



ORDINANCE O-25-2025

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO REZONE 115.445+/- ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE CORNER OF BEECH ROAD AND GREEN CHAPEL ROAD ALONG US-62, FROM AGRICULTURAL (AG) TO LIMITED GENERAL EMPLOYMENT (L-GE) FOR AN AREA TO BE KNOWN AS THE "SMART FARMS ZONING DISTRICT" AS REQUESTED BY KARIS CRITICAL, C/O CRAIG MONCRIEF

WHEREAS, New Albany City Council has determined that it is necessary to rezone certain property located within the city to promote orderly growth and development of lands; and

WHEREAS, the New Albany Planning Commission and New Albany City Council on separate occasions have held public hearings and received public input into the amendment of the zoning ordinance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the application by Karis Critical, c/o Craig Moncrief, the Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed zoning amendment and recommended its approval unanimously during their meeting on May 19, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by council for the city of New Albany, counties of Franklin and Licking, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. Council hereby amends the zoning ordinance map of the city of New Albany to change the zoning classification of the following described site:

- A. A 115.445+/- acre site within Licking County, generally located on the corner of Beech Road and Green Chapel Road along US-62, from its current zoning of Agricultural (AG) to Limited General Employment (L-GE).
- B. The zoning district's limitation text and boundary map are hereby attached and marked Exhibit A.

Section 2. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this council concerning and relating to the adoption of this legislation were adopted in an open meeting of council, and that all deliberations of the council and or any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 3. Pursuant to Article 6.07(B) of the New Albany Charter, this ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after adoption.

CERTIFIED AS ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Attest:

Sloan T. Spalding
Mayor

Jennifer H. Mason
Clerk of Council

Approved as to form:

Benjamin S. Albrecht
Law Director

Legislation dates:

Prepared: 06/13/2025

Introduced: 06/24/2025

Revised:

Adopted:

Effective:

O-25-2025 EXHIBIT A

SMART FARM ZONING DISTRICT

LIMITATION (L-GE) TEXT

April 3, 2025

The Smart Farm Zoning District (the “Zoning District”) consists of 115.5 +/- acres located south of Green Chapel Road, east of Beech Road, and west of the Intel development (the “Property”). The Property is located within the Annexation Agreement area with Jersey Township. Applicant desires to annex the Property and rezone it to the General Employment District for the purpose of complementing the zoning and development standards for the industrial properties to the south of the Property.

- I. Zoning Designation: L-GE, Limited General Employment District.
- II. Permitted Uses: The permitted and conditional uses contained and described in the Codified Ordinances of the City of New Albany, GE, General Employment District, Sections 1153.02 and 1153.03, provided that the conditional uses are approved in accordance with Chapter 1115, Conditional Uses. The following uses from these code sections shall be prohibited:
 - A. Industrial product sales (see Section 1153.03(a)(1));
 - B. Industrial service (see Section 1153.03(a)(2));
 - C. Mini-warehouses (see Section 1153.03(a)(4)(c)). For purposes of clarification, this prohibition only applies to such facilities that are made available for rental to the general public;
 - D. Personal service (see Section 1153.03(b)(2)) and retail product sales and service (see Section 1153.03(b)(3)), except that such uses shall be allowed as accessory uses to a permitted use in this Zoning District;
 - E. Vehicle services (see Section 1153.03(B)(4);
 - F. Radio/television broadcast facilities (see Section 1153.03(c)(1));
 - G. Sexually-oriented businesses (see Section 1153.03(c)(3)); and
 - H. Off-premises signs (see Section 1153.03(c)(2)).
- III. Lot and Setback Commitments:
 - A. Lot Coverage: There shall be a maximum lot coverage in this Zoning District of 75%. “Lot Coverage” means the ratio of enclosed ground floor area of all buildings on a lot to the horizontally projected area of the lot, expressed as a percentage. This maximum lot coverage standard shall apply to the entire Zoning District, not each parcel within the Zoning District.

B. Setbacks:

1. **Green Chapel Road:** The minimum building and parking setbacks shall be 300 feet from the center of Green Chapel Road, except that substations and its ancillary equipment, structures, and facilities shall be permitted to encroach within the setbacks. Please note that all minimum setback requirements pertain to the new Green Chapel Road, which is depicted on the site plan attached to this rezoning application. No setback requirements shall apply to Old Green Chapel Road.
2. **U.S. Route 62:** The minimum building and parking setback shall be 185 feet from the centerline of U.S. Route 62.
3. **Beech Road:** The minimum building and parking setback shall be 185 feet from the centerline of Beech Road.
4. **Perimeter Boundaries:** The minimum building and parking setback shall be 25 feet from all perimeter boundaries for which another setback requirement is not provided in this text, except that the minimum pavement and building setback shall be 100 feet from any such perimeter boundary that is adjacent to property where residential uses are permitted.
5. **Elimination of Setbacks:** In the event that a parcel located within this Zoning District and an adjacent parcel located within or outside of this Zoning District (i) comes under common or affiliated ownership or control, (ii) are zoned to allow compatible non-residential uses, or (iii) are combined into a single parcel, then any minimum building, pavement, or landscaping setback standards set forth in this text as they apply to common property lines shall no longer apply with respect to these parcels. Section 1153.04(g) of the Codified Ordinances also shall apply to this Zoning District.

IV. Architectural Standards:

- A. **Building Height:** The maximum building height for structures in this Zoning District shall be 85 feet, subject to Section 1165.03 of the Codified Ordinances.
- B. **Service with Loading Areas:** Service areas and loading areas shall be screened in accordance with the Codified Ordinances.
- C. **Building Design:**
 1. Building designs shall not mix architectural elements or ornamentation from different styles.

2. Buildings shall be required to employ comparable use of materials on all elevations.
3. The number, location, spacing, and shapes of windows and door openings shall be carefully considered. Primary entrances to buildings shall be made sufficiently prominent that they can be easily identified from a distance.
4. For office buildings and complexes, achieving a human or pedestrian scale is of less concern. When achieving such a scale is desired, it may be achieved by careful attention to width of facades, size and spacing of window and door openings, and floor to floor heights on exterior walls.
5. All elevations of a building that are visible from a public right-of-way shall receive similar treatment in terms of style, materials, and design so that such elevations are not of a lesser visual character than any other.
6. Use of elements such as shutters, cupolas, dormers, and roof balustrades shall be avoided in building designs that are not based on traditional American architectural styles. Such elements may be employed only when they are common elements of a specific style, and this style shall be replicated in its entirety. When shutters are employed, even if they are non-operable, they must be sized and mounted in a way that gives the appearance of operability.
7. Elements such as meter boxes, utility conduits, roof and wall projections such as vent and exhaust pipes, basement window enclosures, and trash containers shall be designed, located, or screened so as to minimize their visibility and visual impact from off-site. Solar energy systems shall be excluded from the requirements of this section.
8. Accessory or ancillary buildings, whether attached or detached, shall be of similar design, materials and construction as the nearest primary structure. Fenestration themes that employ windows, panels, and piers that are consistent with the architectural vocabulary of the buildings that are encouraged. Accessory structures, generators, storage tanks, trash receptacles or any other similar improvement must be located behind a building façade that does not front on a public right-of-way.

D. Building Form:

1. All building elevations shall be designed to be compatible with each other and to reflect a consistent design approach.

2. Gable or hip roofs shall be avoided unless a building design replicates a traditional American architectural style that employs such roof forms. In non-stylistic contemporary designs, low or flat roofs may be employed. Roof visibility shall be minimized.

E. Materials:

1. Exterior building materials shall be appropriate for contemporary suburban designs and shall avoid overly reflective surfaces. Traditional materials such as, but not limited to, wood, stone, brick, and concrete shall be permitted, and contemporary materials such as, but not limited to, aluminum, metal, glass, stucco, or cementitious fiberboard (e.g., hardiplank or equivalent) shall be permitted on buildings not employing traditional styles. Architectural precast concrete panels and/or poured-in-place concrete tilt-up panels shall be permitted. The use of reflective or mirrored glass shall be prohibited.
2. Prefabricated metal buildings and untreated masonry block structures are prohibited. Notwithstanding the foregoing, ancillary structures built and operated for the purpose of enclosing equipment and which are not occupied by tenants or persons on a regular basis may be constructed using pre-engineered metal.
3. Generally, the quantity of materials selected for a building shall be minimized.
4. Loading docks are not required to have the same degree of finish as a main entry unless they are visible from a public right-of-way.
5. Additional Standards for Uses Not Governed by DGRs: Buildings that are constructed for industrial and data center uses are not subject to the Design Guidelines & Requirements (DGRs) and can present challenges in meeting the community standard for architectural design. Such buildings are necessarily large and typically include long walls that together form a square or rectangular box. The goal for the development of buildings that are not subject to the DGRs is to balance the practical needs of these buildings with the desire to provide exterior designs that are attractive and complementary to the architecture that will be found elsewhere in this Zoning District.

Architecture by its nature is a subjective medium, meaning that the adoption of strict objective standards in all instances may not provide the best means for achieving appropriate design. In recognition of this fact, the standards set forth herein provide guidelines and suggestions for designing buildings that are not subject to the DGRs in an effort to set expectations for the quality of architecture that will be expected for these structures. On the other hand, these

standards are meant to allow for some flexibility to encourage innovative design provided that the spirit and intent of these provisions are met.

In conjunction with an application for a certificate of appropriateness for each building or structure in this Zoning District that is not subject to or governed by the DGRs, the applicant shall be required to submit to the City illustrations of the proposed exterior design of the building or structure for review and approval by the Design Review Committee contemplated in Section 1157.08(a)(1)(D) of the City Code. In designing such buildings, the user or applicant shall consider the following, which are intended to set a level of expectation for the quality of design:

- a. Architectural design for all portions of a building or structure that are visible from a public right-of-way (excluding public right-of-way whose primary purpose is to accommodate truck traffic or service loading areas) shall meet the community standard in terms of quality while considering the unique nature of the use(s) that will be found therein.
 - b. Uninterrupted blank wall facades shall be prohibited to the extent that they are visible from a public right-of-way. Design variations on long exterior walls shall be employed in order to create visual interest. Examples of such design variations include, but are not limited to, the use of offsets, recesses and/or projections, banding, windows, and/or reveals; scoring of building facades; color changes; texture or material changes; and variety in building height.
 - c. The use of one or more architectural or design elements may be used to soften the aesthetics of the building, such as but not limited to canopies, porticos, overhangs, arches, outdoor patios, community spaces, or similar devices.
 - d. Contemporary exterior designs, while not required, shall be encouraged in order to create architecture that does not look aged or dated even many years after the facility is built.
 - e. Landscaping and/or the use of existing vegetation shall be utilized where appropriate to enhance the aesthetics of the building and to lessen its visual impact when viewed from public rights-of-way.
6. Roof-Mounted Equipment: Complete screening of all roof-mounted equipment shall be required on all four sides of buildings with materials that are consistent and harmonious with the building's façade and character. Such screening shall be provided in order to screen the equipment from off-site view and to buffer

sound generated by such equipment. Solar energy systems shall be excluded from the requirements of this section to the extent the requirements prevent or limit functionality and/or accessibility to direct sunlight.

V. Access, Parking, Site Circulation, and Traffic Commitments:

- A. Vehicular Access: The developer shall work with the City Manager or their designee to determine the need for appropriate timing and phasing of street improvements to serve this Zoning District. Subject to other provisions in this text, on public rights-of-way which exist on the date of this text, the number, locations, and spacing of curbcuts shall be determined and approved by the City Manager or their designee in consultation with the developer at the time a certificate of appropriateness is issued for a project in this Zoning District.

The applicant shall conduct an analysis of future traffic demands based on anticipated development and uses within the area as agreed by the City Traffic Engineer. If needed, the developer shall grant easements to the City which are adjacent to the current right-of-way adjacent to the Property to the extent necessary to provide for the installation and maintenance of streetscape improvements. The City Manager or the City Manager's designee shall make the final determination to approve the conclusions of the traffic analysis.

- B. Parking and Loading: Parking and loading spaces shall be provided for each use per Chapter 1167 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of New Albany.
- C. Rights-of-Way: The width of the U.S. Route 62 and Beech Road rights-of-way shall be 100 feet. The developer shall dedicate right-of-way for U.S. Route 62 and Beech Road to the City at a distance of 50 feet as measured from the existing centerline of the respective rights-of-way. The total right-of-way for Green Chapel Road shall be 80 feet. The developer shall dedicate right-of-way for Green Chapel Road to the City at a distance of 40 feet from the existing centerline of Green Chapel Road. The developer shall grant easements to the City which are adjacent to the aforementioned rights-of-way to the extent necessary to provide for the installation and maintenance of streetscape improvements.

- D. Private Roads: Any creation of private roads are subject to staff approval.

VI. Buffering, Landscaping, Open Space, and Screening: A landscaping plan shall be approved as part of the City's review of a certificate of appropriateness application for each portion of this Zoning District that is proposed for development. The following landscaping requirements shall apply to the Zoning District:

- A. Tree Preservation: Standard tree preservation practices will be in place to preserve and protect trees during all phases of construction, including the installation of snow fencing at drip line.
- B. Landscaping Required Adjacent to Residential Uses: For those perimeter boundaries which abut residentially zoned and used properties (if two contiguous properties have an intervening public street right-of-way between them, they shall still be considered to be abutting) that are not owned by the developer, then the required landscaping and/or mounding (or some combination thereof) within minimum required pavement setback areas shall be enhanced to provide an opacity of 75% on the date that is five (5) years after planting to a total height of ten (10) feet above ground level when viewed from off-site. Existing trees may be utilized to meet this opacity requirement.
- C. Fencing: A standard New Albany white four-board horse fence may (but shall not be required to) be provided within the public right-of-way.
- D. Stormwater Management: Wet and dry stormwater basins shall conform to the standards set forth in Section 1171.08 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of New Albany.
- E. Street Trees: A street tree row shall be established along Beech Road, U.S. Route 62, and Green Chapel Road and shall contain one (1) tree for every thirty (30) feet of road frontage. Trees may be grouped or regularly spaced. Street trees shall be located within the right-of-way. The minimum street tree size at installation shall be three (3) caliper inches. This requirement may be waived in areas where existing vegetation occurs or in areas subject to overhead electric transmission lines, subject to approval of the City Landscape Architect. All street trees that are not installed prior to infrastructure acceptance shall be bonded to guarantee installation.
- F. Parking Areas: Within this Zoning District, there shall be no less than one (1) tree planted for every ten (10) parking spaces located therein. At least five percent (5%) of the vehicular use area shall be landscaped or green space (or treed areas). Parking lots shall be designed to accommodate parking lot islands with tree(s) at the end of parking aisles.
- G. Pedestrian Circulation: An 8-foot-wide asphalt leisure trail is required to be installed along the Beech Street frontage of the site.
- H. Minimum On-Site Tree Sizes: Unless otherwise set forth herein, minimum tree size at installation shall be no less than two and one half (2 ½) inches in caliper for shade trees, six (6) feet in height for evergreen trees, two (2) inches in caliper for

ornamental trees, and thirty (30) inches in height for shrubs. Caliper shall be measured six (6) inches above grade.

I. Master Landscape Standards Plan: The City of New Albany Beech Road North District Landscape Standards Master Plan shall apply to this Zoning District. New landscaping installed within the pavement and building setback shall be coordinated and consistent throughout the length of the Zoning District's street frontage.

1. A landscape buffer shall be located within the required minimum pavement and building setback along U.S. Route 62, Beech Road, and Green Chapel Road. The buffer shall be planted with a minimum quantity of 8 trees per 100 linear feet, in addition to street trees. Trees shall be randomly planted to create a naturalized appearance. Trees shall be of native species. Evergreen trees or shrubs shall not be permitted in the area between the buffer landscape and the edge of street pavement. For landscaping which is not used to meet this zoning text, codified ordinances, or street tree requirements, the minimum caliper of tree material may be reduced to 1" caliper to gain additional plant material.
2. The landscape buffer may consist of mounding. Mounding, when used, shall be a maximum of 12 feet in height. Trees shall be planted on the mound with a minimum of 70% of the trees occurring on the street side. No trees shall be located within the upper quartile of the crest of the mound.

VII. Lighting:

- A. All parking lot and private driveway lighting shall be cut-off type fixtures and down cast. Parking lot lighting shall be from a controlled source in order to minimize light spilling beyond the boundaries of the site.
- B. All parking lot light poles shall be black or New Albany green and constructed of metal. Light poles shall not exceed 30 feet in height.
- C. Lighting details shall be included in the landscape plan which is subject to review and approval by the City Landscape Architect.
- D. Landscape uplighting from a concealed source shall be subject to staff approval. All uplighting fixtures must be screened by landscaping. Lighting details shall be included in the landscape plan which is subject to review and approval by the City Landscape Architect.

- E. No permanent-colored lights or neon lights shall be used on the exterior of any building.
 - F. All other lighting on the site shall be in accordance with City Code. Street lighting must meet the City standards and specifications.
 - G. Solar panels may be incorporated and installed as appropriate.
- VIII. Signage: All signage shall conform to the standards set forth in Chapter 1169 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of New Albany.
- IX. Utilities: All new utilities (not including substations) installed solely to serve this Zoning District shall be installed underground.

