

**North Little Rock Board of Adjustment
Minutes
September 26, 2019**

The meeting of the North Little Rock Board of Adjustment was called to order by Chairman Tom Brown at 1:30 P.M. in the Planning Office (Conference Room B). Roll call found a quorum to be present; a quorum being three members present.

Members Present

Mike Abele
Tom Brown, Chair
Gardner Burton
Tim Giattina
Steve Sparr

Members Absent

None

Staff Present

Donna James, City Planner
B.J.Jones, Administrative Secretary
Michael Mosley, City Attorney's Office

Others Present

Pamela Abrams, 74 Towne Oaks Dr., Little Rock, AR 72227
Dianna Mathis, 10700 Richsmith Ln, Apt #502 NLR, AR 72213
Belinda Snow, 4901 Fairway Ave, Ste A, NLR, AR 72116
Nakesha Primus, 2501 Willow, NLR AR 72114

Administrative

None

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sparr formed a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, August 29, 2019. Mr.Giattina seconded the motion and there was no dissent.

Old Business

None

**North Little Rock Board of Adjustment Minute Record
September 26, 2019**

New Business

BOA 2019-18 - A request for Reasonable Accommodations to waive North Little Rock Municipal Code, Chapter 8, Section 3.4.18.1 to allow the installation of a double cylinder deadbolt lock 10710 Richsmith Lane #502, North Little Rock, AR by Pamela Abrams, Housing Staff Attorney, Legal Aid of Arkansas on behalf of Dianna Mathis.

Mr. Brown called on the applicants, Ms. Abrams and Ms. Mathis, to detail the request.

Ms. Mathis stated her seventeen-year-old son, Solomon Cotton, had Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and was non-verbal and at high risk for elopement. She explained the requested locks were needed for her son's protection and safety as he had walked out of the home on multiple occasions. She stated law enforcement had been involved to assist in finding him and bringing him home.

Mr. Brown summarized elopement meant her son could and would simply open the door and walk away. He asked Ms. Mathis if she was home with her son at all times.

Ms. Mathis replied she was home the majority of the time.

Mr. Brown asked who stayed with her son if she was not at home.

Ms. Mathis replied she hired someone to stay with her son when she was away.

Mr. Mosley asked for confirmation concerning if her son would or would not be locked in the home without the ability to get out and without someone being present.

Ms. Mathis replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Abele asked if the request included two locks to be installed.

Ms. Mathis noted the second lock would be installed on the patio door.

Mr. Mosley asked for confirmation once again questioning if someone would always be with her son and he would not be locked in with no one else in the home.

Ms. Mathis confirmed her son would not be locked in the home and left alone.

There was additional discussion regarding alarms and fire hazards. It was suggested Ms. Mathis install alarms on the doors to notify her when a door was opened.

Ms. Mathis explained her son could tear the alarms off the doors, thus destroying the property of the alarm company. She added he could exit through a window in case of a fire but he was not aware of this option since the windows had not been raised in his presence. She noted the requested locks would give her peace of mind while cooking or occupying the restroom knowing her son could not exit the apartment through the doors.

**North Little Rock Board of Adjustment Minute Record
August 29, 2019**

Mr. Abele expressed concern regarding fire alarms in the complex creating panic without being able to escape the home.

Ms. Mathis explained there were lights to indicate which alarm was being sounded and she had the keys to the locks on her person at all times. She stated this would not change. She stated in addition, the apartment manager had keys for the locks. She added she was located on the ground level.

Mr. Abele cautioned in panic mode, things do not always go as planned.

Ms. Mathis indicated she understood but was more concerned with her son getting out of the home. She stated in the past he had traveled over a mile away.

Mr. Giattina asked how many times her son had managed to get out of the apartment.

Ms. Mathis replied that so far he had escaped three times and once was found over a mile away near the interstate.

Mr. Mosley noted the Housing Authority would approve the request if the Board waived the requirement to allow for the placement of the locks as desired.

Mr. Sparr formed a motion to approve the applicant's request.

Mr. Gardner seconded the motion and the request was approved with a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sparr formed a motion to adjourn at 1:40pm. Mr. Gardner seconded the motion and there was no dissent.

PASSED: October 31, 2019 **RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**



Tom Brown, Chair *MAN*