

The owners propose to remodel their house to convert the existing garage into conditioned space at the single-family residence at 5506 Windward Drive. The existing garage is 210 square feet in area and the existing house has a conditioned area of 1,200 square feet. The property is entirely within the 25-year and 100-year floodplains of Fort Branch Creek. The development is the subject of Building Permit application number 2011-079767 PR.

The applicants seek variances to the City of Austin's floodplain management regulations to: 1) allow altering and expanding the use of the non-conforming property; 2) not require the finished floor elevation of the converted area to be one foot above the design flood elevation; 3) exclude the building footprint from the drainage easement; and 4) not provide normal access from the building to an area that is a minimum of one foot above the design flood elevation. The depth of water at the curb of 5506 Windward Drive is approximately 3.3 feet during the 100-year flood event and 2.4 feet during the 25-year flood event. The depth of water at the existing house is approximately 1.5 feet during the 100-year flood event and 0.6 feet during the 25-year flood event.