoning of the subject property to U-RH-3A and the anticipated future development that the new zoning designation would allow can further public health, safety and general welfare by increasing the walkability of the neighborhood, thereby improving access to jobs, housing and services with fewer and shorter auto trips as recommended in Blueprint Denver. Creating a more walkable neighborhood has the potential to create an environment where more people are on the streets making the public areas safer with more watchful eyes; promoting health by providing alternatives to a car-oriented environment with

greater options for mobility; and, generally enhancing the urban environment, thereby improving the welfare of neighborhood and in a larger context, the City.

#### 4. Justifying Circumstances

The land or its surroundings has changed or is changing to such a degree that it is in the public interest to encourage a redevelopment of the area to recognize the changed character of the area.

Due to the proximity to downtown, the enhanced development and density at the nearby 10th and Osage light rail station that is within walking distance to the property, and the identification and enhancement of the nearby Santa Fe Arts District, the demand for affordable housing has greatly increased in this area. The proposed rezoning to U-RH-3A will allow for redevelopment consistent with the surrounding properties while addressing the demand for more flexibility and allowing for increased development that is consistent with Denver planning documents.

Consistent with Blueprint Denver 2002 and the 2010 La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan, improving access to jobs, housing and services with fewer and shorter auto trips is a goal for this area. The proposed zoning change provides the framework to meet this goal while maintaining the existing developmental character of the surrounding properties and the neighborhood.

#### 5. Consistency with Neighborhood Context, Zone District Purpose and Intent

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.

By approving the request to rezone the subject property from the existing PUD zone to the U-RH-3A zone, the proposed zoning change will allow the subject property to be consistent with neighborhood context and meet the stated purpose and intent of the proposed zone district in that:

- The subject property will match the zoning of the surrounding neighborhood properties.
- The similar zoning will allow for consistency and the continued preservation of the existing neighborhood character including building form, setbacks, buildto requirements, building height and street activation.
- It encourages the implementation of the recommended goals established in the documented planning documents including Blueprint Denver and the La Alma/Lincoln Park Neighborhood Plan.

- It allows for redevelopment consistent with the density and character of the adjacent existing properties
- It allows the opportunity to create a more walkable neighborhood with the potential to create an environment where more people are on the streets making the public areas safer and promoting health by providing alternatives to a car-oriented environment, thereby improving the welfare of neighborhood and a significant part of the City.

#### **Summary**

Given the noted alignment with goals established in the planning documents, description of compliance with the established Zoning Change Review Criteria and potential benefits to the adjacent neighborhood we ask that you consider the zoning change request for 668-670 N. Inca Street.

Sincerely,

Tim Politis, AIA, LEED AP

One Line Studio LLC

Property Address: 668 – 670 N Inca Street

Legal Description:

Lots 1 to 4, Inclusive, Block 17, Elmwood Addition to the City of Denver, City and County of Denver, State of Colorado.