

CITY OF PATASKALA BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

City Hall, Council Chambers 621 West Broad Street Pataskala, Ohio 43062

STAFF REPORT

January 9, 2024

Variance Application VA-23-028 (REMOVE FROM TABLE)

Applicant:	April Koenig, Kessler Sign Co.	
Owner:	TrueCore Federal Credit Union	
Location:	997 N. Oxford Drive, Pataskala, OH 43062 (PID: 064-307680-00.000)	
Acreage:	+/- 3.91-acres	
Zoning:	PRO – Professional Research-Office	
Request:	Requesting a total of seven (7) Variances in order to allow for the installation of a combined free-standing ground sign and electronic message center sign that will exceed the maximum allowable: number of signs, size of sign area, and height of sign; as well as the function and color of the electronic message center sign.	

Description of the Request:

Requesting approval of six (6) Variances, all within Chapter 1295 – Signs, to allow for the installation of a combined free-standing ground sign and electronic message center (EMC) sign that will exceed: the maximum allowable number of signs, maximum sign area, sign area of an electronic message center sign, and the function and color of the electronic message center sign.

Staff Summary:

The 3.91-acre property located at 997 N. Oxford Drive is currently occupied by a 3,073-square foot commercial building operating as a bank and built in 2019, along with approximately 10,000-square feet of paved parking and maneuvering area. The developed area of the lot is in the east of the parcel, along N Oxford Drive, with a stormwater management pond to the west of the structure, followed by a secondary frontage to the south onto E Broad Street. Access to the property is from a two-way entrance onto North Oxford Drive, and a separate two-way entrance to the south via a shared entrance with AutoZone to North Oxford Drive.

In 2018, the lot was rezoned from PDD – Planned Development District to PRO - Professional Research-Office to allow for the construction of the bank. Prior to 2011, it was rezoned to PDD – Planned Development District as part of a two (2) phase commercial development, with the AutoZone located at the corner of Broad Street and North Oxford Drive constituting the first phase. The second phase, being the subject lot, was never constructed.

As part of the construction of the building in 2018-2020, the property owners applied for and received Variances regarding signage on November 12, 2019 (VA-19-025). These were to allow for the total wall signage area to exceed the maximum, and to allow for an increase in the number of allowable wall signs from three (3) to five (5). In total, there are three (3) existing wall signs: a 43.85-square foot sign on the South face of the building, a 43.85-square foot sign on the East face of the building, and a 22.56-square foot "star" logo on the North face of the building. There are also two (2) existing ground signs, both 24.74-square feet and co-located with signage for AutoZone in the multi-tenant signs that existed prior to the

construction of the bank. These are located on N Oxford Drive, between AutoZone and the TrueCore Bank, and on E Broad Street, at the west end of AutoZone's parking lot.

The Applicant has proposed installing a new combined dual-sided free-standing ground sign with integrated electronic message center (EMC) sign at their secondary frontage on E Broad Street, to the west of the existing multi-tenant sign. As proposed, the sign will be 10-feet in height, and $10' - 6 \frac{3}{4}''$ wide. It will contain two (2) sign faces, a 14.48-square foot "TrueCore" logo, and a 28.16-square foot full-color LED EMC sign. The total sign area is proposed at 42.22-square feet. The proposed EMC sign will also utilize animation techniques and change more than once in a three (3) minute period. There are several aspects of the proposed sign that will not meet Pataskala Code, which have been outlined in the Staff Review below.

The Applicant had previously requested several Variances, VA-23-017, for the proposed signage. This application was heard at the August 8, 2023, hearing, and the Board of Zoning Appeals denied the Applicant's request. The Board, at that time, had concerns with the size and number of signs, and recommended that the Applicant approach the neighboring property owner in which there are shared signs to discuss a potential change in those.

According to the Narrative Statement as submitted by the Applicant, they believe the Variance(s) are necessary as there is no current way to properly identify the location of TrueCore from State Route 16 (E Broad Street). They have stated that they are asking for an additional 10.22-square feet for a total area of 42.22-square feet of sign area. Furthermore, the Applicant believes the requests are substantial but necessary and cannot be obviated through any other method. The Applicant has also stated that they are willing to completely turn off the EMC sign during certain houses, and that they could be willing to remove the existing sign panel in the Broad Street sign shared with AutoZone.

Staff Review: The following review does not constitute recommendations but merely conclusions and suggestions from staff.

As mentioned above, there are several aspects of the proposed sign that will not meet Pataskala Code, and in total there are six (6) required Variances that would be needed to allow the Applicant to construct the sign as proposed. Following the tabling of this application at the December 12, 2023 Board of Zoning Appeals hearing, the following changes have been made:

- Overall height of sign reduced 2'-6" for a total height of 10'.
- Bottommost "ATM" and "Co-Op Shared Branch" sign faces removed.
- Overall sign area reduced from 59.97-square feet to 42.22-square feet.
- 1. Variance from Section 1295.09(b)(2)(D) to allow for the total number of permitted signs on a single business lot to exceed the maximum of five (5).
 - Normally this would have been two (2), however, a bonus ground sign is permitted by Section 1295.09(b)(2)(D)(3) as the property has frontage on multiple public rights-of-way (North Oxford Drive and E Broad Street).
 - b. Additionally, a previous Variance (VA-19-025) was approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals to allow for an increase of total number of signs on a single business lot from three (3) to five (5).

- c. Because VA-19-025 was approved for an increase from three (3) to five (5) signs, the request of this Variance is to further increase that number from five (5) to six (6), or a 20% increase from their current maximum.
 - I. Should the Applicant remove the existing sign panel from the shared sign on Broad Street, the need for this Variance could be eliminated. The submitted Narrative Statement stated that the Applicant "is willing to remove the existing sign" but Staff is unclear as to whether this is a committal to doing so.
- 2. Variance from Section 1295.09(b)(2)(C) to allow for a free-standing ground sign to exceed the maximum allowable sign area of 32-square feet.
 - a. There are four (4) sign faces as part of the overall sign. From top to bottom they are:
 - I. 14.06-square foot "TrueCore" sign face.
 - II. 28.16-square foot full-color LED EMC sign face.
 - b. The total square footage of the sign is 42.22-square feet (down from 59.97-square feet)
 Variance request is for an increase in allowable square footage of 10.22-square feet, or an 31.94% increase.
- 3. Variance from Section 1295.10(b)(7)(A)(3) to allow for a changeable copy sign to exceed the maximum allowable square footage of 30% of the sign face, or 24-square feet, whichever is less.
 - a. In this case, the proposed sign area is 42.22-square feet, of which 30% is 12.66-square feet, which would be less than 24-square feet. Therefore, the maximum allowable area for a changeable copy sign is 12.66-square feet.
 - I. The proposed EMC sign is 28.16-square feet, the Variance request is for an increase in the allowable area by 15.5-square feet, or a 122.43% increase.
- 4. Variance from Section 1295.10(b)(7)(B)(4) to allow for an Electronic Message Center sign to change more than once in a three (3) minute period.
 - a. Per the Applicant's Narrative Statement: most EMC signs have a hold of at least 8 seconds before changing to the next message, however, they were not specific on what time frame they would employ with the proposed sign.
 - I. Staff would recommend that the Board of Zoning Appeals set a minimum hold time.
- 5. Variance from Section 1295.10(b)(7)(B)(5) to allow for an Electronic Message Center sign to employ flash, roll, scroll, and other motion and/or animation techniques during display.
- 6. Variance from Section 1295.10(b)(7)(B)(6): to allow for an EMC sign to utilize a full color display.
 - a. Per Section 1295.10(b)(7)(B)(6), EMC signs are limited to dark backgrounds with a single color employed at any one time.

Section 1295.10(b)(7)(B)(7) requires that all EMC signs have automatic dimming capabilities that adjust brightness to the ambient light at all times of day and night. Light emitted shall not be unreasonably bright, shall not create confusion with traffic signals, nor create a hazard to drivers and pedestrians, and should be shielded to prevent noticeable glow around the sign structure. Per the Applicant's Narrative Statement, the sign will have an automatic dimming feature.

Pataskala Utilities (Full comments attached)

Existing water and sanitary lines running E-W along the north side of Broad Street. Will need to see a survey showing the location of the proposed sign in relation to these lines, including the dimension between the two, to ensure that proposed location will not conflict.

Other Departments or Agencies

No other comments from applicable Departments or Agencies were received.

Surrounding Area:

Direction	Zoning	Land Use	
North	R-15 – Medium-High Density Residential R-20 – Medium Density Residential	Single-Family Homes	
East	PDD – Planned Development District GB – General Business	AutoZone Hazelwood Plaza	
South	R-15 – Medium High Density Residential R-7 – Village-Single Family Residential	Single-Family Homes	
West	PRO – Professional Research-Office	Vacant	

Variance Requirements:

According to Section 1211.07(1) of the Pataskala Code, the Board of Zoning appeals shall consider the following factors when determining if an area variance is warranted:

- a) Whether the property in question will yield a reasonable return or if there can be a beneficial use of the property;
- b) Whether there are unique physical circumstances or conditions that prohibit the property being developed in strict conformity with the zoning regulation such that a variance is necessary to enable the reasonable use of the property;
- c) Whether the variance requested is substantial;
- *d)* Whether the essential character of the neighborhood would be substantially altered or the adjoining properties would suffer a substantial detriment as a result of the variance;
- e) Whether the variance, if granted, will substantially or permanently impair the appropriate use or development of adjacent property;
- *f)* Whether the variance, if granted, will be detrimental to the public welfare;
- g) Whether the variance, if granted, would adversely affect the delivery of government services;
- *h)* Whether the property owner purchased the subject property with knowledge of the zoning restriction;
- *i)* Whether the property owner's predicament con be obviated through some other method than variance;
- *j)* Whether the variance, if granted, will represent the minimum variance that will afford relief and represent the least modification possible of the requirement at issue; and,
- *k)* Whether the spirit and intent behind the zoning requirement would be observed and substantial justice done by granting the variance.

Furthermore, Section 1211.07(2) allows other factors to be considered, including comments from City staff, when determining if an area variance is warranted. The following factors from Section 1211.07(2) are applicable to Variance Application VA-23-028:

• 1211.07(2)(g): To increase the maximum allowable height or area of signs on a lot (it is suggested that the same should not be increased more than 25%).

Department and Agency Review

- Zoning Inspector No comments.
- Public Service No comments.
- City Engineer No comments.
- Pataskala Utilities– See attached.
- Police Department No comments.
- West Licking Joint Fire District No comments.
- Southwest Licking School District No comments.

Conditions:

Should the Board choose to approve the applicant's request, the following conditions may be considered:

- 1. Applicant shall obtain all necessary permits from the City of Pataskala and the Licking County Building Code Department within one (1) year of the date of approval.
- 2. The Applicant shall submit a surveyed site plan showing the location of the sign and the distance from any water and/or sanitary lines.

Resolution:

For your convenience, the following resolution may be considered by the Board of Zoning Appeals when making a motion:

"I move to approve the six Variances from the Pataskala Code for variance application VA-23-028 ("with the following conditions" if conditions are to be placed on the approval)."

From:	Trent Howell
To:	Scott Haines; Jack Kuntzman; Felix Dellibovi; Jim Roberts; Bruce Brooks; Doug White; kperkins@laca.org; Alan
	Haines; Antonio Anzalone; Jim Roberts
Cc:	Sam Eppley; Scott Fulton; Lisa Paxton
Subject:	RE: Pataskala BZA Review Memo for 08-08-2023
Date:	Monday, July 31, 2023 3:05:24 PM

Jack,

Utility Department Comments.

VA-23-017 Pending a survey to show that the sign will not conflict with water and sewer lines existing in the area.

VA-23-018 No Comment

Thank you,

Trent Howell City of Pataskala Utility Director 430 S Main Street thowell@ci.pataskala.oh.us Office: (740) 927-4134

From: Scott Haines <shaines@hullinc.com>

Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 1:17 PM

To: Jack Kuntzman <jkuntzman@ci.pataskala.oh.us>; Felix Dellibovi <fdellibovi@ci.pataskala.oh.us>; Trent Howell <thowell@ci.pataskala.oh.us>; Jim Roberts <jroberts@verdantas.com>; Bruce Brooks <bbrooks@pataskalapolice.net>; Doug White <DWhite@westlickingfire.org>; kperkins@laca.org; Alan Haines <ahaines@ci.pataskala.oh.us>; Antonio Anzalone <aanzalone@ci.pataskala.oh.us>; Jim Roberts <jroberts@verdantas.com>

Cc: Sam Eppley <seppley@verdantas.com>; Scott Fulton <sfulton@ci.pataskala.oh.us>; Lisa Paxton <lpaxton@ci.pataskala.oh.us>

Subject: RE: Pataskala BZA Review Memo for 08-08-2023

<u>CAUTION:</u> This email message came from an external (non-city) email account. Do not click on any links within the message or attachments to the message unless you recognize the sender's email account and trust the content.

Jack

Verdantas has reviewed the August BZA applications and offer the following comments.



CITY OF PATASKALA PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT

621 West Broad Street, Suite 2A Pataskala, Ohio 43062

VARIANCE APPLICATION

(Potaskala Codified Ordinances Chapter 1211)

Property Information			Staff Use
Address: CAT N. D	xford Dr. Artaska	Un (771 430102	Application Number:
Parcel Number: ()(04-	307680-00.00	0	VA-2302
Zoning: PRO	Acres: 3.91		Fee:
Water Supply:			_
City of Pataskala	South West Licking	On Site	Filing Date:
Wastewater Treatment:			11-17-23
City of Pataskala	South West Licking	📮 On Site	Hearing Date:
			12-12-23
Applicant Information			Receipt Number:
Name: KOSSTER (1/	in Company (April	KIRNIG	00/41/
	timu pd.	+200 (100)	
City: Zanesmile	State:	Zip: 42701	Documents
Phone: 740-462-0	Email Dinlo	KesslerSigneo.com	Application
		12-20-2-11-22-22-24	Fee
Property Owner Informa	tion		A Narrative
Name: Trifflore f	Fortral Credit Unic	n	Site Plan
Address: 215 DPDT	Y I		Deed Deed
City: NOLVIVK	State: A	Zip: 43(55	🔎 Area Map
Phone: NIA	Email: 11A		
Variance Information	•		
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AKKING For more than 30% of Change able apy-1395, 10(b)(7)(13), 1245, 10(b)(7)(13)(4)) to allow (1 EMC, to change more than once in (3) minuter, (13)(5, 16)(7)(13)(5) - to allow Describe the Project. The EVC to have motion (5) 13(15, 10(b)(7)(2)(2)) to allow EVC to have RUL Color.

He are alking to initially a message center. This is needed for the business to grow. The pray the location & building is set up it is needed to the focation of building is set up it is needed to the focation of building is set up it is needed.

Revised October 26, 2018

Additional Information on Back of Page

Document	is to Submit		
Variance Ap	plication: Submit 1 copy of the variance application.		
Narrative St	atement: Submit 1 copy of a narrative statement explaining the following:		
. The	reason the variance is necessary		
 The 	specific reasons why the variance is justified as it pertains to Section 1211.07 of	of the Pataskala Code:	
a)	Whether the property in question will yield a reasonable return or if there can i	be a beneficial use of the property	
	and a second s		
b)	Without the variance; Whether there are unique physical circumstances or conditions that prohibit th strict conformity with the zoning regulation such that a variance is necessary to	o enable the reasonable use of the	
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c)	Whether the variance requested is substantial;	based or a dialalana properties would	
d)	Whether the essential character of the neighborhood would be substantially altered or abjoining properties would		
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e)	whether the variance, if granted, will substantially or permanently impair the adjacent property;	appropriate use of development of	
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	whether the variance, if granted, would adversely affect the delivery of govern	nmental services;	
h)	whether the property owner ourchased the subject property with knowledge of	of the zoning restriction,	
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j)	Whether the variance, if granted, will represent the minimum variance that w	ill affora relief ond represent the least	
	modification possible of the requirement at issue; and,	and and substantial justice dane by	
k)	Whether the spirit and intent behind the zoning requirement would be observed	eu unu substantial juscet cont -y	
	granting the variance.	of the Pataskala Code.	
• A	use variance must also meet the requirements described in Section 1211.07(B) of	thert property indicating the following	
Site Plan: S	ubmit 1 copy (unless otherwise directed by staff) of a site plan to scale of the su	infact biober of managements	
All	property lines and dimensions		
• L0	cation and dimensions of all existing and proposed buildings and structures.	and additions	
	tbacks from property lines for all existing and proposed buildings, structures an		
	sements and rights-of-way		
	lveways		
• Flo	podplain areas		
• Lo	cation of existing wells and septic/serator systems.		
Dead: Prov	y other information deemed necessary for the variance request ide a copy of the deed for the property with any deed restrictions. Deeds can b	e obtained from the Licking County	
TRANSPORTED AND ADDRESS.	the Land Library lange legisly com/recorder/recording-search/		
Area Man	Submit 1 copy of an area map showing the property and the surrounding area.	Area maps can be obtained from the	
Licking Cou	nty Auditor's website here: https://www.lickingcountyohio.us/		
Signature			
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i certify the	. Also, I authorize City of Pataskala staff to conduct site visits and photograph ti	he property as necessary as it pertains	
knowledge	. Also, i Buthorize City of Pateskens staff to conduct one the pro-		
	ance request,	Date:	
Applicant ((India) XITUNIA	11/13/23	
-		Date: / / / Date:	
Property C	wmer (Required)	11/14/23	
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Narrative Statement

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The reason the variance is necessary at 997 N. Oxford Drive is to properly identify the location of TrueCore from state route 16. There is no signage visible to be able to locate the property until you are already at the property.

I believe this variance is justified in being able to properly locate the building. TrueCore would run as it is now without being granted this variance. However, with the granting of this variance it would not only help current clients to locate the building but also advertise for potential clients. The size of this sign is needed for its location. Code 1295.09 (C) limits the amount of square footage we are asking for on the sign and EMC. We are asking for an additional 10.22 square footage on the sign of the allowed 32 sf. Per code 1295.10 (B) we are asking to exceed the maximum of 30% of the sign face to be EMC.

The customer is willing to remove the existing sign on Broad Street, to be replaced with this message center.

This variance request is substantial again, to help build clientele and to locate the property. The refreshing sign with the electronic message center and classic colors will give an overall updated and professional look for this business. Code 1295.10 (B) 6 restricts the color that is needed for this sign.

The essential character of the neighborhood would not be a substantial detriment as a result of this business. Again, this sign has classy business colors with an updated message center that will not be flashing or distract any drivers. We are asking that this not be a static sign, code 1295.10 (B) 5 states it must be static. The auto diming will be there, so it is never too bright or distractive. We are asking to be able to change the message more frequently than every 3 minutes but are restricted per code 1295.10 (B) 4. Most Electronic message centers have a hold of at least 8 seconds before changing to the next message.

If the variance is granted it will not permanently impair the use or development of the adjacent properties.

If granted, the variance will not be detrimental to the public welfare. This will only help the public to locate the business in an updated fashion.

This variance would in no way adversely affect the delivery of any governmental services.

The property owner purchased the property without full detailed knowledge of the zoning restrictions when it comes to signage.

The owner's predicament cannot be obviated through any other method than a variance due to the zoning restrictions.

There are a few things we are asking for, the area, height and the EMC, all stated above that this variance would afford relief for.

The spirit and intent behind having this sign would be observed in a positive manner. This great-looking sign would enhance the overall look for this property.

The customer is willing to completely shut off the EMC during certain hours, if needed. Again, it will be auto dimming and will never be a distraction. They do not want to be flashy; they just want to advertise their location and to capture the Broad Street traffic.

The customer did try to reach out multiple times to the Auto Zone owners with no response, they are not local and seem not to be interested in this project, but the customer did try to get them involved.



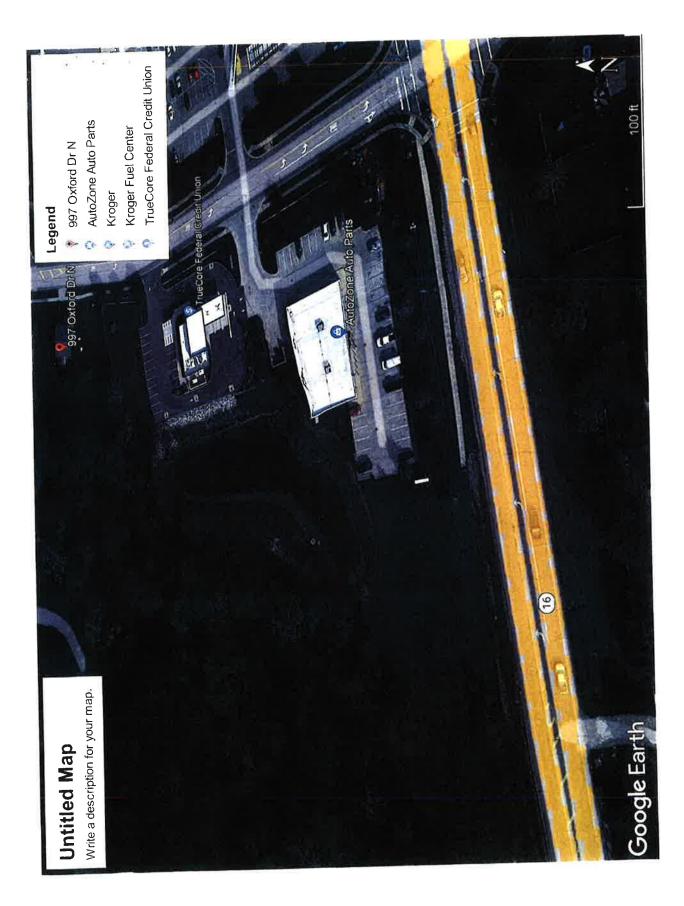


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OnTrac Property Map



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Muld Sut Licking County Auditor
Licking County Auditor
SEC. 319.202 COMPLIED WITH

MICHAEL L. SMITH, AUDITOR BY: VAC 649.00

GENERAL WARRANTY DEED

Know All By These Presents

That D.B.M. Enterprises LTD., an Ohio limited liability company, the Grantor, for valuable consideration paid, grant(s) with General Warranty Covenants to TrueCore Federal Credit Union, a federally chartered credit union, the Grantee, the following real property:

Situated in the State of Ohio, County of Licking and City of Pataskala and being Lot 2 in Broad & Oxford Subdivision as designated and delineated on the Recorded Plat thereof in Instrument #201203150005517, Recorder's Office, Licking County, Ohio.

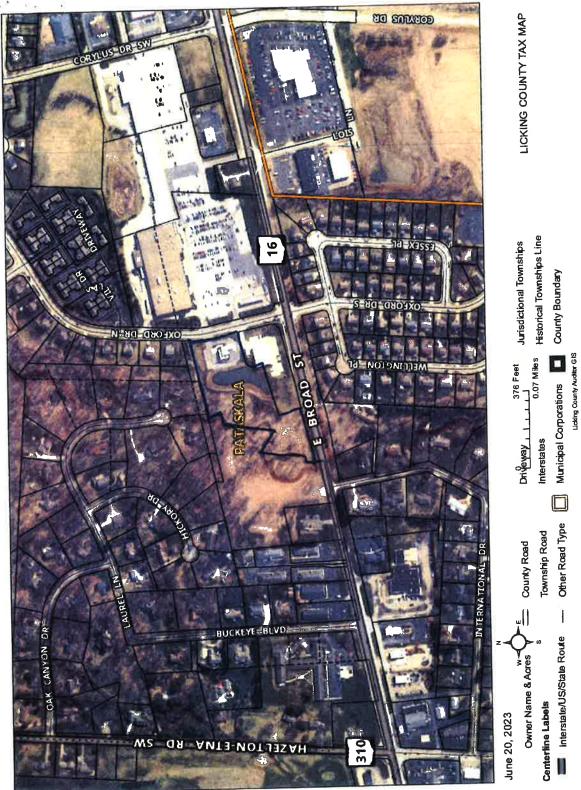
Tax Parcel No.: Real Estate Address: Prior Instrument Reference(s): 064-307680-00.000 3.912 ac, E. Broad St., Pataskala, OH 43062 Inst, #199809150035246

Subject to any and all easements, rights of way, conditions and restrictions of record, all legal highways, zoning ordinances, rules and regulations.

EXCEPTED from the general warranty covenants are the real estate taxes and assessments which shall be prorated between the Grantor and the Grantee to the time of closing and those taxes and assessments due and payable thereafter.

01140760200000011000

January , 2017. Executed this 10 4 day of D.B.M. Enterprises LTD. By: <u>Webort G. Abhman</u> Deborah A. Kohman Managing Member STATE OF OHIO, COUNTY OF LICKING, ss: Class r. Nahu Notary Public GLORIA J. KAHRUG Notary Public, State of Ohio My Commission Expires March 27, 2018 This Instrument Prepared By Reese, Pyle, Drake & Meyer, P.L.L. 36 North Second Street – P.O. Box 919 Newark, Ohio 43058-0919



OnTrac Property Map