

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner

Arlene R. Miller
Deputy Commissioner

April 29, 2016

Orangetown Zoning Board of Appeals
21 Greenbush Road
Orangeburg, NY 10962

Tax Data: 69.13-1-3

Re: GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW REVIEW: Section 239 L and M

Map Date:

Date Review Received: 4/13/2016

Item: *PROCORE SIGN PLAN (O-2257A)*

Variance for sign size to permit two box lighted, wall-mounted signs on the exterior of the building for a proposed physical fitness studio located in an existing shopping center in the CC zoning district on 3.28 acres.

East side of N. Middletown Road, opposite Hunt Avenue, south side of Blauvelt Road

Reason for Referral:

N. Middletown Road (CR 33)

The County of Rockland Department of Planning has reviewed the above item. Acting under the terms of the above GML powers and those vested by the County of Rockland Charter, I, the Commissioner of Planning, hereby:

****Disapprove***

1 The Town's zoning standards are reasonable and should be followed. The granting of the sign size will set a precedent and encourage other businesses within the shopping center, as well as nearby commercial uses to request similar exemptions. The resulting proliferation of oversized signs will have an adverse effect on the safe and efficient flow of traffic along the County Highway.

If your Board finds there is a pattern of requests for sign variances and that some rationale exists for lessening standards, then we suggest that you recommend to the Town Board that the sign standards be reviewed for all high-volume traffic corridors.



Douglas J. Schuetz
Acting Commissioner of Planning

cc: Supervisor Andrew Stewart, Orangetown
Rockland County Department of Highways

Greg Steinkowski

PROCORE SIGN PLAN (O-2257A)

Rockland County Planning Board Members

**NYS General Municipal Law Section 239 requires a vote of a 'majority plus one' of your agency to act contrary to the above findings.*

The review undertaken by the Rockland County Planning Department is pursuant to, and follows the mandates of Article 12-B of the New York General Municipal Law. Under Article 12-B the County of Rockland does not render opinions, nor does it make determinations, whether the item reviewed implicates the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. The Rockland County Planning Department defers to the municipality forwarding the item reviewed to render such opinions and make such determinations if appropriate under the circumstances.

In this respect, municipalities are advised that under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, the preemptive force of any provision of the Act may be avoided (1) by changing a policy or practice that may result in a substantial burden on religious exercise, (2) by retaining a policy or practice and exempting the substantially burdened religious exercise, (3) by providing exemptions from a policy or practice for applications that substantially burden religious exercise, or (4) by any other means that eliminates the substantial burden.

Proponents of projects are advised to apply for variances, special permits or exceptions, hardship approval or other relief.

Pursuant to New York State General Municipal Law §239-m(6), the referring body shall file a report of final action it has taken with the Rockland County Department of Planning within thirty (30) days after final action. A referring body which acts contrary to a recommendation of modification or disapproval of a proposed action shall set forth the reasons for the contrary action in such report.