



**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

**Development Services**

112 Goldsboro Street E, Wilson, NC 27893

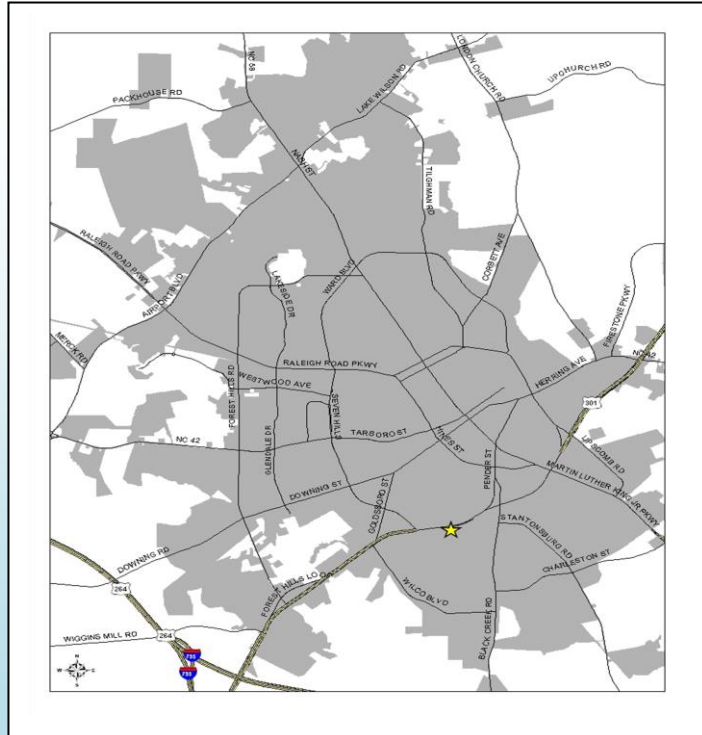
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**PROJECT: 21-495**  
**AGENDA ITEM # 5**  
**PIN # 3721-43-3466.000**  
**DATE: January 18, 2022**  
**DESCRIPTION:**  
A request by Pratibha Patel for a Special Use Permit to operate an Sweepstakes Facility/ Adult Arcade at 6697 Ward Blvd. in an HI (Heavy Industrial) zone.

**RENEWAL**



**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

This request is for Renewal. The Sweepstakes was originally approved in November 2019. In its review of the request, the Land Development staff made the following “findings of fact” and suggests that the Board, likewise, include these among any specific “findings of fact” that they make regarding this case. Any such “findings of fact” should be made by separate motion(s) and vote(s) prior to any motion and vote to grant or deny the permit.

Board of Adjustment – Special Use Permit - Renewal  
6799 Ward Blvd – Sweepstakes Facility/Adult Arcade  
January 18, 2022

Photos of Property



## STAFF FINDINGS

- FACT 1: The property in question is located at 6799 Ward Blvd in Wilson County, North Carolina.
- FACT 2: The property is also known as 3721-23-9541.000 (PIN).
- FACT 3: The property is zoned HI (Heavy Industrial).  
The surrounding properties are zoned:
- North:* HC (Highway Commercial)
  - South:* HI (Heavy Industrial)
  - East:* HI (Heavy Industrial), LI (Light Industrial) & HC (Highway Commercial)
  - West:* HI (Heavy Industrial) & LI (Light Industrial)
- FACT 4: Section 2.7.3 of the City of Wilson Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) includes a “Use Table”. That table lists a “Sweepstakes Facility/Adult Arcade”, subject to a special use permit, and subject to the requirements of Section 3.5.5 as a use permitted in the HI zone.
- FACT 5: Section 17.3 of the City of Wilson UDO is entitled “Definitions, Use Types.” It includes the following definition for “Sweepstakes Facility and Adult Arcade”

**SWEEPSTAKES FACILITIES** Any business enterprise where persons utilize computers, gaming terminals, or other electronic machines to conduct games of chance, including sweepstakes, and where cash, merchandise or other items of value are redeemed or otherwise distributed, whether or not the value of such distribution is determined by electronic games played or by predetermined odds. This does not include any lottery approved by the State of North Carolina.

**ADULT ARCADES** Any business enterprise, whether as a principal or accessory use, where persons utilize computers, gaming terminals, or other electronic machines to conduct games of skill, and where cash, merchandise or other items of value are redeemed or otherwise distributed, whether or not the value of such distribution is determined by electronic games played or by predetermined odds, and where the maximum value earned by any play of the game may exceed the cost for that play of the game. This does not include any lottery approved by the State of North Carolina or traditional claw-type games. For purposes of this definition, a game of skill is one in which the element

of skill is the dominating element that determines the result of the game. For purposes of this ordinance, ADULT ARCADES shall be regulated similarly to SWEEPSTAKES FACILITIES

FACT 6: Sweepstake Facilities/Adult Arcades are also subject to the requirements of Section 3.5.5 of the UDO which states:

### **3.5.5 SWEEPSTAKES FACILITY/ADULT ARCADE**

#### **A. General Standards**

1. Selling and/or consuming alcoholic beverages are prohibited in sweepstakes facilities.

*This condition applies to this request. Selling/consumption of alcohol on the premises is not permitted.*

2. Persons under the age of 16 are prohibited from entering the premises during regular school hours as defined by the Wilson County Board of Education.

*This condition applies to this request and must be enforced.*

- #### **B. Separation Requirement: All sweepstakes facilities shall be located at least 250 feet from any school, church, or residential use.**

*This condition applies to this request. According to the city's records, this facility is at least 250 feet from any school, church, or residential use.*

- #### **C. Hours of Operation: In issuing a Special Use Permit for this use, the Board shall consider the surroundings and restrict the hours of operation of the business if they deem it warranted.**

*This condition applies to this request. The Board may impose hours of operation if deemed warranted by the Board. No hours of operation have been imposed on existing sweepstakes facilities due to the isolation of the use in only the HI zones.*

- #### **D. Amortization of Existing Uses: All uses meeting the definition of Sweepstakes Facilities as defined in Chapter 17 of this ordinance that were legitimately established prior to December 11, 2009 shall cease operations and close or be brought into compliance with the provisions of this ordinance by midnight, December 31, 2012.**

*This condition does not apply to this request.*

FACT 7: Section 9.4.1 of the UDO lists the parking requirements for Sweepstakes Facilities/Adult Arcades. One parking space per simultaneous players is required.

*A site plan indicating 29 total parking spaces for the sweepstakes facility/adult arcade use was previously approved by the Technical Review Committee.*

FACT 8: Section 15.10.2.E of the UDO, pertaining to the issuance of special use permits, reads as follows:

1. That the proposed special use conforms to the character of the neighborhood, considering the location, type and height of buildings or structures and the type and extent of landscaping on the site;
2. That adequate measures will be taken to provide ingress and egress so designed as to minimize traffic hazards and to minimize traffic congestion on the public roads;
3. That adequate utilities (water, sewer, drainage, electric, etc.) are available for the proposed use;
4. That the proposed use will not be noxious or offensive by reason of vibration, noise, odor, dust, smoke or gas;
5. That the establishment of the proposed use will not impede the orderly development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted within the land development district;
6. That the establishment, maintenance and/or operation of the proposed use will not be detrimental to or endanger the public health, safety or general welfare; and
7. That the establishment will be operated in compliance with all local, state and federal laws and will not become a nuisance by creating criminal activity or public disturbance.

PROCEDURE: The Board must proceed in accordance with Section 15.10.2.E as quoted in Fact 8.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Board proceed as follows:

- Move that Facts 1-8 in the staff findings be adopted as “findings of fact” of the Board (motion-second-and vote).
- Move to Conclude:
  1. that the requested permit is within the jurisdiction of the Board to issue;
  2. that the application is complete; and
  3. that if completed as proposed in the application and in compliance with the recommended conditions, the development will comply with the requirements of the Unified Development Ordinance.
- Move to grant the Special Use Permit subject to the following conditions:
  1. The applicant and operator of the establishment shall fully comply with all of the requirements of the order, including, but not limited to, any other applicable state or local rules, ordinances, laws and regulations of whatever nature.
  2. If any of the conditions affixed to the permit or any part thereof shall be held invalid or void, then the permit shall become void and of no effect.
  3. The applicant shall comply with all applicable requirements of Section 3.5.5 of the Unified Development Ordinance.
  4. All signs shall comply with Section 11 of the Unified Development Ordinance and acquire a sign permit. Please contact the Permit Desk for additional information at (252)399-2220, option 3, then option 2.
  5. A site plan is required to be submitted to the Technical Review Committee. The Special Use Permit is granted for an Internet Sweepstakes Facility/Adult Arcade with an equal ratio of parking spaces to simultaneous player(s) on premise as shown on the Technical Review Committee (TRC) approved site plan, ONLY.
  6. Any gaming units not in use cannot be stored on site except, with prior notification to Land Development in cases where existing machines are switched out or replaced. This process from notification to removal shall not exceed 7 calendar days.
  7. Architectural plans shall be submitted to Construction Standards and Fire for review. The Fire Marshal and Construction

Standards staff must conduct inspections of the premises prior to the opening of business. Please contact the Permit Desk for additional information at (252)399-2220, option1 and then 1.

8. The applicant does agree that he/she has read and understood the above-listed information, and does hereby expressly reaffirm, consent to, agree to abide by, and remain in compliance with the plan(s), requirements and/or conditions listed therein and that he/she shall conduct such business in full compliance with all local, state, and federal laws and regulations applicable thereto. The applicant further acknowledges and agrees that the City of Wilson makes no representation or acknowledgement that the business is in compliance with said laws and regulations.