

Proposal for Business License Variance

Submitted by: Walter Fletcher

Business Name: Fletcher Machine and Welding

Business Location: 1313 South Troup St., Valdosta GA 31601

Date: April 10, 2025

Subject: Request for Conditional Use Permit to Reopen Fletcher Machine and Welding – A Third Generation Legacy Business of Valdosta, GA

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Walter Fletcher, respectfully submit this proposal to request a Conditional Use Permit to obtain a business license for the establishment of **Fletcher Machine and Welding**, a family-owned machine and welding shop with deep roots in the Valdosta community. This request aims to honor a long-standing legacy of craftsmanship, service, and community contribution that spans over three generations in Lowndes County.

Historical Background

The business traces its beginnings to the post-World War II era, when my grandfather, **Oscar O. Fletcher**, was discharged after serving as a machinist stationed at Moody AFB. Prior to his military service, Oscar worked for the **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)**, where he developed skills that would serve him and the Valdosta community for decades. Inspired by his wartime experience and passion for precision work, he opened the original shop under the name **Valdosta Machine and Supply**.

The business passed to his son, my father, **Otis Fletcher**, who operated it under the name **Valdosta Machine Shop**. Under Otis's leadership, the shop became a staple of the local manufacturing and agricultural communities, known for reliable machine repair, custom fabrication, and welding services. Through the years, our shop supported countless small businesses, farmers, and tradespeople across South Georgia.

Current Intent and Justification for Variance

I seek to reopen the shop under its new yet familiar name, **Fletcher Machine and Welding**, and carry forward the legacy of excellence, integrity, and service to the community. Due to zoning regulations and land-use codes, a Conditional Use Permit is necessary to operate this type of business at the proposed location.