# Zoning Permit Responses

## Barbershop

Proposed use: Small-scale indoor barbershop (personal service) in an existing commercial space on West Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA.

### Proposed Change – Less Objectionable in External Effects

#### (1) Traffic generation and congestion (truck, passenger car, and pedestrian)

The previous use generated outdoor activity with bicycles parked in front, children and others coming and going, and test-riding on the sidewalk. The proposed barbershop will be conducted entirely indoors. Client traffic will be limited to passenger cars arriving for appointments or short walk-in visits, with no trucks, no outdoor queuing, and no sidewalk activity. Overall traffic volume and congestion will be lower and more predictable than the previous use.

#### (2) Noise, smoke, dust, fumes, vapors, gases, heat, odor, glare, and vibration

The barbershop will generate no excessive noise, smoke, dust, fumes, vapors, gases, heat, odor, glare, or vibration. All activity occurs indoors using standard barber tools (clippers, shears, etc.). There are no industrial processes, outdoor equipment, or emissions of any kind.

#### (3) Storage and waste disposal

All supplies, products, and equipment will be stored indoors. Waste consists of ordinary commercial refuse (hair clippings, paper, packaging) that will be bagged and disposed of through regular commercial trash service. No outdoor storage, bulk waste, or special disposal needs.

#### (4) Appearance

The shop will present a clean, professional exterior with compliant signage and well-maintained interior finishes appropriate to a neighborhood barbershop. This is an improvement over the previous outdoor bicycle activity and will enhance the appearance of the commercial storefront.

### 1325.07(b) Standards

#### (2) Best interest of Bethlehem, convenience of the community, public welfare, and substantial improvement to property in the immediate vicinity

This is a small-scale barbershop that will serve the neighborhood and community. Converting the space to an active, well-run personal-service business is a substantial improvement to the property and supports local convenience and economic vitality along West Broad Street.

#### (3) Suitable for the property and in harmony with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity

The space is an existing commercial storefront located on West Broad Street, a major arterial. The barbershop use is fully compatible with the commercial character of the corridor and will be designed, operated, and maintained to match the appearance and scale of surrounding commercial properties.

#### (4) In conformance with all applicable requirements of this Ordinance

The proposed use will comply with all applicable zoning ordinance requirements, building codes, and Pennsylvania state barber licensing and health regulations.

### (5) Will not substantially change the character of any surrounding residential neighborhood (including consideration of hours of operation)

The use is confined to an existing commercial space on a commercial street. Hours of operation will be limited to standard commercial daytime and early-evening hours and will not affect any nearby residential areas. No outdoor activity or late-night operations are proposed.

### (6) Suitable in terms of effects on street, traffic and safety with adequate sidewalks and vehicular access

The property already has established sidewalk and vehicular access along West Broad Street. The low-volume, appointment-based passenger-car traffic of a small barbershop will not create undue congestion or hazard and is less intensive than the previous outdoor bicycle use.

### (7) Will not create a significant hazard to the public health and safety (fire, toxic, or explosive hazards)

The barbershop involves only standard personal-service activities and equipment. There are no toxic chemicals, explosives, flammable materials beyond ordinary consumer products, or other hazards. The space will meet all applicable fire and life-safety codes.

### (8) Suitable for the site considering disturbance of steep slopes, mature woodland, wetlands, floodplains, springs, and other important natural features

The proposal uses an existing commercial building. No trees will be cut, no wetlands or floodplains will be disturbed, and no natural features will be affected.

*Prepared for zoning review — Barbershop, Bethlehem, PA.*