Tempe

CITY OF TEMPE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMISSION

Meeting Date: 05/28/2013 Agenda Item: 5

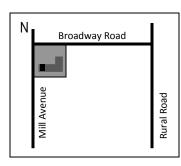
<u>ACTION</u>: Request for a Use Permit for to allow an Auto Title Loan store for BROADWAY PLAZA - TITLEMAX located at 19 East Broadway Road. The applicant is Reese L. Anderson, Pew & Lake PLC.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact on city funds.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff – Approval, subject to conditions

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: TITLEMAX (PL130112) is located on the east side of Mill Avenue, south of Broadway Road in an established commercial center. The proposed use would occupy a 5,000 s.f. suite at the corner of the building. The request includes the following:

ZUP13031 Use Permit to allow an auto title loan store in the Commercial Shopping and Service Zoning District.



Property Owner Applicant Zoning District Lot Size Suite 19 Size Parking Required/Provided Hours of Operation Occupancy

Mark Stoneman, Sem Investments, LLC. Reese Anderson, Pew & Lake PLC. CSS 2.56 acres 5,005 s.f. 17 / 67 shared within plaza 9am – 7pm Monday through Saturday 219 (as a restaurant use)

ATTACHMENTS: Development Project File

STAFF CONTACT: Diana Kaminski, Senior Planner (480)-858-2391

Department Director: Lisa Collins, Interim Community Development Director Legal review by: N/A Prepared by: Diana Kaminski, Senior Planner

Reviewed by: Steve Abrahamson, Planning & Zoning Coordinator

COMMENTS

The Broadway Plaza property is located within an existing shopping center on the south east corner of Mill Avenue and Broadway Road. A commercial pharmacy is located on the south west corner, a high school on the north west corner, and a bank on the north east corner. The site has been used for a variety of commercial uses over the years; suite 19 has previously been used as a restaurant use, with a history of different tenants. The applicant is leasing the 5,000 s.f. suite but will only be using a portion of the suite for the office use. The business provides loans to individuals who use their car as collateral by placing a lien on the car title for the amount of the loan. When the loan is repaid, the lien is removed and the car title is returned to its owner. If the borrower defaults on their payments then the lender repossess the vehicle and sells it to repay the borrowers' outstanding debt. These loans are typically short-term, and tend to carry higher interest rates than other sources of credit. Lenders typically do not check the credit history of borrowers for these loans and only consider the value and condition of the vehicle that is being used to secure it. There would be no sale of vehicles at this location, the business would function similarly to any other office use, and the applicant indicated they do not store money on site. There are five TitleMax stores within five miles of this location. The required separation of 1,320 feet is met from any other auto title loan provider, however there are other service providers within 1 mile of this location.

PUBLIC INPUT

At the writing of this report, there was one inquiry regarding this request and one person who emailed in opposition to payday loans.

POLICE INPUT

Security plan is not required for this use.

USE PERMIT

The proposed use requires a Use Permit, to allow an auto title loan for Broadway Plaza TITLEMAX in the CSS, Commercial Shopping and Service District

Section 6-308 E Approval criteria for Use Permit:

- 1. Any significant increase in vehicular or pedestrian traffic. The applicant has stated that the proposed use is for an office to operate an auto title loan business. The existing building interior configuration would require 17 parking spaces for an office use however, the applicant will be modifying the interior to only utilize half of the suite for their 7 employees (based on work stations shown on plans). The parking lot is a shared lot with other businesses. The anticipated 30-40 customers per day to the site would be less than the allowed restaurant occupancy of 219 people for this suite. The proposed use as described is less intense than the former restaurant use and should not increase traffic.
- 2. Nuisance arising from the emission of odor, dust, gas, noise, vibration, smoke, heat or glare at a level exceeding that of ambient conditions. The proposed use is an office use contained entirely within an existing building. The building will be required to meet building safety code requirements for exiting. There are no known nuisances from this use.
- 3. Contribution to the deterioration of the neighborhood or to the downgrading of property values, the proposed use is not in conflict with the goals objectives or policies for rehabilitation, redevelopment or conservation as set forth in the city's adopted plans or General Plan. The office use is compatible to the surrounding uses.
- 4. *Compatibility with existing surrounding structures and uses.* The proposed office use will make no changes to the exterior of the site, and is compatible with surrounding structures and uses.
- 5. Adequate control of disruptive behavior both inside and outside the premises which may create a nuisance to the surrounding area or general public. The applicant has 818 offices around the country and demonstrated experience at customer service. There are no known nuisances with the proposed use, and the applicant will be conducting business entirely inside the suite.

The manner of conduct and the building for the proposed use will not be detrimental to persons residing or working in the vicinity, to adjacent property, to the neighborhood, or to the public welfare in general, and that the use will be in full conformity to any conditions, requirement or standards prescribed therefore by this code.

Conclusion

Based on the information provided by the applicant, and the above analysis, staff recommends approval of the requested Use Permit. This request meets the required criteria and will conform to the conditions.

SHOULD AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BE TAKEN ON THIS REQUEST, THE FOLLOWING NUMBERED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL SHALL APPLY, BUT MAY BE AMENDED BY THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMISSION.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

- 1. This Use Permit is valid only after a Building Permit has been obtained and the required inspections have been completed and a Final Inspection has been passed.
- 2. The Use Permit is valid for the plans as submitted within this application. Any additions or modifications may be submitted for review during building plan check process.
- 3. If there are any complaints arising from the Use Permit that are verified by a consensus of the complaining party and the City Attorney's office, the Use Permit will be reviewed by City staff to determine the need for a public hearing to reevaluate the appropriateness of the Use Permit, which may result in termination of the Use Permit.
- 4. The Property Owner shall replace all dead or missing trees along the street frontages (minimum of 1 tree per 30 linear feet of street frontage) and within the existing required landscape islands within the parking lot.
- 5. There shall be no vehicles for sale at this location.

CODE/ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS:

THE BULLETED ITEMS REFER TO EXISTING CODE OR ORDINANCES THAT PLANNING STAFF OBSERVES ARE PERTINENT TO THIS CASE. THE BULLET ITEMS ARE INCLUDED TO ALERT THE DESIGN TEAM AND ASSIST IN OBTAINING A BUILDING PERMIT AND ARE NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST.

- The Use Permit is valid for TITLEMAX and may be transferable to successors in interest through an administrative review with the Community Development Director, or designee.
- Specific requirements of the Zoning and Development Code (ZDC) are not listed as a condition of approval, but will apply to any application. To avoid unnecessary review time and reduce the potential for multiple plan check submittals, become familiar with the ZDC. Access the ZDC through <u>www.tempe.gov/planning/documents.htm</u> or purchase from Development Services.
- All business signs shall receive a Sign Permit. Contact sign staff at 480-350-8372.
- Any intensification or expansion of use, including shall require a new Use Permit.
- With the exception of permitted signage, banners or other attention-getting devices are prohibited from being used.
- All required permits and clearances shall be obtained from the Audit and Licensing Division of the City of Tempe prior to the Use Permit becoming effective.

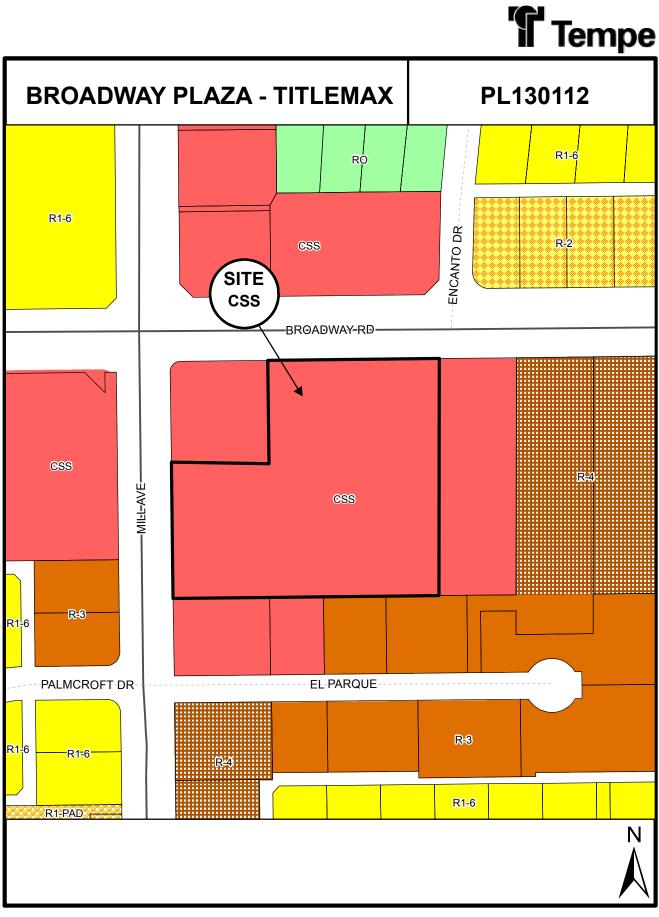
HISTORY & FACTS:

- August 12, 1963 Final building inspections were conducted for this commercial center.
- May 7, 2013 Hearing Officer continued the case to the Development Review Commission due to a conflict of interest in hearing the case.

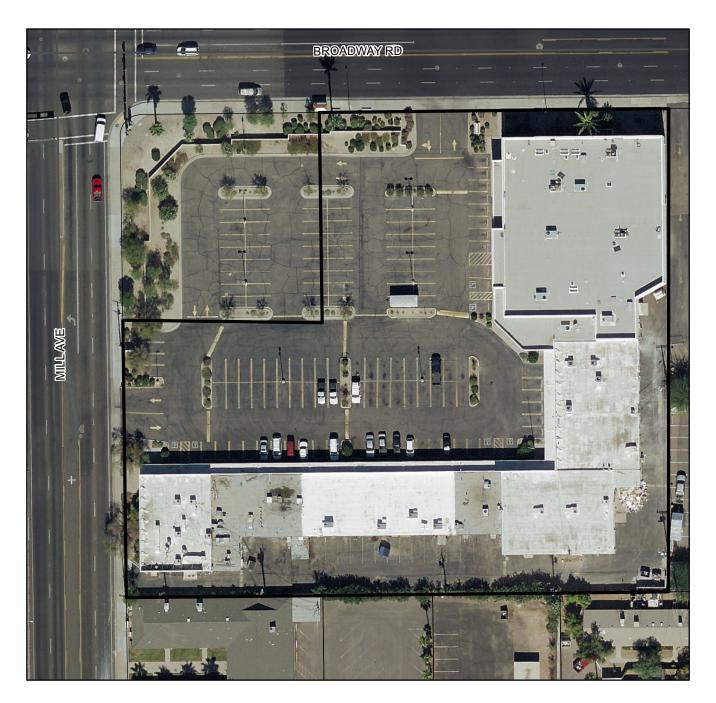
There is no other relevant history to this case.

ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT CODE REFERENCE:

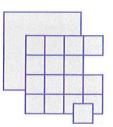
Section 6-308 Use Permit Section 3-423B. Use Separation Requirements for Auto Title Loan



Location Map



BROADWAY PLAZA - TITLEMAX - (PL130112)



Pew & Lake, P.L.C. Real Estate and Land Use Attorneys

W. Ralph Pew Certified Real Estate Specialist Sean B. Lake Reese L. Anderson

March 27, 2013

Tempe Planning Staff City of Tempe P. O. Box 5002 31 East Fifth Street Tempe, AZ 85281

> *Re:* Letter of Explanation for TitleMax Auto Title Loans 19 E. Broadway, Tempe, Arizona 85282

Dear Sir or Madam:

This firm represents TMX Finance, Inc., and TitleMax of Arizona, Inc. (collectively "TitleMax"). TitleMax offers car title loans to its customers and is interested in locating in the City of Tempe. Please accept this Letter of Explanation in furtherance of TitleMax's application for a Use Permit for the property located at 19 E. Broadway, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

The site is currently zoned CSS, which allows Auto Title Loans in the CSS District, subject to the approval of a Use Permit. This Letter of Explanation describes the use, business hours, number of employees, typical customers, etc. This letter will also address how the proposed use will affect the surrounding area.

Description of Use

TitleMax is a privately-owned, title lending company based in Savannah, Georgia. It has over 818 Offices in Georgia, Alabama, Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, Mississippi, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Arizona, & Nevada and employs over 3,700 individuals. TitleMax currently serves over 400,000 customers.

TitleMax offers car title loans. TitleMax does not offer any payday loans or checkcashing services, and its title loans are not loans for payment of a percentage fee. As part of its service, TitleMax offers 0% title loans to military customers. Service members and spouses covered under Service Member Civil Relief Act or who are deployed to combat or combatCity of Tempe March 27, 2013 Page 2 of 3

support zones qualify for 0% loans. In fact, TitleMax will buy out qualifying military loans from competitors and lower the rate to 0%.

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Proposed Location

TitleMax proposes to open in Suite 19 of the former Walgreens Plaza located at the southeast corner of Broadway & Mill in Tempe, Arizona. Suite 19 is the far southwest corner of the site and borders Mill Avenue. Access to the site is limited to the existing curb cuts in Broadway and Mill. There is no direction connection to the properties to the east and south which are non-residential uses. Thus, the possibility of TitleMax traffic spilling over and into adjacent residential neighborhoods is non-existent.

Business Operations

TitleMax's normal business hours are anticipated to be from 9 AM to 7 PM, Monday thru Friday and 9 AM to 6 PM on Saturdays. They are closed on Sundays. There are typically 3 to 4 employees on site at all times and in busier times there could be as much as 6 employees on site. An average day will generate 30-40 customers. Thus, based on the very low amount of traffic, adjacent tenants, property owners and customers, will not be affected by TitleMax's operations. All business is conducted within the store. No cash or other valuable are kept on the premises. The site looks, feels, and operates like a small local bank, without, of course, any cash stored on site.

Site Improvements

As part of TitleMax's process in opening a site, all interiors are completely refurbished before occupying. In this case, minimal exterior enhancements will be made because it is within an existing shopping center. Of course, signage will be updated and approved through a separate process. Any minor repairs, if necessary will also be made.

Required Separation

Each Auto Title Loan business shall not be located on a lot within 1,320 feet, measured by a straight line in any direction, from the lot line of another auto title loan. As of the date of this submittal, we are not aware of any other Auto Title Loan use within 1,320 feet of the site.

Justification / Support

Accordingly, it can be confidently stated that the opening of a TitleMax store at this location will:

a. not cause any significant vehicular or pedestrian traffic within the existing plaza and especially in adjacent neighborhoods. TitleMax's relative low amount of customers

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per day and the location of the store on two (2) arterial roads, will not cause any detrimental increase in traffic; and

- b. not cause any nuisance (odor, dust, gas, noise, vibration, smoke, heat or glare, etc.) exceeding that of ambient conditions. TitleMax conducts all uses within the building and the use does not cause any of the foregoing conditions; and
- c. not contribute to the deterioration of the neighborhood or be in conflict with the goals, objectives and policies of the City. TitleMax will help bring customers back to this location after Walgreens moved across the street. We believe that the new customers will only help benefit this center; and
- d. be compatible with existing surrounding structures. A TitleMax store at this location is completely compatible with all surrounding uses; and
- e. not result in any disruptive behavior which may create a nuisance to the surrounding area or general public. As noted previously, TitleMax stores are very low impact and will not create any disruptive behavior or nuisances.

Conclusion

Given the proposed use and operation of the store, it can conclusively be stated that the proposed TitleMax store satisfies all conditions of the Use Permit Application process. Please contact us if you have any additional questions or if you need additional information. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you and urge your support.

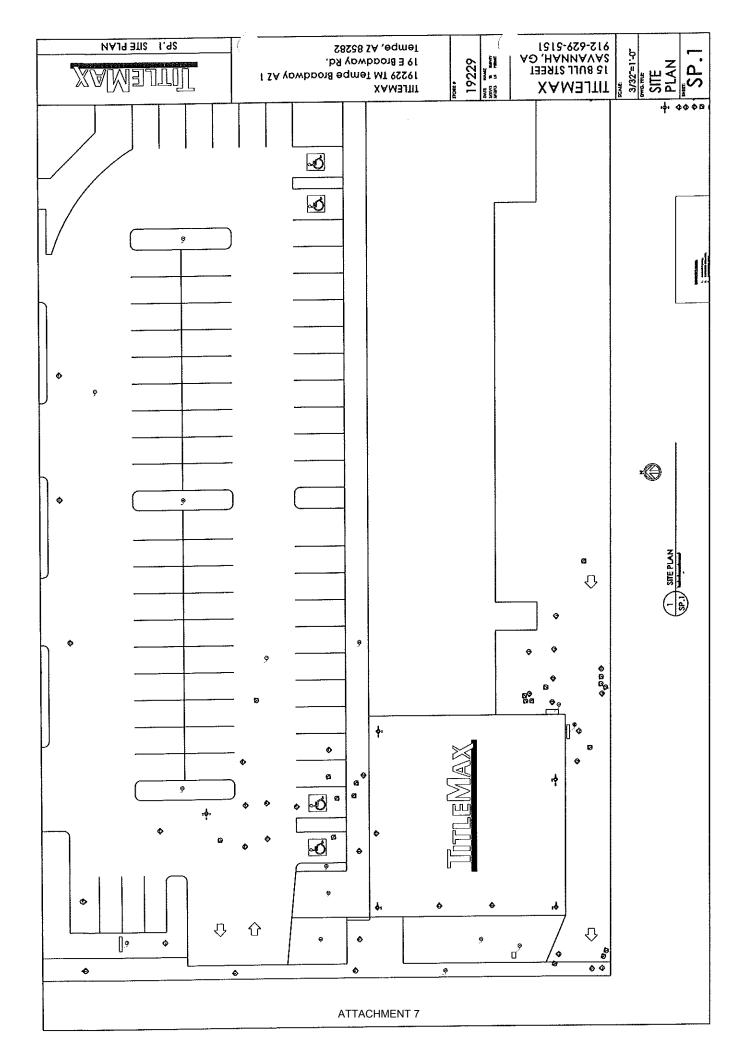
Sincerely,

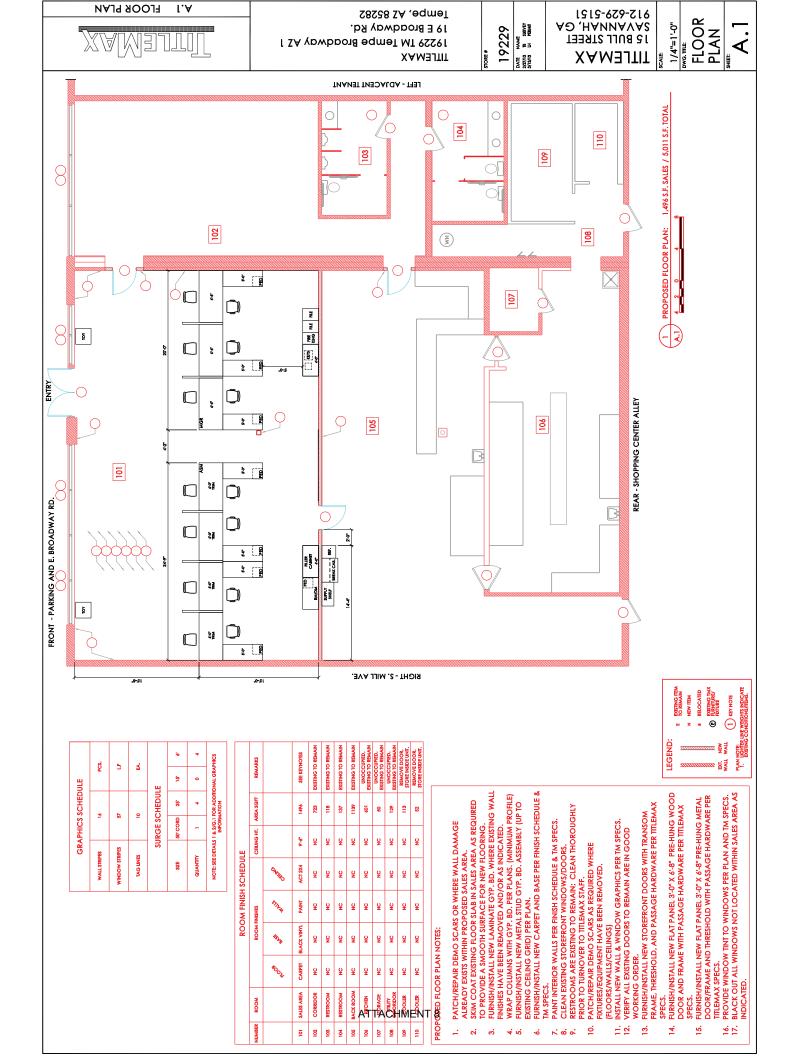
PEW & LAKE, PLC Reese Li Anderson

cc: Mr. Paul Bland, TitleMax Mr. Chris Ryan, TitleMax



Aerial Photo TitleMax Use Permit SEC Broadway & Mill, Tempe, Arizona





TITLE MAXPL130112Site PhotosDevelopment Review Commission May 28, 2013







ATTACHMENT 9