In The Matter Of: CITY OF CAMDEN ZONING BOARD TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023 Regine A. Ervin Reporting 609-280-2230 RegineCSR@gmail.com **Min-U-Script® with Word Index**

1 ZONING BOARD CITY OF CAMDEN 2 3 4 Monday, December 4, 2023 5 6 _ _ _ 7 8 Transcript of proceedings in the above matter taken in City Council Chambers, 2nd floor 9 10 City Hall, 520 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey 08101, commencing at 5:47 p.m. 11 12 13 BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT 14 DARNELL HANCE, CHAIRMAN 15 CHARLES COOPER, VICE-CHAIRMAN ISASIA MARTINEZ 16 THERESA ATWOOD KAREN MERRICKS 17 MARITZA ALSTON 18 A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S 19 KYLE F. EINGORN, ESQUIRE, ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD 20 DEMBO, BROWN & BURNS, LLP EVITA MUHAMMAD, ZONING BOARD SECRETARY 21 22 23 Regine A. Ervin, CCR 24 Certified Court Reporter Email: RegineCSR@gmail.com 25 (609 - 280 - 2230)

1				
1	I-N-D-E-X			
2	CASES HEARD: PAGE			
3	1)	JOSE M. CALDERON	8	
4	,	1520 Wildwood Avenue		
5	2)	NEW BEGINNINGS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH 1300 Princess Avenue	27	
б				
7				
8	3)	RESPOND, INC. 3001 Fenwick Road	204	
9				
10	4)	VICTORIA REALTY 523 N. 27th Street	200	
11		(Adjourned to January 8, 2024 Mtg.)		
12	5)	ROGER D. MACHIGAL	200	
13	5)	2500 Baird Boulevard (Adjourned to January 8, 2024 Mtg.)	200	
		(Aujourned to bandary 0, 2024 Mtg.)		
14	- >			
15	6)	MELANY GARCIA NS. Sherman 60 E. 28th Street	200	
16		(Adjourned to the January 8, 2024 Mtg.)		
17	7)	1426 Mt. Ephraim, LLC	6	
18	.,	1426-1444 Mt. Ephraim Avenue (Adjourned to the January 8, 2024 Mtg.		
19		(Adjourned to the bandary 0, 2021 Meg.		
20	8)	BILAL DIXON	198, 200	
21		218 Morse Street		
22	9)	JONATHAN GABAY	199	
23		436 S. 6th Street (Adjourned to the February 5th, 2024 Mt	.)	
24				
25		Continued on Page 3		
<u> </u>				

1		I-N-D-E-X	
2	CASES	HEARD:	PAGE
3	10)	JONATHAN GABAY 421 Chambers Avenue	199
4		(Adjourned to the February 5, 2024 Mtg.)	
5	11)	CAMDEN COUNTY GROWTH, LLC 3300 Federal Street	7
6		(Adjourned to the February 5, 2024 meeting)	
7			
8	12)	STEVENS HOUSING, LLC 1160 Haddon Avenue	220
9		(Heard But Continued to Jan. 8, 2024)	
10	13)	3250-3252 RIVER ROAD, LLC SS River 80 E. Bergen Avenue	195
11		(Adjourned to the February 5, 2024 Mtg.)	
12	14)	HOUSE OF RESTORATION, LLC	7
13	<u> </u>	901 S. 4th Street (Adjourned to the January 8, 2024 Mtg.)	·
14			
15	15)	CANNABISTA, LLC	8
16	,	2035 Admiral Wilson Blvd. (Continued to the January 8, 2024 Mtg.)	-
17		(
18	16)	BAIRD BLVD. PROPERTIES, LLC	8
19	,	2640-2642 & 2648-2650 Baird Blvd. (Deficient Notice. Not heard)	-
20			
21	17)	BARBARA CLARK 314 Marlton Pike	8
22		(Deficient Notice. Not heard.)	
23	18)	Macedonia Baptist Church 812-814 Kaighn Avenue	8
24		(No Application filed. Not heard.)	
25	19) 2	ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS	229

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Good evening. Welcome 1 2 to the Zoning Board of Adjustment's regular meeting schedule on December 4, 2023. 3 In conformance with the Sunshine Law of 4 5 New Jersey, notice of the meeting was posted in the Municipal Clerk's office on Tuesday, November 28, 6 2023. Roll call. 7 MR. EINGORN: Chairman Hance. 8 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Here. 10 MR. EINGORN: Vice-chairman Cooper. 11 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Here. 12 MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez. 13 **REVEREND MARTINEZ:** Here. 14 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood. 15 MS. ATWOOD: Here. MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. 16 MS. MERRICKS: Here. 17 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston. 18 MS. ALSTON: Here. 19 MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno. Absent. 20 21 The first item would be adoption of the minutes for November 2023. Do we have a motion? 22 23 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Motion to adopt. 24 **REVEREND MARTINEZ:** Second. 25 MR. EINGORN: Roll call. Chairman Hance.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: 1 Yes. 2 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper. 3 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. 4 MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez. 5 **REVEREND MARTINEZ:** Yes. MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood. 6 7 MS. ATWOOD: Yes. MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. 8 9 MS. MERRICKS: Yes. MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston. 10 11 MS. ALSTON: Yes. MR. EINGORN: So moved. 12 I will read the list of cases tonight. 13 14 If you're present, please let us know. There are a 15 number of additions that we have to note for the 16 The first matter, Jose M. Calderon, 1520 record. Wildwood Avenue. This is Old Business. 17 18 MR. VIDAL: Present. 19 MR. EINGORN: Good evening. 20 The first matter of New Business, New Beginnings Behavioral Health, 1300 Princess Avenue. 21 22 MR. LARIO: Present. 23 MR. EINGORN: Good evening, Counsel. 24 Respond, Inc., 3001 Fenwick Road. 25 MR. OTTO: Present.

MR. EINGORN: Victoria Realty, 523 N. 1 2 27th Street. 3 MS. ABED: Present. 4 MR. EINGORN: Roger D. Machigal, 2500 Baird Blvd. 5 MR. IZZO: That case is ready. 6 MR. EINGORN: Good evening, Mr. Izzo. 7 8 Melany Garcia, NS Sherman 60 E. 28th 9 Street. 10 MR. IZZO: Also ready. 11 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. 12 The next matter, 1426 Mt. Ephraim Avenue, 13 LLC, please note that this matter will not be heard 14 tonight. It's going to be adjourned to January 8th 15 with no further notice. Notice for that matter was 16 proper. And this announcement here will be notice that that matter will be heard on January 8th. 17 There will be no further public notice whether publication 18 or by personal service or certified mail. 19 20 The next matter is Bilal Dixon, 218 Morse 21 Street. 22 MR. DIXON: Here. 23 MR. EINGORN: Good evening. Jonathan Gabay, 426 S. 6th Street. 24 This 25 matter has been asked for an adjournment. Is Mr.

Gabay present? 1 2 MR. GABAY: Yes. MR. EINGORN: Good evening, Mr. Gabay. 3 January is full. We'll have to hear you on February 4 5th for that matter. 5 MR. GABAY: February 5th. 6 7 MR. EINGORN: So for everybody here for 8 436 S. 6th Street, if there is anybody, that matter will be heard February 5th. No further notice. 9 This is notice of that adjournment. 10 11 Next matter, Jonathan Gabay, 421 Chambers 12 We saw Mr. Gabay. Avenue. Camden County Growth, LLC, 3300 Federal 13 14 Street. This matter is going to be adjourned to 15 February 5th. Notice was proper so no further 16 This is the notice of that adjournment. notice. Ιf you're here for Camden County Growth, LLC, that will 17 be heard February 5th. 18 Stevens Housing, LLC, 1160 Haddon Avenue. 19 20 MR. STEVENS: Present. 21 MR. EINGORN: Present. Good evening. 22 3250-3252 River Road, LLC, SS River Road 23 80 E. Bergen Avenue. We'll recall that. 24 In addition to what is on the agenda, the 25 following must be noted for the record. House of

Restoration, LLC, 901 S. 4th Street. That is 1 2 continued to January without further notice. Cannabista, LLC, 2035 Admiral Wilson 3 Boulevard is also continued to January without 4 further notice. 5 Baird Blvd. Properties, LLC, 2640-2642 6 and 2648-2650 Baird Blvd., had deficient notice. 7 Ιf you're here for that matter, it will not be heard. 8 Barbara Clark, 314 Marlton Pike is also 9 deficient notice. It will not be heard tonight. 10 11 Macedonia Baptist Church, 812 to 814 12 Kaiqhn Avenue. There was notice to the public but 13 the applicant didn't file an application. So if 14 you're here for Macedonia Baptist Church, there's no 15 application. We just received notice. That's not going to be heard. That will conclude all the 16 additional announcements. Thank you for your 17 attention. 18 Let's take the first matter in Old 19 Business, Jose M. Calderon, 1520 Wildwood Avenue. 20 21 This is a continued matter. Public portion was 22 already closed, I believe. We have a lot of people 23 in the building tonight and it's great and it's 24 wonderful to see all these faces. We don't get this 25 pleasure very often so that means more phones and

more disturbances. So if you have a phone, if you 1 2 could please silence it now. That would be really appreciated. Thank you. 3 So this is Jose Calderon, 1520 Wildwood 4 5 Avenue. This is a continued matter. We have counsel present. Counsel, will you give us your appearance? 6 MR. VIDAL: Yes. Good evening. 7 Edward 8 Vidal representing the applicant, Mr. Calderon. MR. EINGORN: And if the Board will 9 10 recall, this was an application to convert a 11 single-family home into a duplex. The applicant is 12 requesting three bulk variances, lot area, lot width 13 and off-street parking. And I believe the applicant 14 provided testimony at the last meeting that he be 15 able to comply with the off-street parking requirements. Is that correct, Counsel? 16 MR. VIDAL: That's correct. And we 17 submitted further reports for review of a parking 18 plan, a proposed parking plan. 19 20 MR. EINGORN: Great. I'll swear in the 21 applicant. 22 23 JOSE M. CALDERON, having first been duly 24 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 25 follows:

1 2 MR. EINGORN: State your name and address for the record. 3 MR. CALDERON: Jose M. Calderon, 109-16 4 5 200 Street, St. Albans, New York. MR. EINGORN: And this is Mr. Calderon? 6 7 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 8 MR. EINGORN: And, Mr. Interpreter, would 9 you raise your right hand? 10 Do you swear/affirm that the 11 interpretation that you'll provide tonight will be 12 true and accurate to the best of your ability? 13 MR. JEREZ: Yes. 14 MR. EINGORN: If you would just state 15 your name and address for the address, please. MR. JEREZ: Christian Jerez, 148 N. 25th 16 Street, Camden, New Jersey. 17 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. If you can just 18 have Mr. Calderon present this into evidence; 19 20 whatever you want to say about it just so we can get 21 into the application. 22 MR. VIDAL: We have extra copies of this, 23 bigger copies of the building which we would like to submit. Mr. Calderon, you were here the last month 24 25 and there were some questions about parking. Do you

remember that? 1 2 MR. CALDERON: Yes. MR. VIDAL: And you indicated to the 3 4 Board that you could create parking or additional 5 parking for the property MR. CALDERON: 6 Yes. 7 MR. VIDAL: Thank you. And you're 8 proposing to remove the existing garage? 9 MR. CALDERON: Yes. MR. VIDAL: And that would create how 10 11 many spaces? 12 MR. CALDERON: Four. MR. VIDAL: And the plans submitted here 13 14 they are plans that we submitted to the Board, 15 correct? 16 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 17 MR. EINGORN: Is this a copy? MR. VIDAL: This is a copy. 18 19 MR. EINGORN: Great. We will mark this A-1 -- no, I'm sorry. It will be A-5. Continuing 20 from last month. My apologies. This is A-5 to the 21 22 application. 23 So, again, this is a continued matter 24 from last month. We heard substantial testimony 25 regarding the applicant's intention and request for

bulk variances approvals. We've now seen evidence of 1 2 the ability to provide off-street parking. We have heard public testimony on this, I believe, from 3 Ms. Brooks and, I think, it was a Ms. Lawrence but my 4 5 memory is a little faded on that one. And Mr. Veneable was also here. There were concerns 6 about the parking and an issue about duplexes in 7 8 Parkside is my notes on that. 9 Does the Board have questions for the 10 applicant regarding the parking, regarding the 11 application? VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I do. 12 The 13 configuration that you have here on the paper, how 14 will these cars be leaving out, coming in? It looks 15 like you're blocking cars. 16 MR. CALDERON: That's going to be just one family. I guess when one is coming out then the 17 other one can just take the car out. 18 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So let me just get 19 20 this. This is going to be a duplex? 21 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 22 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And you said it's 23 going to be one family? MR. CALDERON: No, no. The top floor is 24 25 going to be for my daughter. So it's going to be

split. The bottom for me and the top for my 1 2 daughter. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: 3 Okay. So on 4 record, you're going to live on the bottom and your 5 daughter is going to live up top? 6 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 7 CHAIRMAN HANCE: How many cars do you 8 have? 9 MR. CALDERON: Two. 10 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Okay. 11 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Two cars. 12 REVEREND MARTINEZ: You got two cars and 13 you have space for four? 14 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 15 REVEREND MARTINEZ: And the way you're showing it, this is the way out to get into the 16 17 street? 18 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 19 REVEREND MARTINEZ: See how you have it 20 over here, so that's the exit right here, right? 21 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you have one way in 23 and one way out? 24 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 25 MR. EINGORN: So Board is aware, the

Zoning Ordinance 230.F requires 1.75 spaces for a 1 2 two-bedroom unit. The testimony last time was that there be two 2-bedroom units so they would need a 3 total of three-and-a-half-spaces. So four spaces 4 would cover -- it would be more than three and a 5 half. 6 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And that's the --7 8 and all the setbacks and everything is sufficient? MR. EINGORN: Right. So the only bulk 9 10 variances they're requesting right now are the lot 11 area. They have 3,300 square feet where they need 12 4,000. And lot width is deficient. They have a 13 30-foot lot where they need 40 feet. So it's a little bit deficient on the size. 14 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: They can't get anymore. 16 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: They're landlocked. 17 18 Right. CHAIRMAN HANCE: 19 MR. EINGORN: Anymore questions? MS. ALSTON: 20 No. 21 REVEREND MARTINEZ: There's a lady 22 raising her hand. 23 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: The public is 24 closed though. 25 MR. EINGORN: We opened to the public at

the last meeting. This is really just a rehash of 1 2 what was done last month. And the ability to show where the parking is. 3 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: To the Board, we 4 5 have been approving duplexes that's not really meeting all the requirements that this gentleman here 6 has met for four parking spots. I think we should 7 8 grant this. MR. EINGORN: So last month we had 9 testimony that -- and the same testimony that we're 10 11 hearing now. The applicant wants to create -- take 12 this single-family home and make it a duplex. He wants to live on the first floor and his family on 13 14 the second floor. And he's going to create four 15 parking spaces to alleviate the parking need for 16 three-and-a-half spaces. And then it'll be two bedrooms on the first floor and two bedrooms on the 17 second floor. 18 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I make a motion to 19 20 accept. 21 MS. ALSTON: Second. 22 MR. EINGORN: We have motion and a We will take a roll call. 23 second. 24 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. 25 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Can we 1 2 make public comment since we weren't present the last time? 3 MR. EINGORN: Public comment was closed 4 5 at the last meeting, ma'am. I'm sorry. I can't see 6 you. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You didn't provide 7 8 the summary of that facts that I have presented. And the issue was the amount of duplexes that had 9 multiplied in that area of Parkside. 10 11 MR. EINGORN: Right. And I said that the 12 issue was raised that Parkside, that there's too many 13 duplexes in Parkside. That's your testimony, right? 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what I 15 studied when that block had already four new ones 16 up --MR. EINGORN: Wait. Wait. If we're 17 going to do this then just come forward. 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Because I 19 want the members who weren't here to understand. 20 21 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 22 hand, please. 23 24 L'TANYA BROOKS, having first been duly 25 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as

follows: 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Name and address for the 3 4 record. L'Tanya Brooks, 1255 Empire 5 MS. BROOKS: Avenue. 6 7 MR. EINGORN: Okay. 8 MS. BROOKS: Last month I did an analysis of the Parkside area from Park Boulevard to Haddon 9 Avenue on the properties that were duplexes. 10 There 11 is a significant amount. We have Magnolia Gardens at 12 the end of our section. There's a big apartment 13 complex across there and historically been there 14 since I was born so at least 50, 60 years or more. 15 Then there's a whole addition of 10 or 20 on Empire Avenue and, again, on Magnolia Avenue. 16 The block where this new duplex is, is between Park Boulevard 17 and Magnolia. There are three under construction at 18 19 the moment and theirs on the corner. 20 At some point in time, we have to look 21 and be in compliance with this City plan, the 2.2 Redevelopment Plan that talks about Parkside being single-family units in their housing. You can't hold 23 24 some people accountable and then others not 25 accountable. Maybe we should, as a Zoning Board or

the Zoning Office, look into some type of study 1 2 before you keep approving until it gets out of 3 control. MR. EINGORN: Just for the record, this 4 5 is a permitted use in this zone. The issue is related to lot size and lot width. It's not related 6 to the use itself. 7 8 MS. BROOKS: Okay. Thank you. 9 MR. EINGORN: I appreciate you coming out 10 tonight. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I want to make a 11 12 comment. 13 MR. EINGORN: You can weigh-in on your 14 decision to choose what you're doing. So we have a 15 motion and a second. 16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is this a public portion? Are we allowed to speak on this? 17 18 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Brooks wanted to get on the record what she had already said. Do you have 19 anything different to add? 20 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Outside of the 22 fact that I live in the neighborhood. That is the neighborhood that I live in. This particular area --23 24 MR. EINGORN: Is that the testimony you 25 brought last time, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I didn't bring 1 2 this testimony at all. That's my first testimony. MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 3 4 hand, please. 5 SHELIAH GREENE, having first been duly 6 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 7 8 follows: 9 MR. EINGORN: Name and address for the 10 11 record. 12 Sheliah Greene, 1262 Empire MS. GREENE: 13 Avenue, Camden, New Jersey. 14 This particular building that's on the 15 corner of Wildwood and Magnolia, they're going to take a variance to tear down the garage to put four 16 parking spaces there. This is a small area. So when 17 18 you come into Magnolia, you would have to turn to be able to get there. Four parking spaces is not 19 20 going to work in that area. It was built for two. 21 The garage was built for two. Now I used to work for 22 the Building Bureau so I get this. I understand. 23 I've worked for them over a year, two years so I get 24 this. 25 So with that part of is concerned, it's

always going to be -- because parking will be along 1 2 both sides of the street. Now if they're going to have a place where they're going to be able to turn 3 in and park, it's not going to be enough space. 4 They 5 can't park -- if you look at it this way, this is the house on this side, the house that's here. This is 6 the garage going this way. You would have to turn to 7 8 qo in. So they would have to come in and turn to go If anybody is blocking that area, they can't get 9 in. 10 If anybody parks there, they can't get out. out. 11 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Is there a curb-cut there already. 12 13 MS. GREENE: There's a curb on the 14 corner. 15 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: But it's a 16 curb-cut for them getting to that area? MS. GREENE: Just for the garage area, 17 18 veah. For the garage, there's a parking part. That part goes there. But outside of that, coming back 19 20 out, there's -- like right now, there's trucks that 21 doing work there. If they have that there now, 22 these people would be trapped inside until the truck 23 is gone cause you can't get out. So that's part of 24 the problem. 25 MR. EINGORN: Wouldn't that be an

enforcement problem, though? 1 MS. GREENE: 2 Enforcement? Yes. If someone is 3 MR. EINGORN: 4 blocking a curb-cut and that would be an issue to call a tow truck for enforcement. 5 MS. GREENE: Well, that's like with all 6 7 the work that's being done in Camden and everything, that's all of the trucks that's coming in and all the 8 construction trucks that's in there and we have 9 construction trucks there now. That's part of what's 10 11 going on right now. 12 Right. But if somebody was MR. EINGORN: 13 blocking was your driveway, you would call a tow 14 company, right, or you'd call enforcement? 15 MS. GREENE: Right. 16 MR. EINGORN: So how is this any 17 different? So this is different because MS. GREENE: 18 of the fact that the space that they're asking for is 19 not going to be able to hold four cars. 20 21 MR. EINGORN: According to the parking 22 plan, it appears that the dimensions and I don't know if you'd seen it. 23 24 MS. GREENE: Is it based on what size the 25 cars are?

MR. EINGORN: It's based on -- I'm sorry, 1 2 my eyes are not very good anymore. So here's the 3 parking plan? 4 MS. GREENE: So this would be 5 considered -- this is Magnolia or this is coming in from Magnolia? So you have to look at where it's 6 7 coming in from. Because Wildwood goes one way; 8 Magnolia goes one way. 9 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Right. 10 MS. GREENE: Because they both go one 11 way, it would only be one way in and one way out. 12 MR. EINGORN: It looks like Magnolia would be here. 13 14 MS. GREENE: This way. So they would 15 come in -- here's Wildwood. 16 MR. EINGORN: Here's the alley. So it looks like this is here. Right? 17 18 MS. GREENE: Okay. So this looks like driveway 19 MR. EINGORN: 20 here. And he would knock down this two-car garage. 21 There would be a space here, here, here and here. 22 MS. GREENE: Okay. 23 MR. EINGORN: And this would be the 24 curb-cut. 25 MS. GREENE: So they're coming in off of

Wildwood. They're coming in this way and they're 1 2 coming this way. From what you're saying right there, those cars are coming --3 MR. EINGORN: Let's confirm this one 4 5 second. So I'm showing you what we've marked as A-5 for identification. This is the preexisting 6 7 garage; is that correct? 8 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 9 MR. EINGORN: And this is a driveway; is that correct? 10 11 MR. CALDERON: Yes. And do the cars enter off 12 MR. EINGORN: 13 of Maqnolia? 14 MR. CALDERON: Yes. 15 MR. EINGORN: Does that answer your 16 question? MS. GREENE: Yes, that does answer my 17 I just see that this is going to be an 18 question. issue because cars are going to be parked along here 19 to this area and across the street. When they back 20 21 out, snow or whatever, and since we haven't seen snow 22 in years, but if that does happen, that's going to become a parking issue. 23 24 MR. EINGORN: It's already like this, 25 right? So they already have the same problem, do

they not, just without a garage? They would just not 1 2 have a garage. If they don't have a whole 3 MS. GREENE: set of family people living there. These people are 4 5 locked in, these people are in the front, how do the other people get out? How does that work? Because 6 7 you have two that's going to be up front and two 8 that's going to be in the back. 9 MR. EINGORN: Right. They're stacked. 10 MS. GREENE: Yeah. 11 MR. EINGORN: That's his problem. 12 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: His testimony on 13 record here stating that his daughter and him is 14 going move into this property. 15 MS. GREENE: Daughter and husband? VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: No. Him and his 16 daughter, they were going to move into the property. 17 That's his testimony on the file here. 18 CHAIRMAN HANCE: They have two cars. 19 20 Now, the garage is preexisting so even if it was a 21 one-family living there, they would still have the 22 same issue but they're still going to park in the 23 garage. 24 Now, you guys are familiar MS. GREENE: 25 with Magnolia?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm familiar. I used to 1 2 live on Langham; I used to live on Langham Avenue. Ι 3 have family on Wildwood; on the corner right there, the Austins. I also have family down there on 4 5 Kenwood, the Jenkins, so I'm very familiar. I grew up in that area. 6 7 MS. GREENE: So you know how Langham is; 8 how tight it is? 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. 10 MS. GREENE: That's how Magnolia is. 11 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Not to be disrespectful 12 but that would be their issue because it's legal 13 because there's a curb-cut there for a garage. 14 MS. GREENE: Right. 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So they would have to call a tow-truck; they would have to call 911 if 16 they're trapped in there. And the sad part is, it's 17 a permitted use in that area. 18 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Our hands are tied 19 20 because they're coming here with proof that they're 21 going to have off-street parking. And that's our 22 biggest complaint here. When people come for duplexes, you got to have off-street parking. 23 And 24 when you can't provide that to us, that's when we can 25 do things. But they're providing everything that

they need to have this duplex here. 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Thank you for coming out. MS. ATWOOD: I want to know if there's 3 4 going to be a cut like driveway so that a sign could 5 put up for parking there? 6 MR. EINGORN: The testimony was they 7 already have a curb-cut. CHAIRMAN HANCE: They have a garage right 8 9 there. MR. EINGORN: We had a motion and a 10 second. We'll take a roll-call vote. Chairman 11 12 Hance. 13 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. 14 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper. 15 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. 16 MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez. 17 REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes. 18 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood. 19 MS. ATWOOD: No. 20 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. 21 MS. MERRICKS: Yes. 22 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston. 23 MS. ALSTON: Yes. 24 MR. EINGORN: Having five in favor and 25 one opposed, the motion carries. Thank you,

gentlemen, and have a nice night. 1 2 MR. VIDAL: Have a nice night members of 3 the Board. MR. CALDERON: Thank you. 4 5 MR. EINGORN: The next matter, New Beginnings Behavioral Health, 1300 Princess Avenue. 6 MR. LARIO: Mr. Chairman, Members of the 7 8 Board, good evening. My name is Michael Lario. I'm an attorney with the firm of Nehmad, Davis 9 & Goldstein. I'm here tonight on behalf of the 10 11 applicant, New Beginnings Behavioral Health, LLC. 12 This is an application for use variance 13 relief. It concerns property at 1300 Princess 14 Avenue. As I stated, we're seeking use variance 15 relief and a waiver of site plan review in 16 connection with the establishment of a community residence at the subject site. The site is currently 17 the location of the New Beginnings Behavioral 18 Ministry run by Pastor Amir Khan. It has been at the 19 20 site for many years now. This ministry is 21 dedicated to serving the local community of Camden 22 and philanthropic services for those addicted to drugs and alcohol and for the local homeless 23 24 population. 25 Pastor Khan has recently looked to expand

this operation. There was a hope that in a nearby 1 2 municipality to establish this type of facility. Unfortunately, that municipality denied his request 3 and the applicant is involved in litigation right now 4 in Federal Court in connection with that. 5 The problem with that, there was obviously -- this 6 ministry is serving those very much at risk now. 7 8 That those recovering from drug and alcohol addiction, that denial, that litigation, has raised 9 somewhat of an unknown as to their living situation. 10 11 When you're dealing with individuals in recovery, those question marks, those unknowns are particularly 12 13 dangerous. Obviously, there is a risk with those 14 unknowns of potential relapse there.

15 What Pastor Khan is proposing and what the applicant is proposing in order to address that 16 is, to offer a short-term solution for these 17 individuals within this treatment plan. 18 The approvals that are sought are specifically in 19 connection with DCA licensing requirements and you'll 20 21 hear more of that from Pastor Khan as to what that 22 means for the site. But, ultimately, Pastor Khan is looking to have eight individuals at the tail-end of 23 their treatment. What that means is, you'll hear 24 25 Pastor Khan explain that these are individuals who

are 99 percent done with their recovery process.
 They're working. They've been clean for an extended
 amount of time.

This living arrangement allows them to 4 5 save money; to have a secure position until that next step; until they'll able to go and their own place. 6 But, again, these are people that have started the 7 8 reintegration process back into the society. As I stated, there will be eight individuals in this 9 facility. There will be an individual on-site at all 10 11 times. But the best way I can describe this and you'll hear testimony, it's a single-family unit 12 13 here. They share rooms together; they cook meals 14 together. There's no types of treatment provided 15 here. This is a really a situation where these men are able to live together; provide the support they 16 need to one another; to, again, take that next step 17 and to reintegrate into society. It's a single 18 housekeeping unit is how the law looks at this. 19

This is a not a long-term facility. The average length of stay here is about six months. That's what's found to provide them the time needed for them to get more permanent placement; a more permanent living situation. But ultimately given the uniqueness of the situation, and you'll hear testimony from Pastor Khan, what we are proposing is ultimately this use will only exist for 18 months. What we're saying is, we will put a Sunset Provision in this proposal that after 18 months, this use will end. It's really in order to address this unfortunate situation that this ministry is found itself in.

With that being said, though, there's 8 obviously a standard that this Board has to look at 9 these applications that we have to meet. This is an 10 11 inherently beneficial use under the law and under 12 existing case law. What that means is, this is a use 13 that furthers the public good; promotes the public 14 interest. And you'll hear that testimony tonight, 15 the good that this type of facility does. And, 16 obviously, I'm sure there's not many people in this room that haven't been personally touched by 17 addiction. 18

Additionally, those in recovery are deemed as protected classes under Federal Law. They're disabled individuals. So the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Federal Fair Housing Act, all these Federal statutes are in play. Really designated to protect these disabled class of people. And what the law asks is, that a municipality makes a

reasonable accommodation. That's a phrase you'll 1 2 hear tonight, reasonable accommodation. We believe that allowing these individuals to reside here, given 3 the unique circumstances here, is certainly a 4 5 reasonable accommodation under the circumstances. And, again, you'll hear testimony in support of that. 6 I mentioned the neighbors and I know 7 8 there's some neighbors here tonight. We have had a meeting with neighbors. You'll hear Pastor Khan talk 9 a little bit as to meeting some of the concerns that 10 11 they raised in some of the ways that we hope to 12 address those concerns. Ultimately, that's the brief 13 overview of the application. 14 With we tonight I have Pastor Amir Khan 15 and I have our professional planner, Mr. Lance Landgraf. Mr. Chairman, would you like to swear 16 those two in now or as they come up to testimony? 17 18 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Do you want to do it all 19 now. 20 MR. EINGORN: Yes. We generally swear 21 them in at the same time. 22 MR. LARIO: Okay. Perfect. 23 LANCE LANDGRAF, P.P.; AMIR KHAN, having 24 25 first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and

testified as follows: 1 2 MR. EINGORN: State your name and address 3 one at a time. 4 MR. KHAN: Pastor Amir Khan, 42 Crooked 5 Lane, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034. 6 7 MR. LANDGRAF: Lance Landgraf, Jr., 8 licensed New Jersey Planner and AICP Certification as 9 well, 9 South Hartford Avenue, Ventnor City, New 10 Jersey. 11 MR. LARIO: So Pastor Khan, you've been You heard me provide a little bit of an 12 sworn in. 13 intro as to New Beginnings and what they do. Can 14 you, in your own words, describe to the Board a 15 little bit as to what New Beginnings is and what kind of services they provide? 16 MR. KHAN: Again, thank you, Board for 17 18 being here tonight. To help present who we are and what we do, I have a little presentation. Can 19 20 everybody see okay, the screen? And probably the 21 best way for me to explain who we are and what we do. 22 So New Beginnings, we've been around between the New 23 Beginnings and the Nehemiah Group, for the past 30 years serving the most marginalized community. One 24 25 of the things we do every single week, that's a motor home right there, a 38-foot motor home. We took the beds out in the back. We have three showers and a washer and dryer. We pulled up for the marginalized individuals, feed, clothed, get them off the streets, get them into detox and into residential programs and that's done on a weekly basis.

As you can see, inside is retro-fitted. 7 8 We have three showers inside the RV along with a washer and dryer that you can see on the bottom 9 lefthand picture. That's one of our pictures there 10 11 of downtown in Camden. We also have a food truck that goes out and we pick up food from various 12 13 organizations that donate food to us, Wawa, 14 Cheesecake Factory, on and on but that's our food 15 truck, I think, one of six -- one of eight licensed trucks like that in the City of Camden now. That's a 16 table typical week of our feeding individuals on a 17 18 Saturday.

Some of the other things we do, we also do a back-to-school greeting. We've being doing that now for five, six, seven, eight years where we put men in front of the schools. Now, we're actually doing women as well. And originally it was 100 men standing in front of the schools greeting everybody. But the men get a big "welcome back" and the women

get a rose, and that's always a great time greeting
 people.

3 Some of the things we also do at the top 4 of the lefthand side, we did a big laptop give-away 5 in the City of Camden. I think it was about 50 or 60 laptops that were given away while we were waiting 6 for the laptops to become available for the kids. 7 So 8 during COVID they were able to learn. On the bottom righthand side, we're always giving out turkeys for 9 Thanksqiving and various foods like that. Also on 10 11 the righthand side, you also will see -- is there a 12 problem recording also over here? 13 MR. EINGORN: We have a --14 MR. KHAN: No. I'm saying, can we record 15 this? I know we've done it in the past and been allowed and people --16 MR. EINGORN: We've never allowed public 17 recordings. 18 19 MR. KHAN: We're not allowed to record? 20 MR. EINGORN: Not that I'm aware of, no. 21 But while we're doing this, let the record reflect 22 that Pastor Khan referencing the photographs has a slide show on the television and that's what the 23 24 photographs he's referencing.

MR. LARIO: Counsel, we can certainly

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provide a copy of this. Can we mark it as Exhibit A 1 2 that this is slide-show presentation? MR. EINGORN: That's fine. We'll mark 3 Exhibit A-1 will be the slide-show presentation. 4 MR. KHAN: So I know you haven't allowed 5 in the past, but am I allowed to have somebody to 6 7 record now for our purposes? 8 CHAIRMAN HANCE: That would be up to the Chairman and the Board. 9 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: We never had a 10 11 recording before. 12 MR. EINGORN: We've never had recording 13 before even with ZOOM. 14 MR. KHAN: No problem. Okay. 15 So some of the other things we have, that's our Christmas give-away at Fordham and took 16 care of, I think it was, 500 or 600 families for our 17 18 Christmas give-away. During COVID when a lot of us received extra unemployment or stimulus checks that 19 came in the mail, our immigrant brothers and sisters 20 21 didn't receive anything during that time period so 22 they are still a part of us. So because of a 23 generous donation, we were able to give a million dollars away. We gave away a \$1,000 bank card to a 24 25 1,000 different families; over a million dollars

given away right there at the CROC Center. You can
 see the lines going back there for several blocks.
 We gave that away. That's the bank card give-away.

Some of the other things we do, we have 4 5 expungments. We have two big expungements coming up. One where we were part of a Camden County College on 6 MLK Day where we were expunging about 300 of our 7 8 returning citizens there. We also do it at Rutgers, the expungement. We're doing that back at the CROC 9 Center in the spring. Some of the other things we 10 11 have coming up, that's me dressed as Santa Claus. We 12 go throughout the City and giving out toys at the 13 various schools, daycares and things like that.

And finally, that's the Martin Luther 14 King House. You guys are aware of that here in 15 16 Our New Beginnings purchased that two years Camden. That's where Dr. Martin Luther King stayed when 17 aqo. he was here going to Crozer Theological Seminary from 18 1948 to 1951. He stayed there on weekends and 19 The great thing is, it's kind of rewriting 20 summers. 21 history because it was at that house where the 22 planned his first civil rights sit-in after he was refused a meal at Mary's Cafe on Route 73 on June 11, 23 24 1950.

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So we got a grant from that and that will

be turned into a museum. And the lot next to it is 1 2 going to be a -- we're building a 20,000 square foot Martin Luther Kind Center for Social Justice. 3 Ιt kind of gives you an idea some of the things we have. 4 5 That's John Lewis there before his death. He came in, stood in front of the house and he spoke about the 6 importance of this house. And I have a quote from 7 8 him. He says on the lefthand corner, "This piece of historial real estate must be saved for generations 9 yet unborn." This year alone, we fed over 48,000 10 11 meals. Thirty-seven hundred, and it's higher than 12 that now, beds since July of 2022. The average 13 person that goes through our program goes through 14 1,400 hours of therapy in a given year. And we've 15 placed about 100 in housing. These are just some pictures of the men in the house. Again --16 MR. LARIO: Before we get into the house 17 specifically --18 19 MR. KHAN: Yes. 20 MR. LARIO: -- let's talk more generally. 21 Obviously, these photos, you're on the frontlines 22 right now in the community? 23 MR. KHAN: Yes. MR. LARIO: What have you seen of this 24 25 epidemic of addiction specifically in this local

1 community.

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2 MR. KHAN: Well, you know, when you're 3 talking about New Jersey, Camden is the second worse; only second to Essex or the Newark area. 4 We have a tremendous issue here. We in know that a lot 5 of individuals come from the outside because of 6 resources here in the City of Camden. 7 We have been 8 able to get them off the streets; get them into 9 programs, not necessarily this house, but get them 10 into outside programs, go through detox, go through 11 longterm care.

12 And then get them to transitional housing 13 so they can transition back into society. The men 14 we're talking about here, micro-individuals that have 15 already went through that. Every purpose, these guys 16 should be in other programs, back into society already in their apartments. We allow them to stay 17 here up to a year free of charge. They're working; 18 they're in school. Let them save up money so they 19 20 cannot just be a renter but many of them are moving 21 right now towards homeownership.

22 MR. LARIO: Okay. Let's talk about the 23 house. Can you explain a little bit as to the 24 operations of this house?

MR. KHAN: As you can see, this is a good

picture for you to ask that question. There you see 1 2 some of the classes. This is part of the operation. You'll see the men there around the table taking 3 classes. Right now they just finished a financial 4 5 literacy class. There's a digital literacy class. That's a graduation at the bottom righthand corner. 6 That is the house right there. You saw the pictures. 7 8 We also have 24-hour surveillance, video surveillance at the house at all times. So if you look at your 9 camera right now, there are actual cameras which I 10 11 can bring it up on my Iphone or on my Ipad. You can 12 see we have cameras outside, inside. Obviously, not 13 in the bedrooms or bathrooms. But it's also 14 monitored 24 hours by full-time staff. And it's monitored by video cameras. So that's kind of a 15 16 typical day.

This is, if I close out with this, this 17 is what we call the three-legged stool. We just 18 don't get residential. A of lot people might be 19 20 shelters where they go in at night and come back out 21 in the morning. Some people just feed; some people 22 are maybe are just day programs. The three-legged stools, we give longterm residential; we give MAT and 23 24 clinical which is Medical-Assisted Treatment. That. 25 might be Methadone. They might have methadone. They

might have Soboxin. Those are blockers to drugs. 1 2 And, of course, new job training and job rediness. 3 That's pictures of the house right there. You can see the house; you see the outside; you see the 4 5 parking lot; you see typical bedrooms. We have four bedrooms like that and the kitchen. So a typical 6 7 day --MR. LARIO: I'm going to jump in real 8 I just handed out an aerial photograph of the 9 quick. subject site. Counsel, this is Exhibit B. 10 11 MR. EINGORN: I have A-2, if that's 12 acceptable. Applicant-2. 13 MR. LARIO: Absolutely. A-2. 14 MR. KHAN: That's the house. This is my 15 father right here. Very proud of this. He was a doctor here in Camden for 54 years. He passed away 16 about 15 years ago. At the time after my father 17 passed, we could have just sold the property and be 18 done with it. We kept it as a ministry; using it; 19 20 helping people stay here; never charging rent; let 21 people stay in here free of charge until they back on 22 their feet. I would never allow anything to happen in 23 24 the Parkside community where I grew up on Princess 25 Avenue, 1472 Princess Avenue. This street is named

1 after my father. That's myself and my sister and 2 brothers there standing on the left picture. This is 3 the house that we are using. And, again, we've been 4 allowing people, using the same spirit of my father 5 down for the past six decades now.

That's everything on this. I'm finished. 6 But this is a short little video of our graduation. 7 8 We just had a short graduation of some of the men. Some of the men are here; some are in school or they 9 10 are working right now. But if you want to watch, we 11 have a full screen if we can. Then we'll go ahead and let you see this two to three-minute video where 12 13 you can actually see recent a graduation and you can 14 see exactly what takes place inside the house. You 15 can go ahead and start the video Pastor Tim. 16 (At which time, a televised video is 17 18 shown.) (At which time, the video has concluded.) 19 20

21 MR. LARIO: So that does a good job of 22 showing the end resulting of graduates of this 23 program? 24 MR. KHAN: Yes. And the ones that are in

25 the program now.

MR. LARIO: Let's talk about the program 1 2 right now. As we see stated, it's eight individuals in the house, correct? 3 MR. KHAN: Yes. 4 5 MR. LARIO: It's a faith-based program. So what does that mean? 6 MR. KHAN: Well we're nonprofit. 7 I'm a 8 Pastor, of course. So even though we have counseling; we have MAT; we have all those things. 9 We believe that the bottom line is that it's Jesus 10 11 that brings deliverous healing for our individuals. 12 So we're faith-based. There are Bible studies that 13 are done every week. There's church services. 14 There's prayer. They understand that it's based upon 15 the word of God and it's faith-based. 16 MR. LARIO: This application what we're looking for, it's in connection with licensing that's 17 18 required by the Department of Community Affairs, 19 correct? 20 MR. KHAN: Yes. 21 MR. LARIO: And specifically, their 22 license, they look at this and define it as a shelter That's what notice that went out? 23 license. 24 MR. KHAN: Correct. 25 MR. LARIO: Now, when you're looking at

this, you stated it's the same individuals that are 1 2 there for that six-month period. This isn't something where it's an open door that someone who 3 walks off the street. These are individuals who have 4 5 gone through the program; they're at the conclusion of it. As you stated, they are about to take that 6 next step into becoming a full member of society but 7 8 they're not quite there yet. 9 MR. KHAN: This program, this Correct. 10 house, is solely those that have already graduating 11 and probably should be already on their way to an 12 apartment. This is just kind of a shared living to 13 help them save on their finances and give the 14 necessary support. 15 MR. LARIO: Two to a room would be 16 standard? 17 MR. KHAN: Two to a room, yes. MR. LARIO: Now, there's DCA regulations 18 in connection with the room sizes. Really 19 everything, the interior of this structure, has to 20 21 meet all those PCA regulations, correct? 2.2 MR. KHAN: Absolutely. Correct. 23 MR. LARIO: And we'll agree to a 24 condition of approval that we'll satisfy all those 25 regulations?

MR. KHAN: Absolutely. 1 2 MR. LARIO: Okay. Now, the residents, 3 they'll cook together; they're clean together. Can you explain the bond, them living together, what that 4 5 does? MR. KHAN: You know what took place, 6 7 Board, was that once these gentlemen from last year 8 came together and came out of their downward spiral 9 and then came together and they all became victorious 10 together. We run a great a success rate where most 11 people run a 73, 75 percent recidivism, meaning, seven out of ten go back. We run a 90 percent 12 13 success rate. Ninety percent, the highest in the state because of how we do it; full-time staff and 14 15 the support and everything else. So it created a 16 great bone. It's a family. We call this the New Beginnings Family. The staff is family. And we do 17 18 everything together. MR. LARIO: Okay. Now, the plan was not 19

20 always to have this use here. It was due to some 21 unfortunate circumstance that we've had to submit 22 this application? 23 MR. KHAN: Correct. 24 MR. LARIO: Now, obviously, as I've 25 mentioned, there's ongoing litigation. But, 1 generally, without being specific, that took place to 2 require this?

MR. KHAN: Okay. So the only reason why 3 we're here at this property in Camden is because of 4 5 another facility, a very large facility that we had and there were some issues with the township. 6 We turned around and a week before the township, the 7 8 same staff presented and approved an inherently beneficial use. They still chose to vote no. And 9 10 because of that, I guess the courts allowed for the 11 appeal process. So it's now being sued in Federal 12 Court as we speak.

13 MR. LARIO: And I bring that up because 14 this is somewhat unique as I mentioned the Sunset 15 provision. It's something that is not very common in the Municipal Land Use Law. It's not something that 16 I think this Board has seen much because it frankly 17 doesn't happen that often. Usually with a use 18 variance, it runs with the land; it runs in 19 20 perpetuity forever.

What we're saying is, we don't need this to run forever. What we're saying is, we feel we meet that standard. Again, you'll hear professional planning testimony that says, we meet the standard for this use. With that being said, though, we

really need it now because of the situation that the 1 2 applicant finds themselves in. And, therefore, they're willing to agree to this 18-month provision. 3 That if this is approved as a condition of that 4 5 approval 18 months after the resolution is adopted, what we're talking about here will not continue at 6 the site. And, again, we feel that what that does 7 8 and I know there were some concerns that were brought, you had a meeting with the neighbors, 9 10 correct? 11 MR. KHAN: Yes, we did. MR. LARIO: And one of their concerns was 12 13 obviously, because these approvals run with the land, 14 what happens if you no longer own this site; if you 15 move away. And that's an understandable concern. And we feel that this 18-month Sunset Provision adds 16 that level of protection, correct? 17 18 MR. KHAN: Absolutely. More than I mean, this is a small house compared to 19 enough. our grants that we take care of when we run our other 20 21 facility. We could have them up to 150. So this is 22 a small house that really, the qualifications or the requirements that we have to serve a lot more than 23 the eight people here. So it's just a small 24 25 portion. Even if there were issues, we had to find

1 something bigger anyway.

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2	MR. LARIO: I know with the those
3	conversations with the neighbors in anticipation of
4	this meeting, another thing was landscaping of the
5	site and we agreed, we'll go out and we'll add
б	additional landscaping to this site. I know it was a
7	concern that was raised. We're happy to do those
8	site betterments.
9	MR. KHAN: Yes. Absolutely.
10	MR. LARIO: Those are all the questions
11	I have for Past Kahn as to an operational
12	standpoint. Our planner will come up next with some
13	professional planning testimony. But if there's any
14	operational questions, Mr. Khan can answer them.
15	MR. EINGORN: So are there any medical
16	addictions services that are going to be taking place
17	at this property?
18	MR. KHAN: No, not at this property.
19	MR. EINGORN: I think you're fine.
20	For complete transparency, the submission
21	which looks to be a letter, New Beginnings is at the
22	top. It says, "Re: 1300 Princess Avenue." And it
23	begins, "Greetings. My name is Pastor Amir Khan."
24	It is undated. It's part of the submission packet
25	but it is undated. For the record, part of it

"New Life. Medical Addiction Services led by 1 reads. 2 Dr. Savon." Is that how you pronounce it? MR. KHAN: 3 Yes. MR. EINGORN: "Who is our partner at Camp 4 5 Cedar Knoll." The issue is that Vice-Chairman Cooper is in the employ of Dr. Savon. I think, as a legal 6 matter if Dr. Savon is not providing services at this 7 8 property, that I don't believe there to be a conflict. 9 MR. LARIO: Just to confirm, I think this 10 11 is a good time to clarify. Ultimately, the 12 individuals here, while they may go to AA or NAD 13 meetings, they're not receiving treatment on-site, 14 correct? 15 MR. KHAN: They graduated from IOP and OP which is intensive outpatient. Most individuals here 16 graduated, Pastor Tim, about four, five, six months 17 18 aqo? PASTOR TIM: Yes. 19 20 MR. KHAN: So quite a while ago that was 21 finished. But we still partner with Dr. Savon and refer people outside of our area. And then 22 Dr. Savon would deal with them at that point. 23 24 Just an interesting point, they're not 25 even allowed to come and service people. They have

to have a separate license if they wanted to go 1 2 remotely outside of their location. Thank you, Mr. Khan. 3 MR. LARIO: MR. EINGORN: Are there other questions 4 5 for Pastor Khan before we take the professional planner? 6 MS. ATWOOD: I'm just wondering if five 7 8 days was enough for detox. It says, "Our program is 9 five days." Or do you mean it's five days a week? Is that what you mean? 10 11 MR. KHAN: For detox itself, it ranges. 12 It can go anywhere from three days on up to seven 13 days, even 14 days. It depends on the assessment. 14 Once they come in there's a psyche eval; there's 15 assessment. Everybody is different based upon the drug. You have a choice and their addiction. 16 So that's an average of five days. 17 18 MR. LARIO: You're not proposing detox at this facility? 19 20 MR. KHAN: No, it's not. I just want to 21 make sure you understood of how detox works. 22 MR. LARIO: The detox would be a more 23 medical -- usually it's more medical assisted. These 24 individuals have been --25 MR. KHAN: Going through the whole

1 program.

2	MR. LARIO: Yes. I know I'm repeating
3	myself somewhat. They are at the tailend of the
4	process here. I mean, they've been
5	MR. KHAN: They've already been through
6	detox; they've already been through their IOP, their
7	OP. They've completed all of that successfully.
8	We're very proud of them.
9	CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have a couple of
10	questions. My first is, have you looked anywhere
11	else to put this program at?
12	MR. KHAN: Yes, we have. Once the
13	situation happened this past summer at the other
14	location, we looked around at different locations
15	where we can go. It's just that we had this facility
16	already. It has been in our family for six decades.
17	It's something that we owned right out. So we
18	thought, what obvious place to take them here
19	especially since we've been using it for the same
20	purpose of shared living and helping people for the
21	past 12 years since my father passed.
22	So have I looked specifically at other
23	locations at this point? No, I haven't. However,
24	talking to the mayor, they're going to take us around
25	depending on how we need to be and look at other

properties. But whatever properties we look at, we 1 2 would still have to come to the same zoning board. CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to back up and 3 say, you said you use it before people staying there 4 for free? 5 MR. KHAN: Oh, yes, for free of charge. 6 Never charge anybody for 12 years now. People that 7 8 are in need; people that may be were losing their They needed six months to stay. People that 9 house. 10 graduation programs that want to save up money, we've 11 been doing that for 12 years now in that location. 12 MR. LARIO: That's part of the ministry. 13 MR. KHAN: That's part of the ministry, 14 correct. 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So my second question 16 is, is this homelessness; is it prison; is it addiction? Where are we at with that? 17 18 MR. KHAN: That's a great question. Those three things --19 20 CHAIRMAN HANCE: All go together. 21 MR. KHAN: They all go together. When 22 the people that you serve and we all have and it's not like this side of the tracks or that side of the 23 track matters, everybody and we all experience in our 24 25 families. So drug addiction, incarceration and even

1 homelessness. Because homelessness is just not out 2 there in downtown Camden at the transit center. It's couch-surfing; it's staying in a car; it's staying at 3 Monte's so forth and so on. 4 5 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are they coming out of prison? 6 7 MR. KHAN: Everybody that comes to our 8 program would have already been through another program first. So in other words, they don't come 9 right out of prison right to our place. 10 11 CHAIRMAN HANCE: They come from different 12 types of programs. MR. KHAN: We have a half dozen different 13 14 facilities that are sending facilities. They go 15 there first and they go through all the detox or 16 whatever it might be then they come to us for the final stage. 17 18 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're actually the 19 last resort? 20 MR. KHAN: Not last resort. It's the 21 last stage. 22 MR. LARIO: The last step. 23 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Right. The last step of 24 that program? 25 MR. KHAN: And then you scan those

individuals as they're coming in, correct? 1 2 MR. KHAN: Even with all that, we still and this is done through New Life, they do a complete 3 two-day screening before they even to come to us. 4 5 Even though they've already been through the program, they have all their medical records transferred to 6 They do a psyche eval; they do the whole 7 them. 8 intake process. They do all that before it even 9 comes to us. The individuals with violent 10 MR. LARIO: 11 crimes, sex crimes those --12 MR. KHAN: We don't accept that. Thev 13 wouldn't even get past the intake process with New 14 Life. 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: My next question, throughout the program, will you guys drug-test 16 throughout the program? 17 MR. KHAN: Absolutely. Every single 18 week. A week doesn't go by we test. One, we're 19 20 mandated. We get funded through DCA, DHS and DOC. 21 So there's certain requirements and qualifications 22 that we have. So every single week, everyone is 23 tested and I'm so glad that this group that we have in the house right now, every week clean. They're 24 25 doing outstanding. And over the past eight, nine,

ten months, I think, there was just one person we had 1 2 to put out. CHAIRMAN HANCE: Okay. I'm not done 3 4 yet. 5 MR. KHAN: Actually put out. Referred to another facility. 6 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Now you said that they 7 8 use blood -- drug blockers, anti-Soboxin, whatever 9 you want to call it. 10 MR. KHAN: Yes, Soboxin, Methadone things 11 like that. 12 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Can you also get hooked 13 on that? Or how long do they have to use that? 14 MR. KHAN: I'm going to go on record 15 saying this. I don't necessarily like -- they're They're good and they help people. 16 blockers. 17 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Right. 18 MR. KHAN: I've seen great success. We don't like the fact that people get on them and they 19 20 stay on them. 21 CHAIRMAN HANCE: But that's a drug also; 22 am I correct? 23 MR. KHAN: It is a drug, correct. 24 However, we get our doctors to wean them off. We can 25 bring in people today and you can meet them,

individuals that were at 125. You have your zero and 1 2 they're just getting the shot. So these are 3 individuals that maybe started on the MAT, which is 4 Medication Assisted Treatment, but now they've 5 already weaned off. MR. LARIO: They're administered by a 6 7 medical doctor as part of their overall treatment 8 plan. 9 Exactly right, yes. MR. KHAN: CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm kind of familiar 10 with it. My last question to you is --11 12 MR. KHAN: For now. 13 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. I want to put this 14 on record. And you already answered it. All the 15 warehouses we have in Camden also outside of Camden, wouldn't that be a better place for you then to have 16 it inside of a neighborhood with families and 17 children? This is where I am swirling at right 18 19 here. 20 MR. KHAN: You know, it's a good point. 21 And I guess if we were in the beginning stage of the 22 These are individuals that you want to program. simulate back into society. You don't want to stick 23 24 them in a warehouse. I could do that maybe the first 25 three, four, five, six months. These are individuals

that if we close the office down tomorrow, they'll be 1 2 renting apartments and houses in Parkside anyway. 3 These are individuals that are already finished. They're doing great. As a matter of fact, I would 4 5 venture to say than most of our brothers in Camden. We have 24-hour support. We have surveillance. 6 You 7 have urine specimens and you have counseling and 8 pastors there to support you. It's probably better 9 than most even homes for people coming out of prison or coming off the streets for brothers that need 10 11 help.

12 I'm going to back it up CHAIRMAN HANCE: 13 because I didn't mean warehouses the way you put it. 14 I meant as a school. So I'm going to push it a 15 little further right now. All the vacant schools we have in Camden right now, you got a school, you got a 16 gym, you got a nurse's office, and you could put 17 offices in that school. Wouldn't that be so much 18 19 better?

20 MR. KHAN: I would love it. We're 21 actually looking at the schools. The only challenge 22 is, you know the schools like I know the schools that 23 are closed down --

24CHAIRMAN HANCE: Right.25MR. KHAN: You're talking about probably

1 two to three years between planning, zoning, soft 2 costs, renovations and everything else to even get 3 that door open. We needed something immediately and 4 I'm determined now. I wasn't about to take these 5 eight brothers that are doing extremely well, and put 6 them out on the streets.

7 CHAIRMAN HANCE: My last one and I'm 8 done. So is this a temporary house that you're 9 trying to do here or is it going to be a 'forever 10 house,' meaning, this is where you start at and then, 11 say, a year later, you get a school or two years 12 later, will you close that up and then move everyone 13 to that area?

14 MR. KHAN: This is absolutely going to be 15 temporary. My lawyer mentioned that, Mike, about the 16 Sunset Provision. We absolutely want it temporary. It doesn't meet our requirements for our grants. 17 18 It's only temporary in the meantime. And if it was up to us, we wouldn't even go this route. 19 But DCA 20 requires anyone to have a quote unquote shelter 21 license. And I hate the name because it gives the 22 connotation of Joseph House or something like that. This is more of a transitional house or shared 23 24 living.

25

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Thank you so much.

MR. KHAN: Thank you. 1 2 MS. MERRICKS: I have a question. So 3 this is a male-gender-based program? MR. KHAN: Yes, it is. For us it's only 4 5 male. MS. MERRICKS: What's the age limit 6 7 because I heard you say DHS and I'm trying to figure 8 out what's the age limit that you take? 9 MR. KHAN: DHS is the Department of Health and Services. Eighteen and above. Only 10 11 adults. No children. 12 MS. MERRICKS: One more question. So if 13 a person relapses, what do you do with them? You 14 said they kicked out? 15 MR. KHAN: Yes. There was one person during the time period over the past eight, nine 16 months. And the person relapsed because of one 17 There's a curfew of what time they're 18 curfew. suppose to be in. And also, they tested positive 19 for marijuana. Oh, well, it's legal. No. We have 20 21 rules and regulations at our house. And we have zero 22 tolerance. They met with him; wrote him up. We tried even to give him another chance. 23 Same thing 24 happened so he had to be referred to another 25 program. Because we don't want anyone to trigger.

See, that's the key about where you're dealing with seven, eight guys in the house. You bring somebody else in, they messed up and it can trigger other people so you don't want that.

5 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: At this house just 6 like you said, the trigger, someone goes and messes 7 up and you put him out. What type of security do you 8 have there? If this person comes back angry and 9 wants to shoot the house up or whatever, now we're in 10 a residential area, and what do we have to secure the 11 residents?

12 MR. KHAN: We have 24-hour staff 365 days 13 a year. Where is Nate? Stand up Nate. Does your 14 shirt say, Big Nate? Yes, so we have 24-hour staff. 15 Nate is; I'm staff; Pastor Tim is staff; Pastor Arnold is staff; Pete Benson back there is staff. 16 Ι mean, we got full-time staff that are there 24-hours 17 18 a day. And I would venture nobody else has that in Camden or anywhere else. 19

20 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And who regulates 21 you guys? Now, you're saying that you got two beds 22 in a room. Now, you get into a jam. You need to 23 bring six guys in right away. 24 MR. KHAN: We can't --

MR. LARIO: The State of New Jersey,

these are very heavily regulated by the DCA, 1 2 Department of Community Affairs. They have a stack 3 of regulations and it's honestly about that big, about room size, bathroom size, the size of the door 4 5 frame. If we break any of those regulations, we could potentially lose our license. And if we lose 6 our license, we lose funding. I mean, it's serious 7 8 ramifications. They inspect it. That they're there 9 to inspect the site --MR. KHAN: On-site inspections. 10 11 MR. LARIO: -- and do on-site inspections. 12 So there's a level of oversight from the state from 13 that you're saying that makes sure that we adhere to 14 those regulations at all times. 15 MS. ALSTON: The tenants there, is there 16 a curfew? MR. KHAN: Curfew is 11:30 p.m. 17 MS. ATWOOD: When you knew that you were 18 going to have move from Millville, I guess that's 19 where the other place is --20 21 MR. KHAN: Yes. 22 MS. ATWOOD: -- why is it that you didn't come here and ask us for permission before you moved 23 24 the people into 1300 Princess Avenue? 25 Thank you. Again, this was MR. KHAN:

more of a technicality. We have individuals that 1 2 were staying at that house prior to that. What we have been doing all along, adhering to the fire codes 3 and allowing people to come in the house. It's not a 4 5 boarding home. We don't charge rent. So we've been doing this all along. I didn't even know this was 6 going to be an issue. I didn't know the state was 7 8 going to say, DCA, well, during this interim time period, you need a quote unquote shelter license. 9 So immediately we contacted Dr. Williams and he 10 11 instructed us what we're to do; fill out the application and we've been obviously trying to get 12 13 here before a quorum so we can speak. 14 MS. ATWOOD: Is this the same problem 15 that you had in Millville as what you're having here 16 I don't understand. now? MR. LARIO: We're in the -- it's tough 17 18 because I think we want to answer your question but we're litigating so it's tough to speak too much 19 because of litigation. It's in Federal Court. 20 It's 21 ongoing. I can just say that the issues in 22 Millville, as of right now, are very different. 23 I mean, ultimately you were able -- we presented. Ι don't want to speak too much about it. But I think 24 25 we're no where near where that was. I think this is

1 very different.

2	MS. ATWOOD: Can you explain to me
3	because I don't understand the terms that you're
4	using about Sunset Provisions?
5	MR. LARIO: When this Board's grants a
6	use variance, it runs with the land. What that means
7	under the Municipal Land Use Law and Case Law, it
8	runs with the property. It's not to Pastor Khan.
9	It's not to the individual property owner. It
10	attaches to the land. So you can sell it; you can
11	buy it.
12	And those approvals, they go on forever.
13	They go with the land from one property owner to the
14	next. What we're saying is, we don't need that. We
15	don't need this to run forever because we don't know
16	down the road, and this was a concern raised by the
17	neighbors, who is going to occupy this site and what
18	comes with it.
19	What we're saying is, we have a very
20	specific problem with a very specific time frame and
21	we need assistance for this 18-month window. So
22	we're willing the Sunset Provision at the end of
23	18-months, to say these approvals end, they're over.
24	We can't operate this from a state licensing
25	prospective anymore. We won't have this as the

shelter license as a community residence. That will 1 2 end. MS. ATWOOD: Is there any plan to expand 3 the property to make it bigger for more people to be 4 5 able to stay there? MR. LARIO: No, there's not. The eight 6 7 people we're saying, that'll be a condition; you can 8 have no more that eight people. And, again, not only will that be a condition of your approval but it's 9 all state regulations which dictate how many people. 10 11 So for us to try to get more there, we'd be running 12 against --13 MS. ATWOOD: I'm talking about building a 14 bigger building? 15 MR. LARIO: No plans. And we would have to come back. And we would make that a condition 16 that any building expansion, we'd have to come back 17 But I'm saying that it won't be an issue 18 here. because there are no plans to do that. 19 20 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: If we do vote and 21 vote you quys, I will put a stipulation in. Where 22 these trailers are, no other trailers could come on 23 to this property to house people. 24 MR. KHAN: Yes. No problem. 25 It looks like you VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:

can get a couple more trailers on here. And, you 1 2 know, that's your land and you got use for it. MR. LARIO: We would have no problem 3 agreeing to that. 4 5 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I would definitely make a stipulation. 6 MR. EINGORN: When was the first time 7 8 that you started using the property for this current 9 use? 10 MR. LARIO: What's tough is, it was 11 always the Ministry always provided a roof for someone who needed it. I think it was a little less 12 13 formal than what we're proposing now. 14 How long has the ministry operated at 15 that building? 16 MR. KHAN: Since my father passed in 2010, from that point on and I got with my brother 17 and we said, what are we going to do? I said, well, 18 we can use it for our ministry. And the family said, 19 yeah, go right ahead. They loved it. This was 20 21 spirit of my father. So we continued doing that. So 22 for the past 12, 13 years, we've been doing exactly what we're doing. 23 24 The only difference now, it's a lot more 25 structured only because of our plans through the

State of New Jersey. If not, we would just continue 1 2 doing what we're doing now, using it as a ministry center. And how we've been operating at this 3 building and other buildings for things like this 4 5 under the Religious Land Use Act, we'd be just been knowing that churches are allowed to help the 6 homeless; help people in need and that's how we've 7 8 been operating. 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So we're going to back 10 up a little bit. Now we're asking, when did you 11 start with the schools and all that stuff you're 12 saying? 13 MR. KHAN: It was the end of May; end of 14 May or beginning of June, something like that. So this happened --15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: where did it happen at when you first had your 16 issues, it was in what town or city? 17 18 MR. KHAN: Millville. MR. LARIO: I hate that we can't but we 19 can't talk about it. 20 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Just tell me where it 21 22 happened at. That's all I'm --23 MR. EINGORN: Well, it's technically --I mean, where did it 24 CHAIRMAN HANCE: 25 start?

1 MR. EINGORN: -- public record being in 2 Federal Court. MR. KHAN: I think it's already on 3 4 record. 5 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Okay. MR. LARIO: I'm hesitant to discuss it. 6 7 MR. EINGORN: I get it. 8 CHAIRMAN HANCE: No, I'm just saying, 9 when you stopped there then you moved it? MR. KHAN: Correct. Came to Camden. 10 11 CHAIRMAN HANCE: And what year was that? 12 13 MR. KHAN: It was just --14 CHATRMAN HANCE: 2023? 15 MR. KHAN: This year. I guess beginning 16 of June. 17 MR. LARIO: And you submitted the application here as soon as you realized that had to 18 19 take place? 20 MR. KHAN: Yes. MR. LARIO: We submitted the application 21 22 obviously and we were here last month and there was a 23 quorum issue. But we were trying to get in front of 24 this Board with this. 25 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I know it was canceled a

1	couple of times. We didn't have quorum.
2	MR. KHAN: Yes.
3	MS. ATWOOD: I notice that your brother
4	is the owner of the property. Is he in agreement
5	with what you're doing with the property and why
6	isn't he here and do we have a letter that says
7	that?
8	MR. KHAN: One, my brother is a thousand
9	percent "Amir in the spirit of my dad." He's the
10	oldest. He and I are the executors. So, yes, the
11	house is under his name. My dad left properties to
12	us all. He is under it. To answer your question
13	directly, we also have a lease because we needed to
14	submit that to
15	the
16	MS. ATWOOD: You're leasing it from
17	him?
18	MR. KHAN: Technically, I'm leasing it
19	from him, yes.
20	MR. LARIO: And that was submitted as
21	part of the application. It was submitted as part of
22	the State application. And we can submit a copy of
23	that to this Board as well.
24	MR. KHAN: Would you like a copy of it?
25	MR. EINGORN: For the record, the lease

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is part of your packet. The least is dated 1 2 August 1st, 2023. MR. LARIO: If there are no further 3 questions for Pastor Khan, our planner, just real 4 5 quick, some planning testimony in support of the relief. Mr. Landgraf. 6 MR. EINGORN: For the record, has already 7 8 been sworn and he can proceed. I'm assuming you want to do a little voir dire first? 9 MR. LARIO: Yes. 10 11 If you could, Mr. Landgraf, to provide 12 your credentials? 13 MR. LANDGRAF: Sure. My name is Lance 14 Landgraf. I'm a professional planner in the State of 15 New Jersey. I have been licensed 1991. I've been practicing in the professional planning field since 16 1987. Like I said, I'm also certified by AICP which 17 is a national certification that allows me to testify 18 in other states, as well as shows an expertise in 19 20 Master Planning work throughout the State of New 21 Jersey. 22 I currently sit as the planner for the 23 City of Brigantine. I've represented Mullica Township, Port Republic, Northfield; mostly Atlantic 24 25 County. But I've done work for your Board in the

past for the hospital quite some time ago. 1 Ι 2 currently sit as a director of planning for the CRDA in Atlantic City. 3 I offer Mr. Landgraf as an MR. LARIO: 4 5 expert in professional planning. CHAIRMAN HANCE: 6 Yes. 7 MR. EINGORN: The Board will accept 8 Mr. Landgraf as a professional planner. 9 MR. LARIO: Thank you. 10 MR. LANDGRAF: Thank you. 11 MR. LARIO: You heard a little bit 12 operationally obviously that we are requesting a use 13 variance here. If you could, starting with just the 14 normal. It's an inherently beneficial use what we 15 are proposing. But if you could, under the traditional use variance, can you speak a little bit 16 to the Board as to the justification for that? 17 18 MR. LANDGRAF: Sure. And you guys are used to that because you see use variances quite 19 So the use variance, the d(1), which is what 20 often. 21 you normally ask for and what we're asking for, 22 requires Special Reasons. Those are outlined in the 23 Municipal Land Use Law. You have to find that the 24 site is particularly well-suited. And then you go 25 through those A through P Criteria and any of those

1 that fit into your -- what you feel or what I would 2 feel, fits into the criteria for that particular 3 site. And I would provide that testimony to you. 4 And you'll hear some of those tonight because I think 5 we fit into both of those.

The second prong of that is the Negative 6 Criteria. And that's where we're not a detriment to 7 8 your Zone Plan, your Zoning Ordinance or the character of that neighborhood. Because of this type 9 of application, an inherently beneficial use 10 11 application and the Municipal Land Use Law is very clear, community residences and group homes are an 12 13 inherently beneficial use under the Municipal Land That takes some of that criteria out of our 14 Use Law. 15 burden.

The Positive Criteria, the first prong 16 that I talked about, is actually already addressed 17 because the state already says, you are an inherently 18 beneficial use. So that Positive Criteria is removed 19 from our burden. Then we have to go into what's 20 21 known as the Sica Case and the criteria under the 22 Negative Criteria that must be addressed. 23 So just going to N.J.S.A. 40:55 D-4,

24 defines an inherently beneficial use as a use which 25 is universally considered of value to the community

because it fundamentally serves the public good and 1 2 promotes the general welfare. You probably heard some of that language before in Purpose A of the 3 Municipal Land Use Law Purposes of Zoning. That's 4 5 what a lot of -- the first criteria that you try and hit is a general welfare: What are you providing to 6 the general public? And that is already approved for 7 8 us under this inherently beneficial use.

9 There's typically three ways to address a d(1) use variance. The first is inherently 10 11 beneficial use. The second is, denial of the use 12 variance would result in undue hardship. That's not 13 us. We're not asking for that. And the third is, 14 the site, the proposed site would promote the general 15 welfare that it is particularly suited for the proposed use. And I'm going to use some of that in 16 my testimony as well, as you would normally hear from 17 a typical d(1). 18

19 So we are designated as an inherently 20 beneficial use, drug, alcohol, rehabilitation 21 facilities. There's case law on that, churches and 22 other places of worship and public-interest housing. 23 In such circumstances, we're proposing inherently 24 beneficial use. The well-suited decision law from 25 the New Jersey Supreme Court focuses on the Negative

Criteria and that's the Sica Case, Sica v. Board of
 Adjustment Township of Wall. It's a balancing test.
 The Sica asked four questions that, what can
 reasonably be done to make this use fit into that
 neighborhood and not be burden on those neighbors?

So the first one is, identify public 6 interest at stake. Addiction and homelessness is a 7 8 major problem throughout the country specifically in New Jersey; one of the highest rates in the country. 9 We heard Pastor Khan talk a little bit about that. 10 It has intensified since the Pandemic. I work in 11 Atlantic City, another community that has the burden 12 of lot of social services in it just like Camden 13 14 does. And we get a lot of that issue coming into 15 Atlantic City and I deal with that on an almost daily basis with my job there. 16

The scourge of addiction causes 17 devastating ripple effects on families, resources and 18 the community. Every person with a substance use 19 20 disorder directly affects at least ten other people. 21 Everybody in here, I'm sure, knows someone whether in 22 their family, their friend group or their church or 23 your neighborhood has had an issue or knows someone that has had an issue. 24

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Secondly, the Board must identify

72

detrimental effects, if any, that would result from 1 2 the granting of the variance such as, without limitation and increase of traffic. We don't believe 3 that this is going impact here. These tenants really 4 5 don't have cars. You did see one get a car but he's moving on out of the facility. So it's not an issue 6 where we think we're going to have a lot of increase 7 8 in traffic, vehicular traffic. It would not be an impact on surrounding properties with that aspect. 9 The site has been used for this use, as you've heard 10 11 from Pastor Khan, for the last 12 years.

The reason and I'm not sure if it was 12 13 made extremely clear, the reason we're here is that word shelter. The DCA grant that Pastor Khan 14 15 received requires it to have a shelter-type license and that's why we're coming here this evening. 16 We are not going to use it as you would think of a 17 When I think of a shelter, I think about 18 shelter. the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. You come in in the 19 20 evenings and you're actually kicked out in the morning. That's not what this is. This is a 21 22 transitional housing location, a community residence for these eight gentlemen to fine-tune themselves to 23 get back into society. And that's really what the 24 25 effort is here to bring this facility on-line to be

able to help those gentlemen.

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2 The dwelling is not overcrowded. I know you ask the questions about occupancy. 3 There's an occupancy load. Your construction code 4 5 official, probably in this case the DCA official would come down, measure the rooms. We have to have, 6 I think, 110 square feet for two people to live in 7 8 that bedroom. No different than if you had a home and you had tenants, that's the same occupancy load. 9 That is a maximum for that site. 10 One thing that is critical here and I 11 didn't mention this and I don't talk too much about 12 13 my other hat that I wear. I'm also the mayor of my 14 community of Ventnor City. We have 24 group homes in 15 our community. A lot of them are known as Oxford 16 They're, again, protected by the Municipal Houses. Land Use Law. They are specifically protected. 17 There's a category in there. It says, Oxford Houses 18 are permitted in any residential zone in the 19 community. I will tell you that they are the most 20 21 difficult ones to deal with as a municipal governing 22 body. Homes that have -- and one reason is, they don't anybody there. This is a certain number of 23 24 people in there. I think they're maxed out at 16 in 25 a unit. There's no governist by an outside agency

like New Beginnings. New Beginnings has as 24/7, 1 2 365-day a year management on site. Another group called Hansen House has 3 very similar rules; that they have someone there 4 5 24/7. When you don't have a monitor, they're running the house by themselves. That's creates problems. 6 That's why this is a better model. That's why that 7 8 shelter license comes in because you can't fit into the Oxford House Model because that's a boarding 9 house basically. That's not what this is. 10 And that's a critical differentiation between those two 11 12 types of uses. And we've worked with Hansen House in our 13 14 community until I got to know the folks at the law 15 firm that we represent that are representing us here 16 They do a great job. And I think Pastor tonight. Khan and his New Beginnings has that same goal in 17 mind, in fact, trying to help these gentlemen by 18 having that personal -- that management process 19 there; someone to go to; someone to watch over them 20 21 and make sure they're making the right choices. Ι 22 went off on a little tangent. I apologize. 23 The third prong of that sixth test is, 24 the Board should determine whether it can reduce,

25 make a detrimental effect by imposing reasonable

1 conditions on the use. And I think some of the 2 suggestions that you gentlemen and ladies have talked 3 about already can be brought into this site: No 4 expansions; limit to eight persons; make sure there's 5 security on site. And those are all reasonable 6 conditions that I think can go a long way in making a 7 successful use here.

8 The Board should weigh the Positive and Negative Criteria, that is, the public interest 9 against the public detriment whether on balance of 10 11 granting the variance would cause a substantial 12 detriment to the public good. And, again, for the reasons I already stated, I don't believe this will 13 14 be a substantial detriment to the public good. With 15 that Sica Test, I think we meet all four of those 16 Criterion.

Getting back to your typical use variance 17 criteria, I would think we would also promote Purpose 18 A which is that general welfare. Certainly a 19 20 recovery facility promotes the public health, the 21 character of the neighborhood. This has been going 22 on, this type of group home or community residence has been happening on this site for guite some time. 23 24 This will regulate a little bit better and have a 25 formal approval of it. And I think that's a positive move. Faith-based activities as you heard Pastor Khan, are must more successful than nonfaith-based. Their record of 90 percent success rate is really unheard of in this realm, but it does work better with the religious and faith-base of recovery systems.

Also G, Purpose G would be to provide sufficient space in appropriate location. We think this site is appropriate. It has been happening there. We've had people living there. It's appropriately sized for this number of people and there's adequate on-site facilities and have made parking available on the property.

The Negative Criteria, again, we think we 14 15 fall under the Sica Code or Sica case and we really 16 don't need to address these but I'll take a shot at it any way. Under your Master Plan, there are 17 several documents from 2008 and 2018. 18 The most recent update is 2018, "Encourage uses that will 19 promote the general welfare of the City." The 20 21 purpose of the Zone Plan is to promote health, 22 safety, morals and general welfare. The Master Plan 23 goal, Goal No. 2 is to integrate basic human and 24 social services within Neighborhood Planning 25 Initiatives. That's exactly what this is, to improve

healthcare access and improve access to existing 1 2 human and social delivery network. And then I found something just today in the 2018 Master Plan 3 document. It's on page five. 4 5 MR. LARIO: And that's the most recent Master Plan? 6 MR. LANDGRAF: It is. 7 8 Under Item 2, Major Objectives Identified in the 2008 Master Plan, it's under A, "Housing goals 9 and objectives include, to provide supportive housing 10 11 and services to the homeless and special needs 12 residents." That's right in the Master Plan 13 document. So from that aspect, I think the Negative 14 Criteria Aspect, we meet those goals of that Master 15 Plan and your current document as well. 16 MR. LARIO: Mr. Landgraf, I would just add real quick. I know we talked a little bit about 17 the licensing. As a condition of the approval we 18 would obviously provide of a copy of that license to 19 this Board and we would make sure that in order to 20 21 continue operations, we would maintain that license 22 for the 18-month period. 23 MR. LANDGRAF: It would be required to. 24 They would withdraw funding. 25 MR. LARIO: Thank you.

1 MR. LANDGRAF: I'd be happy to answer any 2 questions. You discussed the Master MR. EINGORN: 3 But there's a Redevelopment Plan in place 4 Plan. 5 here, the Parkside Redevelopment Plan, which I would believe would be a tough burden to overcome on the 6 Negative Criteria where the community, the City, has 7 8 already determined what should go where under that plan. Why would the applicant meet the Negative 9 Criteria as it relates to a Redevelopment Plan? 10 11 MR. LANDGRAF: To understand the 12 Redevelopment Plan is for specific types of uses in 13 that area. We're not amending that plan. We're not 14 changing that. A use variance doesn't change the 15 permitted uses within that. We're asking for relief 16 from that section of your land use regulations. MR. EINGORN: Correct. 17 So the point is -- I guess my question is, how are you not 18 impairing the intent and purpose of the Redevelopment 19 20 Plan when you're asking for something other than 21 what's specifically provided therein? And the 22 community has already made an additional determination, this is what should go in this 23 24 location. 25 So that's the purpose of MR. LANDGRAF:

79

the land use variance process and that's just what I 1 2 think. I put on testimony just for that. Whether or not the Redevelopment Plan specifically is addressed 3 is not really -- the Negative Criteria, I think we're 4 under the Sica standard so that's not something that 5 falls under the Redevelopment Plan. This is a 6 specific use for a specific criteria for an 7 8 inherently beneficial use. MR. EINGORN: That would meet the 9 Positive Criteria. I would agree with you there. 10 11 MR. LANDGRAF: Right. 12 MR. EINGORN: We're talking about the 13 Negative Criteria, impairment of the zone and 14 the Zoning Ordinance. 15 MR. LANDGRAF: So understand and please I 16 don't mean this disrespectfully at all. But when you're an inherently beneficial use, the Negative 17 Criteria falls under the Sica standard. And I went 18 through those four items in my testimony, identifying 19 the public interest at stake; the Board must identify 20 21 detriment effects, if any, that would result from the 22 grant of the variance. We've tried to address those and I believe I have. 23 24 The Board should determine whether it can

25 reduce any of those detrimental effects. And I think

we've talked about those as site security and 24/71 2 monitoring. And then the Board should weigh both the Positive and Negative Criteria. Those type above 3 criterion, not the standard. I went through those. 4 I think we do meet those, the standard use variance 5 Negative Criteria. But under the Sica standard, they 6 are different. And I think I've tried to address 7 8 those to the best of my ability.

9 MR. LARIO: And I would just add that 10 obviously both under the underlying zoning and the 11 Redevelopment Plan, we know we require a use variance 12 I would say this application wasn't made here. 13 pursuant to the Redevelopment Plan. We're not trying 14 to avail ourselves to any of the tax benefits that 15 would be sought through a normal Redevelopment Plan 16 application. Again, we know we need a use variance, however, as was stated by Mr. Landgraf, because we 17 are an inherently beneficial use, that makes this 18 analysis somewhat unique. And I, again, I think 19 20 Mr. Landgraf went through that four-prong test that 21 you need to utilize when you're considering this 22 inherently beneficial use. 23 MR. EINGORN: Does the Board have 24 questions for Mr. Landgraf?

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MS. ALSTON: I have a question of the

operational side, if I may? 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Sure. MS. ALSTON: I heard about the entry plan 3 and how they go through different evaluations and 4 things to get to the home. I don't think I heard 5 anything on the exit plan. You said it's six months 6 and how about if it takes a little bit longer, what 7 8 happens to them then? 9 MR. KHAN: So typically at our other programs at our other location, there's a whole 10 11 process that if a person doesn't graduate, they 12 didn't meet the particular criterias then they go 13 back and they continue on the courses. This group is 14 totally different. These are ones that already 15 completed all their classes; all their courses; they 16 graduated from every possible area they can graduate from. So that wouldn't apply to this group. 17 If they did something at a school or something like that down 18 the road, may be so but not this group. This group 19 is just basically a shared living. 20 21 MS. ASLTON: Right. They're going to be 22 there about six months or they can be there longer? 23 MR. KHAN: We say one year for them to allow save money and things like that. This group, I 24

25 think, they started around February so I think their

one year would be this upcoming February. 1 2 MS. ALSTON: And how do we determine that? Are they --3 MR. KHAN: Whenever their one-period is, 4 5 they've already graduated. We're allowing them to save money so they can get an apartment, a car, get 6 all their documentation. In some cases, maybe 7 8 homeownership. So they use that year as a prepping 9 time. 10 MS. ALSTON: Right. So I understand. So 11 you're saying they're going to be there. It could be up to the one year but some may be there a little bit 12 13 longer if they haven't found accommodations like home 14 ownership or another place to live? 15 MR. KHAN: And, again, we haven't gotten 16 to that point yet. Our heart is not to put anybody 17 out. 18 MS. ALSTON: No, no. That's why I'm 19 asking. 20 MR. KHAN: So we would help and assist 21 those individuals even more so. I mean, that one guy 22 on the video, his credit score went up in three 23 months to 110 points. So he's now just got another certification today for a forklift driving. 24 So 25 they're getting good jobs and they're moving in the

83

right direction. I don't want to get personal but if 1 2 I tell you some of the savings accounts that these guys have. I imagine any one of us being somewhere 3 where you don't pay rent, you don't pay utilities, 4 5 you don't pay anything and you'll able to save money. That's what these brothers are now. And thank God 6 every single one of them had been 100 percent great 7 8 stewards with those finances. 9 REVEREND MARTINEZ: So they have a year, 10 right? 11 MR. KHAN: Yes. 12 So if in a year they REVEREND MARTINEZ: 13 don't pass or they don't graduate, that means they got to go to a different program; they're out the 14 15 program or? No, no. These individuals 16 MR. KHAN:

have already graduated all the programs. 17 It's us helping them; taking them by the hand; helping them 18 find an apartment; helping them find a house; maybe 19 renting a house in the suburbs somewhere and the four 20 21 of them to stay together. I just want to say this. 22 We all know last year Executive Order 106 by Governor 23 Murphy was rescinded. That's where everybody was 24 protected before you could evict people. 25 Well, now, that was rescinded last year

so now there's a shortage. So right now, they're 1 2 looking for different apartments; looking for places to live. And we're believing that either they're 3 getting individual houses or apartments or shared 4 5 living expenses somewhere else outside of Camden. So they have a year? 6 REVEREND MARTINEZ: 7 MR. KHAN: A year from this past February 8 or whatever --9 REVEREND MARTINEZ: This February will be 10 year, right? MR. KHAN: 11 Correct. For some of them. 12 MR. LARIO: Would you say that these 13 gentlemen are pretty motivated to take that next step 14 then your motivation or their motivations are pretty 15 aligned to that? 16 MR. KHAN: They are exactly aligned. One gentleman just came back two weeks ago and said he's 17 now engaged. He's going to be getting married and 18 he's looking into the Parkside PBCIP on homeownership 19 here in Camden. 20 21 REVEREND MARTINEZ: The reason I'm asking 22 you. I'm a minister also. 23 MR. KHAN: Yes. 24 REVEREND MARTINEZ: I do run the Safe 25 Path Surrender --

MR. KHAN: 1 Yes. 2 REVEREND MARTINEZ: -- maybe like for ten years at our church. And I admire the job you all 3 are doing. It's not easy. I know it's not easy and 4 5 I've done it. 6 MR. KHAN: Correct. REVEREND MARTINEZ: I've been here for 7 8 over 30 years in Camden. I'm from North Jersey. But I know how tough it is what you're going through. 9 10 And our people, they really need help. 11 MR. KHAN: They do. 12 REVEREND MARTINEZ: Besides, I work also 13 for the City, the City of Camden. I'm a fleet 14 manager for the Camden Housing Authority and I know 15 what it is. I know what you go through with our 16 people and our youth especially. We need all the help that we can get. I'm positive for that. 17 18 MR. KHAN: Thank you so much. With God all things are possible. 19 20 MS. ALSTON: So you're asking, I guess, 21 with my exit plan here what's going to happen, right, 22 you're asking for 18 months is what you're asking? 23 And you're hoping to have another facility up and going. So if these gentlemen that you have in this 24 25 home now do not -- is not able to get the money or

move into a new home, you are just going to move them 1 2 into a new facility? MR. KHAN: We'll do whatever we have to 3 By the word of God, they will not go back to the 4 do. 5 streets. These guys will continue to live successful, productive lives that they are doing 6 7 now. 8 MR. EINGORN: God forbid you're 9 unsuccessful in your Millville litigation, what 10 happens with the gentlemen that are in the property? 11 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: 18 months? 12 MR. KHAN: Yeah. There's a Sunset 13 Provision. 14 MR. LARIO: We'd be forced to find 15 another facility. Potentially we could return to 16 this Board but that's obviously not our goal here. I mean, we would want to find another facility that 17 would better serve these individuals. 18 19 MR. KHAN: Yes. 20 MR. EINGORN: Is the applicant in the 21 process of locating potential facilities in the event 22 that that's the case? We have a realtor that's 23 MR. KHAN: Yes. 24 been looking around at different large boarding homes 25 that can hold maybe 15, 20 that are already

licensed. But, again, that's a process. We didn't 1 2 know that this was going to be this long, of course, 3 but it's a process. But because they be boarding homes that we're looking at, they're already some 4 5 approved. Those are Plan B and Plan C. You know, when you make a determination that you're not going 6 to let one of these brothers go back to the streets, 7 8 you're going to do whatever you have to do. If it means renting a couple of houses and let them stay at 9 different houses, we're going to do what we have to 10 11 do. 12 MR. EINGORN: Anymore additional 13 questions? 14 MS. ATWOOD: How are you funded that you 15 don't have to charge them rent or utilities and 16 whatever? MR. KHAN: So we get grants from the 17 State of New Jersey. We have monies from the DCA, 18 DHS and the DOC. We get funded from different 19 20 organizations. 21 MS. ALSTON: I am hearing a lot of 22 positive information. I like the fact that it is 23 structured; the fact that the gentlemen are evaluated prior to coming to the home. It's all positive. 24 25 You're doing probably more than landlords would do if

88

they were to rent out a home. And I like the fact 1 2 that you're sitting there and providing literacy and financial workshops and things like that, that is 3 going to be beneficial and something that they can 4 5 use as they move forward to the next step. Thank you. 6 MR. KHAN: MR. EINGORN: Any further questions? 7 At 8 this time we're going to open to the public. So 9 we're going to open to the public. Before we get started, a reminder, everybody who comes before the 10 11 Board has to be sworn in. State your name and 12 address for the record. We'll take one individual at 13 a time. Sir, your hand is already raised. 14 15 TROY OGLESBY, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 16 follows: 17 18 19 MR. EINGORN: Can you state your name and address for the record? 20 21 MR. OGLESBY: It's Troy Oglesby, P.O. Box 22 8383, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. 23 MR. EINGORN: Just a reminder. If you're speaking from the public, you're addressing the 24 25 Board. If there are questions, you'll ask them to

89

us. We can relay them to the applicant. Thank
 you.

MR. OGLESBY: Just to let this Board 3 know, we're talking about compassion; you're talking 4 5 about understanding. You're taking a take-away. A take-away from this Board is anything. He's asking 6 for 18 months. But I wanted to know a little bit 7 8 about the person and the program. He doesn't do it by himself and he's a humble person. We have been 9 10 doing this for years. And when I mean we, I'm one of 11 them. We go out and do the Code Blue. We pick up 12 people when the City has dropped the ball. So I'm 13 looking at each and every one of you for compassion. 14 You're talking about one take-away; 18 months; 15 Sunrise Provision. All the negatives, he's got 24-hour surveillance cameras. So let's give a little 16 bit of resume. 17

I'm retired law enforcement. I was the 18 NWWAP vice-president in Camden for many years. 19 I'm 20 the national action network vice-president for South 21 Jersey. I can continue to volunteer myself through 22 many, many efforts. We go around the Code Blue picking up because there's schools, there's churches 23 in the City that are listed as Code Blue but they 24 25 don't have -- they weren't even letting people in.

We didn't have transportation so, yes, no matter what the conditions of our cars, how good they are, we put people who are homeless in our vehicle and we took them shelters wherever we could take them even if we had to go over the bridge to Philadelphia.

So when I look at this program, they're 6 giving people a chance that don't have much. 7 And 8 these are people who have already graduated. These are people you can't leave. These are people you 9 10 can't say you're on your own now. These are people 11 that you get things done. I was on the panel for 12 Rutgers and the prosecutor's office for re-entry. 13 I did that for many years. And the bottom line is, 14 it takes a lot of those professions to make one 15 person who is going through an addiction hole. They 16 have mental illness. They have homelessness.

And when I looked up here just like I was 17 sitting there listening to all your questions which 18 were very good questions, by the way, because your 19 task is to protect the City. But I think those 20 21 negative things were addressed by his counsel, his 22 zoning professional and himself and the program. But each one of us here, I'm sure you know somebody 23 in your family that didn't have a place to stay. You 24 25 opened up your home and you gave them two weeks, a

month, 30 days, 45 days. This is the same 1 2 situation. The only thing is, you got them on You didn't charge them a penny. You let them 3 track. eat some of your food. Same thing. The same thing. 4 5 At this point in our City, I really hope that we start making simple things a little simpler. 6 It's simple. Making people go through a program that 7 8 helps them to get their life in order. And it's people who are making sacrifices. And one last 9 thing, his father was my mother's doctor, my aunt's 10 11 doctor and my doctor. So I'm talking about 12 character. This is not something new. And as far as 13 how we were doing it, we go over to that same 14 building; we would load up that RV and the truck and 15 we would go right over to what used to be a CVS and we'd be at CVS every Saturday. You've seen it. 16 If you rode by, we'd be right there at 17 the transportation center and we'd be feeding the 18 homeless. They would get in there and take a shower 19 and we had clothes out there for them. This is the 20 21 same program people. Give them the 18 months. It's 22 18 months to let people transition into a better

23 life. And then he's got another program. And by the 24 way, I didn't get a chance to talk to you but I have 25 a house for you. After the 18 months, we have a

house for you. It's good work. Give them the 18 1 2 months. I appreciate your time. MR. EINGORN: Thank you. 3 Next please. You've already be sworn. 4 5 Please state your name. MS. BROOKS: My name is L'Tanya Brooks. 6 I don't dispute any of the good service that Past 7 8 Khan has provided to the City. But I do still have a 9 concern because our purpose here is to focus on the zoning and the land use. So one of my concerns -- I 10 11 attended a community service meeting last Monday and 12 asked Pastor Khan for any amendments because my 13 background, I've worked 37 years at the Internal 14 Revenue Service. My background is, I want 15 documentation. I want that. 16 I asked him for some data related to this and he had no data. He said, I provided it to the 17 I contacted the City of Camden and put in 18 attorneys. an OPRA request for information on any amendments to 19 20 the original application that said shelter. Because 21 this original request when we were here last month, 2.2 was postponed. And as the lawyers are talking about 23 18 months, I wanted to see whether the changes were 24 documented on the application. 25 The request came in that there was no

93

additional information and no documentation. 1 There 2 have been a lot of things said here today. But what is documented can that hold everybody accountable for 3 what they say? And the reason I feel is this way, 4 5 I'm going to submit the minutes from the final decision from the Maurice Township on the other 6 7 Who do I submit this to? property.

8 MR. EINGORN: I'll take that. Let the 9 record reflect that we received from Ms. Brooks a 10 Maurice River Township Land Use Board, Cumberland 11 County, New Jersey Resolution No. 2023-05. And it 12 consists of 45 pages.

13 MS. BROOKS: Identifying why his variance 14 down in Millville, Maurice Township was denied. And 15 I have concerns because it was denied because of the same issues that I have here in Camden. 16 The shelter here was opened without the appropriate zoning 17 request. And he had full knowledge that that was the 18 process he should be going through, because it was 19 just denied to him down in Maurice Township. 20

In that -- I'm going to flip over to page 14. The pastor testified that he thought that his firm could piggyback on to operations of the Bethany Baptist Church. He acknowledged that he could have stopped the use at that time he was notified of the

violation and that he "knew better" in guotes. 1 He 2 apologized because the acknowledgment that he should have proceeded with the construction zoning permits. 3 I don't know want to go over the entire 4 5 report, but I have major concerns about approving this variance. What is the purpose? 6 Is it a Is it a drug rehab? Because if you look in 7 shelter? 8 this application here and this information, it says that they've changed various times throughout the 9 process where it was originally a drug rehab center 10

11 and then it changed to -- included a homeless shelter 12 center. If we don't have clear documentation then 13 14 how can we hold someone accountable if they're not 15 moving in 18 months? I think 18 months is a long 16 time because if there had been no knowledge of all of this, I could have a better understanding. But he 17 has full knowledge of what has happened and what the 18 impact is. He knows the impact of not having the 19 20 zoning permit also because that's why he's not down 21 There were more people who were also located there. 22 there who have been relocated to other places but 23 eight people came to Camden. 24 MR. EINGORN: Just to address your

25 concern about what would be the, I guess, governing

95

document that would be enforceable for this purpose and you've given the Board a resolution. And the Board here tonight, whether or not they grant or deny this application, will be adopting a similar resolution.

MS. BROOKS: Okay.

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MR. EINGORN: And let's just play 7 8 hypothetical. Let's say the Board decides they'll grant the application with an 18-month Sunset 9 Provision. All of that and all of the conditions and 10 11 all the approvals would be contained in a resolution 12 similar to the one that you provided -- I think mine 13 is prettier -- but, you know, that's a bias opinion. 14 And that would be an enforceable document by City 15 Government.

16 And to the extent that they overstay their welcome so-to-speak, they'd either have to come 17 back for an extension which they're entitled to do. 18 They're not guaranteed an extension. Or they 19 20 hopefully get new housing and they'd have a great 21 place for these gentlemen to live. Or we'd have the 22 unfortunate which is, everybody would have to go elsewhere and Pastor Khan graciously offered to buy 23 24 everybody a house. I'm just kidding. So that's what would happen. It would be a resolution which would 25

have verbiage and language that would bind the 1 2 applicant and the property owner and would limit this use to 18 months. 3 MS. BROOKS: Okay. So the modification 4 5 would be in your resolution? MR. EINGORN: That's correct. 6 MS. BROOKS: I'm still not in the 7 8 agreement with the 18 months. That's fine. You don't 9 MR. EINGORN: 10 have to be. I was just addressing --11 MS. BROOKS: I'm just making that as a 12 statement --13 MR. EINGORN: -- your concerns. 14 MS. BROOKS: -- because, again, there are 15 eight individuals. And the planner talked about the 16 serious ramifications for the eight individuals and I sympathize with them but I'm looking at the serous 17 18 ramifications of the residents of Parkside. We do, again, have a development plan that addresses what 19 can and cannot be done. We've been working -- Camden 20 21 has been working a long time to be in compliance with 22 this plan. I made decisions to move here based on that plan and making a decision to invest back into 23 the City. 24 25 I didn't move here to invest in the City

and then people change the plan that doesn't consist 1 2 with our growing as a city. So I'm just going to --I think I've said enough. I think I have identified 3 that I'm not confident at the information that we are 4 5 receiving because of what has transpired down in the other location and the continuous changes on what may 6 or may not be the definition of what this will be or 7 whether it's a shelter or it's not a shelter. 8 It's inconsistent and, therefore, I'm not comfortable with 9 it and hope you don't approve it. 10 11 MR. EINGORN: Thank you for your time. 12 Ma'am, please raise your right hand. 13 14 PASTOR PATIENCE RIVERS, having first been 15 duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 16 follows: 17 18 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 19 20 MS. RIVERS: My name is Pastor Patience 21 Rivers, 514 Trenton Avenue in Camden. 22 I'm here to support Pastor Khan and New 23 Beginnings. My husband Apostle Joseph Rivers and I 24 pastor a small church in the Centerville section of 25 Camden. We're a Frontline Ministry and we've known

Pastor Khan for many years. In fact, his father was 1 2 our family doctor when I was growing up in Camden. And I'm reminded of a song from back in 3 the 60's, and I don't know how many can go back that 4 5 far, but the song was written by Sam Cook. He was compelled to write song "Change Is Going To Come." 6 Because he saw the struggles that the black man had 7 8 to face back in those days and he ushered in the civil rights movement. So I'm relating that to 9 10 the change that Pastor Khan and New Beginnings is 11 trying to institute in this City. I've see the fruit 12 of his labor and it must go on. It must grow. And 13 I'm sure you will all agree that change is about to 14 come. T'm done. 15 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. Good evening, 16 sir, can you raise your right hand? 17 SEAN WILLIAMS, having first been duly 18 affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 19 20 21 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 22 and address for the record 23 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Sean Williams. 24 My address is 401 E. Gibbsboro Road in Lindenwold, 25 New Jersey.

I just became acquainted with New 1 2 Beginnings and Pastor Khan. I just came home from 3 prison and I had the struggles of finding a place to Not having adequate resources because when I was 4 qo. released from prison, I was told about a thing called 5 re-entry. And re-entry services I could say a lot of 6 things about that, but I won't cause I'm not here for 7 8 that.

There was no help. I was told: Figure 9 So I've been home for 40 days and I did that 10 it out. 11 because I am determined to make it. So I have my own 12 I have two cars. I don't sell drugs. place. Ι 13 don't do nothing like that. In fact, I'm serving my 14 community and that's why I came down here to support 15 him. It's interesting. We talk about intended 16 purposes for our community. You look at the mission statement and the vision of Camden; to transform 17 Camden into a city in which government is linked to 18 its people by responsive service systems such as 19 state of the art technology and accountable 20 21 decision-making processes.

22 So if the government is linked to its 23 people and wants to help them and provide services, 24 programs like this provide those very services. 25 Because I wish I would have known about New

Beginnings but I did not. Thankfully they're here 1 2 and they're doing a positive thing in the City. I stayed there 11 days. I stayed here. I stayed in 3 Centerville. I remember when our Angel Cordero tried 4 to run for mayor and I was his life-skills teacher 5 before I made a bad mistake and went to prison. But 6 during that time, it was interesting that in a City 7 8 of 100,000 people, only 1,100 voted. So it was nobody standing up. And this guy was running around 9 the City and he was saying a whole bunch of things, 10 11 trying to provide services and trying to help people. 12 People had negative things to say. Because 13 everytime it's stated to do a positive thing, there's 14 always going to be somebody negatively saying, nay.

15 It's interesting when you talk about the plan for the City. What's the plan for City? Why is 16 people selling drugs? Is it a bad plan for the City 17 to watch run up and down Broadway getting high and 18 That wasn't the plan for the City but we 19 dving. accepted it for many years. So now is a time to help 20 21 eight men to transform their lives or continue to 22 transform their life and we have a rebuttal against That's egregious. We're talking about helping 23 that. 24 people's lives. We're not talking about selling 25 drugs on the corner. Let's protest against that.

Let's stand up at town hall against that.

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2 But when we see these young fellows gang-banging getting high and selling drugs, we hide 3 in our houses and peak between the shutters. But now 4 5 we come out in droves for a program that want to help people. That's kind of backwards. But it seems very 6 backwards. So it's like -- it doesn't make sense to 7 8 say on the one hand, we want to help people transform their lives and link them with government. And then 9 10 on the other hand say, well, what are the particulars 11 of your program that wants to help people and then 12 want to dissect the program and want to help the 13 person? That makes no sense. Why are we dissecting 14 where is the money going at for the people like the 15 interest rates for instance.

16 I'll say this and I'll be quiet. The reason why I have an apartment today is because of 17 Newark, New Jersey, not Camden County. Newark, New 18 Jersey gave me funding. Places they said that was 19 20 going to help, did not help. There's a program 21 called Safe Return. When I returned I wasn't safe. 22 I had to seek North Jersey to help me out. That's all. 23

24 MR. EINGORN: I'm sorry. Before you go, 25 the crowd is very excited and Mr. Williams was

incredibly moving. But our court reporter has to 1 2 take down what he says and what everybody else says so if we cheer over the person who is talking, even 3 if they're doing a great job which they have, it's 4 5 really hard for the court reporter to do her job. So if we can just keep the cheering and stuff down, it 6 would be greatly appreciated. 7 8 Please raise your right hand. 9 MIOSHA BRADDOCK-LAWRENCE, having first 10 11 been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 12 13 14 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 15 and address for the record. 16 MS. BRADDOCK-LAWRENCE: My name is Miosha Braddock-Lawrence, 1427 Kenwood Avenue, Camden. 17 First I'd like to say that I'm the second 18 Parkside resident to get up and stand and speak about 19 20 this plan. Everybody else who spoke doesn't live in 21 Parkside. So I came to this community about 20 years 22 ago. And when I started my journey for homeownership, there was only one community that I 23 24 wanted to buy in and that was Camden despite my 25 family's misgivings. I purchased in Camden over 15

1 years ago.

2	So I just wanted to share some of things
3	because Parkside residents completed a Redevelopment
4	Plan and two Neighborhood Plans. All that had been
5	approved and adopted as a part of the City's Master
б	Plan. The City understands that the residents that
7	live in the Parkside Community should have the
8	strongest voice on creating a vision for the
9	neighborhood. All three plans clearly state, they do
10	not want boarding homes, shelters or transitional
11	homes. The most recent plan was completed and
12	approved in 2021 where nearly 900 neighbors, business
13	owners and stakeholders came together to craft a plan
14	that creates small business opportunities, quality
15	education, access to food and quality-affordable
16	rental and homeownership housing.

17 The vision statement actually reads that it was created by the residents. Parkside is a 18 19 beautiful, unique, multi-cultural neighborhood where families live safely in a clean environment and were 20 21 neighbors are steadfast in their commitment to the 22 community and their respect for each other. Parkside 23 is a place where work, quality shops, great dining, excellent schools. And these are activities that 24 25 exists to produce a desirable and sustainable

1 neighborhood.

2	In order for this application to be
3	approved and you talk about inherently beneficial,
4	but they forgot the second part, that it also has to
5	prove that there is no substantial harm to Parkside
6	and the community or the public. And this will
7	definitely cause substantial harm to Parkside. The
8	community knows that to continue to stabilize efforts
9	and grow this community and create work for families,
10	we must encourage homeownership.
11	Parkside has a long history of
12	homeownership and the owners who have stayed
13	committed to this community, will be the most
14	impacted if a shelter moves next door. Home values
15	in Parkside are selling at over \$200,000 right now.
16	Losing move-in value in those homes could cause
17	homeowners to be under water and that's what happened
18	in the foreclosure prices in 2008. And some people
19	are just making that equity back. So if that shelter
20	moves next door, they're going to lose their equity
21	and not get it back. They'll be unable to access
22	needed repairs to their homes or send their kids to
23	college.
24	There are currently ten new affordable

25 homes under construction in Parkside with another ten

1 coming in 2024 with several properties on Princess 2 Avenue. We cannot stress that these homes are 3 fulfilling a great need here in the State of New 4 Jersey creating affordable homes that will create 5 generational wealth for black and brown families.

Now, Amir Khan says he cares about 6 Parkside. But when he was asked last Monday on 7 8 November 27th at that community meeting, if you would 9 have had the quorum last month and got it approved, would he had bothered to come to the community and 10 11 share what he was doing, he said, no because he 12 didn't think it was important. Those are his words. 13 He had stated that he'd actually been running this 14 program since May and he will keep running it because 15 he's allowed to under as a religious organization, this is what the church provides for communities. 16 So he doesn't even believe he needs permission from the 17 18 City.

This application, according to him that he has stated multiple times publically, I need this designation to get a grant from DCA and DOC. Now, he also stated that he has a lawsuit against Millville. Let him finish that lawsuit in Millville and keep running the program in Millville. Let it run out. Why does the City of Camden have to save him to get him money that he needs?

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2 I'm just going simply close with saying this. As much as people don't understand the 3 precedence that will be set tonight, if this is 4 5 approved, this is going to open the door to other investors who claim they have a ministry and want to 6 move in boarding homes and transitional homes and 7 8 shelters all over the City of Camden, whether there's going to be a temporary Sunset Provision, this 9 choice we'll call a float. So I just want to implore 10 11 you to seriously think and consider the nearly 900 12 residents who spent months coming up with a 13 neighborhood plan twice to say, this is not what we 14 want in our community. Thank you. 15 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 16 hand, please. 17 KEITH BENSON, having first been duly 18 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 19 follows: 20 21 22 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record 23 24 MR. BENSON: My name is Keith Benson. My 25 address is 1775 Park Boulevard which makes me the

second resident of Parkside. And I also take the 1 2 liberty of speaking for my son who lives at 1525 Greenwood in Parkside. And I can give you a whole 3 host of other people that are from Parkside who love 4 5 that Parkside is a caring community. And while we are doing well, yes, we are making no apologies for 6 that, we want others to do well too because that's 7 8 our charge to be human.

9 One thing somebody is going to argue when they stand behind this microphone is whether this man 10 11 is doing good work or not. Let's make the main thing 12 the main thing. You want to come and argue 13 technicalities, where is your heart? Let me explain 14 a little bit about myself. I graduated from Camden 15 High in 1972 which I believe, I think, that makes me 16 the elder statesman from Parkside in this room. And I've been helping people ever since. It kind of 17 fades for an act. I've got 15 gold records -- sorry, 18 24 gold records; two Grammy awards and I'm not famous 19 20 for that. People don't know me for that. People 21 know me for the help I give and I've given to other 22 I got four people, kids from Camden on Wall people. 23 Street. But let me say this to you, that anybody can tell you actually offline how we do it. 24 25 But I'm most proud of being a friend of

this gentleman right here. Nobody does it as good as 1 2 he does. And it's an honor to have him in this City. It was an honor to have his father in this City. 3 I'm going to explain something really quickly about 4 5 Camden and I'll get out of your way. Camden was the head of the biggest most important cultural movement 6 in the history of America called the Harlem 7 8 Renaissance. You may have heard of Elaine Locke, (phoentic spelling), who was born and raised at 1417 9 Stevens Street, Camden, New Jersey. Camden was the 10 11 home of the biggest political movement called civil 12 rights movement and some of you might have heard of 13 it. Martin Luther King first got the spirit to fight 14 injustice when he lived at 753 Walnut Street, the 15 house that got us a here.

16 This program that Amir is running is the best in the state over the whole state helping 17 brother and sisters. He is align with the Harlem 18 Renaissance and with the civil rights movement 19 because basically what he's doing is going to be 20 21 modeled all over the nation to help people. It's an 22 honor to know him. It's an honor to see young men turn their lives around and we should all be grateful 23 24 and we should all wonder about our own spirits when 25 we want to worry about what are property value is

over helping human beings save their lives. 1 God 2 bless you all. Thank you. MR. EINGORN: Please raise your right 3 4 hand. 5 KEN WATKINS, having first been duly 6 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 7 8 follows: 9 10 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 11 and address for the record 12 MR. WATKINS: Ken Watkins, 106 Heart 13 Road, Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08034. 14 I'm also the inter-city director for the 15 Manahath Church in Camden, New Jersey. I happen to 16 work along with Pastor Kahn and along with other ministers around the country. This is one of the 17 18 best programs that I've seen in the nation for many, many years in my 35 years in mentoring with young 19 20 people around the country. Also, in my previous 21 background, I grew up in Camden, Parkside, 22 Centerville and also by Cooper Hospital. I'm originally from Camden. But I also was executive 23 24 vice-president for Chaseman Bank and I read policies 25 and procedures for all over the country and around

the Caribbean.

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2	At times when we had to make decisions
3	about things, we changed policies to help people. We
4	changed them to make a difference. And as you see
5	what's happening in our city with all these young
б	men, especially young black men, they need to change.
7	They're making that change. I suggest that if you
8	have someone in your family that you know, children,
9	grandchildren, young men, take a look and go down to
10	visit the program and see what's really taking place.
11	They're not only putting on a band-aid, they're not
12	putting a band-aid. They're going inside giving
13	spiritual, mental, religious. Power in your men is
14	needed today.

15 And if you get involved in Camden and if you're involved in the City, you see what's taking 16 17 place. We have very few facilities that are making a 18 difference for our young men. This is the one that's 19 doing it. I was down in Millville when the governor came down for that program. I've been involved with 20 programs all around the country. This is one of the 21 22 best that's around; making and changing lives of men. 23 This is what we need. We can talk about policies and 24 procedures, variances, but you really want a change. 25 You got to make a difference for young people. The

time is now. We got to look at these people, these 1 2 young men. They've been through the process. They've been through it. They're making a change. 3 They've getting jobs; they're going 4 5 around mentoring all the young men and other young men need to see young men like this change lives. 6 They're doing that. That program is phenomenal and 7 8 that's the best that I've seen and I've seen a lot of them around the country, one of the best. And these 9 young men, we should get involved with these young 10 11 men, all of us here, should meet these young me, talk to them, help them, assist them in getting those 12 13 jobs. Assisting then doing the things that we're 14 talking about and you're going to see more young men 15 coming to the program. You want to see what change is in our City of Camden and we're going to be taking 16 a 360 of what's taking place. It's a pilot program. 17 We need young men to make a difference and we're 18 making that difference with Pastor Khan. 19 20 Come out on the corners when he's out 21 there when we got out and fed the homeless. Come out 22 and look and look at these young men talk with them

24 will be changed to see the power what's taking place 25 in this country.

and see what they're all about and I think your minds

MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 1 2 hand, please. 3 DENISE RAINER, having first been duly 4 5 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 6 7 8 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record 9 10 11 MR. RAINER: My name is Denise Rainer. Ι 12 live at 1439 Princess Avenue. I purchased my home 11 13 years ago last month. The Parkside Business 14 Association is now building two brand new homes from 15 the ground up across the street from me. And my major concern is, who is going to purchase these 16 homes with a shelter down in the next block? 17 My experience? I'm young to Parkside. I will say 18 maybe I'm an infant but I, also like everybody else, 19 give back to the community. That's not why we're 20 21 here. 22 And due to what I do, I've been out at two and three o'clock in the morning and they've been 23 outside of the property. I've noticed the trash and 24 25 I'm talking about this summer back in June and July,

trash was not being put out properly. Even before 1 2 this, he had a group of men staying there. They were roaming the neighborhood all hours of the night 3 building a concern for our senior population and 4 myself a single woman, because I do rape crisis so 5 I'm in and out of my house sometimes two, three, 6 four o'clock in morning whenever it's called on me to 7 8 qo.

9 And that is my greatest concern is the 10 whole supervision. He's saying that he has 24-hour 11 supervision. He might have it now but back in June 12 and July, I kind of beg to differ about that because 13 there were, to me, strange men because I don't know 14 them and I do work the block giving out flyers and 15 different things that are going on in the community 16 so I am familiar with some of the regular faces of people who live there. And so that is why I'm very 17 hesitant about him being allowed the variance. 18 Thank 19 you.

20 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 21 hand, please.

23 SHELLEAN BROOKS, having first been duly 24 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 25 follows:

1 2 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 3 MS. BROOKS: Shellean Brooks, 1007 4 5 Langham Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08103. Tonight I stand before you as a Parkside 6 7 resident to reiterate the significance of Parkside's 8 2003 Redevelopment Plan and the Neighborhood 9 Strategic Plan approved by both the Planning Board in May 2021, City Council along with the State of New 10 11 Jersey. These plans inclusive of insights from over 12 900 residents, business owner, educator or institutional stakeholder, were meticulously crafted 13 14 to address the community needs, foster growth and 15 paved the way for the revitalization of Parkside. 16 The Neighborhood Plan underscores these critical facets. No. 1: Affordable Housing. 17 Our ongoing efforts include the construction of new homes 18 specifically aimed at creating opportunities for 19 20 family living or below 80 percent of the area median 21 income with over 100 homes in progress. Funding has 22 been secured to support this initiative contributed 23 to the prosperity of Parkside. 24 No. 2: Homeowner Repair Assistance. 25 Over the past year, we have assisted 20 families each within or below 100 percent of the area median income
 by providing a one to two matching grant for
 emergency home repairs, needs, insuring and securing
 living environments.

5 No. 3: Financial Empowerment. Regular 6 one-on-one meeting, counseling, coaching sessions and 7 group financial literacy program, continue to be 8 conducted throughout the year. These sessions play a 9 crucial role in supporting families, aiding them in 10 their journey towards to financial stability.

No. 4: Clean Streets. A dedicated team of 12 individuals from the Parkside community has been employed to maintain the cleanliness and upkeep of our major corridors insuring a welcoming and tidy environment for all residents and visitors.

16 No. 5: Safety and collaborative efforts with Camden County Police. Through a strengthened 17 partnership with the county police, we are committed 18 to transforming Parkside from within. This 19 collaboration focuses on enhancing safety measures 20 21 and fostering a sense of security within our 22 community.

I brought up only several aspects of the Neighborhood Plan and would like to highlight that. For while the comprehensive two-phase process 1 approved by city government, no resident, business 2 owner, educator or institutional stakeholder raised 3 the need for a men's shelter or transitional housing 4 in Parkside.

5 I urge you to honor the community needs by rejecting tonight's application for a men's 6 7 shelter designated right in the heart of Parkside. 8 Stand with Parkside in support of initiatives aligned with our Redevelopment and Neighborhood Plans. 9 Initiatives that stand as a testament to our 10 11 commitment for fostering growth, addressing needs and 12 ultimately revitalizing Parkside for a brighter 13 future. Thank you. I would like to submit 30 more 14 petitions for our --15 MR. EINGORN: We can't accept petitions 16 or letters. Thank you. MS. BROOKS: Okay. Have a good night. 17 18 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. I appreciate your time. 19 20 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 21 hand, please. 22 23 TIFFINNIE AUSTIN, having first been duly 24 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 25 follows:

1 2 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 3 MS. AUSTIN: Tiffinnie Austin, 509 Church 4 Road, Sicklerville. 5 So I am a born and raised in Camden. 6 Ι do not live here now, however, I do have several 7 8 family that still lives here in the City of Camden and I'm here every single day. And I have family 9 that are here every single day. I've worked with 10 11 Pastor Khan on many services, servicing and helping 12 the community. And everything that I hear here 13 today, we can make it about the man but it's really about the mission and it is about a building. 14 15 And so everything that I've heard even the person that before me spoke about the initiative 16 of Parkside and the building of the Parkside which is 17 excellent by the way, However, if you build up a 18 town and you don't build up the people, you're not 19 20 going to get the results that you ultimately want to 21 have. 22 And so you have eight people who are in a residence who have done the work. And I look at 23

24 all the young and women who are right now having 25 those same issues and they don't have an example or 1 maybe a great example of what it looks like to make a
2 mistake; get the help that you need; go forward. And
3 the very houses that it looks like the Parkside
4 community is looking to build up, these may be the
5 very men who have the finances to finely move into
6 the houses right out of the door.

It just seems like a win-win especially 7 8 if you're only talking about a variance. And if I understand it -- this is my first time being here --9 but a variance is an exception to the rule. And from 10 11 what I understand, this is a temporary request. And 12 there's been provisions that are put in place to make 13 sure that it doesn't move forward past the 18 months. But, again, the Parkside Plan, I'm assuming, is 14 15 probably more than 18 months in the making.

And it's going to take a little bit of 16 time for that to be complete in order for it to be 17 exactly what the plan has outlined. We're talking 18 about eight individuals who did the work and we're 19 asking for a moment for them to be able to realize 20 21 that, yes, the community that I came from are the 22 people that supported me and so now I can be a 23 productive citizen in that same community. 24 And, absolutely, people have to be

25 concerned with whether or not something can go

wrong. But like I said, I'm here everyday so I see 1 2 the people who are already out there. I see the people who are walking up and down the streets. 3 And they still need assistance. So to say that this 4 5 variance and the individuals that are in that house, hopefully for only or less than 18 months, will be 6 able to be that example for the individuals who don't 7 8 yet have hope. Because you can build up a city but if you don't build up the people, you're still going 9 to have -- we see communities all over the place. 10 11 The place that I live is where people left the city, 12 came to and the mindsets are still the same. So you can build up a city but if you don't build up the 13 14 people, you're doing it all for naught. You have an example and that's this 15 building for 18 months; see what happens. And if it 16 doesn't work, everybody was right. But if does work, 17 what do you have to lose? Thank you. 18 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. 19 20 Raise your right hand, please. 21 22 ARNOLD STEWART, having first been duly affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 23 24 25 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 1 and address for the record.

2	MR. STEWART: Arnold Stewart, 2422
3	Larchmont Place, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey.
4	First of all I'd like to say that I'm
5	born and raised in Camden myself; raised my children
6	here in Camden. I've known Pastor Amir Khan since
7	high school. And I remember going into the military
8	and coming back and heard he was saved and serving
9	the Lord and doing the great work in the community
10	even as a young man, and I hooked back up with him
11	and been with him all along ever since. And I
12	believe in the brother and the work that he's doing.
13	Let me say a little bit from a
14	professional point of view. I've been involved in
15	working with the homeless and this population for
16	many, many years. I started out with the Juvenile
17	Justice Commission; working withe juveniles at Joseph
18	House now when it was called Camden House on Atlantic
19	Avenue. From there I worked with My Brother's Keeper
20	in North Camden. From there I worked with Genisis
21	House for men and for women. And finally I was
22	working for Path in North Camden which was a day
23	center for the homeless providing food, shelter,
24	showers and being able to wash their clothes and
25	giving them wrap-around services.

And then now I'm recently with New 1 2 Beginnings with Pastor Amir Khan and Pastor Timothy That's on the professional side. 3 Roberson here. Also on the professional side I wanted to say this. 4 5 That in all of these different programs that I've worked with, the thing that I liked and I'm drawn the 6 most to with New Beginnings is that, well, when I was 7 8 at Path, all we could do was provide day services. And at the end of the day at four and five o'clock we 9 would release them into the streets. When I was at 10 11 the Genisis House, we provided shelter for them but we had no services available. 12

13 So with New Beginnings the thing that's 14 attracted to me is that we brought both of two worlds 15 together. We're providing them a home, home covering, shelter and we're providing them with 16 different services. And you heard these gentlemen 17 give testimony to the various services that are being 18 made available to the men that are there. That's the 19 professional side. I want to say something from my 20 21 heart also. That, you know, I don't have no doubt in 22 my heart that everybody in this room today both that are for Pastor Khan and those that are against the 23 vision, not against the man. But I believe that 24 25 every one of us here has a fear of God. And we love

God and we love people and we want to see people do better. But sometimes we got to questions ourselves and evaluate what are we actually doing. So in my heart, I think about, again, it's like I want to ask a question: Where is your faith? Because we're here to help people.

And with your permission, Pastor Khan, 7 8 I'd like to ask these eight men if they could stand up real quick so that people can see that we're about 9 lives; we're talking about souls. We're not talking 10 11 about numbers; we're not talking about buildings; 12 we're not talking about statistics; we're talking 13 about people. And these are guys that I've come to 14 know in a very short period of time. I've sat down and I had Bible study with them; I've taken them on 15 job searches. I've taken one man, Maurice back 16 You know, you talk about rejection. 17 there.

At least three or four times I've taken them to places to try to get his medical insurance and things like this here. And every time he's lied to and rejected and saying he's going to get it later. And now we're sitting here ready to reject him again, but we're expecting him to turn out and be a good productive man in society.

25

This is the time when we could reach out

from our hearts and begin to pour into people and 1 2 help them and show them that we're here for them to 3 back them. I understand that we got to take care of our property and our homes. But guess what, you're 4 5 going to be gone and somebody else is going to be live in your home one day. But it's what we do for 6 people today that live on for time and eternity. 7 8 What are we doing to try to help these men? I feel as though that should consider a pass on this 9 because these men are working together. And I'll 10 11 finish with this and I said it at the meeting last week. 12 13 I feel as though God has given us a 14 problem to solve. And if we're looking to him and he can't give us the answer on how to solve it but we're 15 16 not going to solve it fighting each other. We need to come together and solve this problem. Thank you 17 for your time. 18 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 19 20 hand, please. 21 22 CHRISTOPHER COLLINS, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 23 24 follows: 25

MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name
 and address for the record.

MR. COLLINS: Christopher Collins, 1454 Princess Avenue. Let me also state that although I'm not here in my official capacity as a council person, I am a member of a governing body.

First let say that we know the history of 7 8 the work that Pastor Amir Khan has been doing in the City of Camden for many decades. And as a resident 9 of the City of Camden, as a member of the clergy in 10 11 the City of Camden, I've known Pastor Khan for many 12 years. And then many years with all his endeavors 13 that he's done and he's done a lot of them. I have 14 not supported him on everything that he's done. But 15 on this situation, I do offer my support.

And let me say, I'm very familiar with 16 the program of what we saw today. And there have 17 been times that in my official capacity, that we had 18 to rely on Pastor Khan where I have referred people 19 20 to his program just to try to help our homeless 21 community that's on Atlantic Avenue. There's times 22 that I've had meetings with Captain Coley and Captain 23 Kersey and the Joseph House to try to figure out what we can do to help some of these situations. 24 25 As it was earlier, I am not just a

Parkside resident, but I don't know what it's like 1 2 not to live next to a boarding house. When we moved to Parkside in 1975 to 1454 Princess Avenue, if you 3 walk out my back door, we have a fence and then you 4 5 had Ms. Nancy with what some called a mansion on Kenwood. As growing up I used to call it the old 6 folks home. Right? So for 50 years, I have lived 7 8 next to this property. And I say that because I think that tonight what is concerning the residents 9 of Parkside is the word "shelter, the word shelter." 10 11 Now, for me growing up next to a boarding house where 12 there was no supervision, we never had any incidents 13 in our community. We played in the community. There 14 were kids that were grandkids to the person that ran 15 the boarding house.

As kids we went in the boarding house so 16 we never had any issues. And I say that because in 17 my opinion, there should be no fear living in our 18 neighborhood because this man wants to run his 19 programs out of this facility. I grew up in that 20 21 facility. His father, Dr. Khan, had been my doctor 22 since I was seven years old until the time of his passing. His mission outside of being a doctor, he 23 was a community guy. When I coached Little League, 24 25 kids that did not have money for physicals or parents that couldn't wait three months to get a physical,
 Dr. Khan would allow me to bring a few kids every
 week and he would do it for free.

So I still live at 1454 Princess Avenue; 4 5 two blocks away from the facility that we're questioning tonight. I come home all different hours 6 of the night. I ride by there all the time. 7 I've 8 never seen any disorderly activity out of that spot. In fact, if he possibly didn't send out letters or 9 anything, most people would not have known he's here 10 11 or that they're there. And I just say when we look 12 at our community and as a leader of the Parkside 13 Community, I support PBCIP and their Neighborhood 14 Development Plan fully. However, they may not 15 necessarily speak for every resident in Parkside. 16 We have churches in Parkside that have their game plan what works for them. And we have businesses 17 that may have theirs. What he's doing in that 18 facility will not interfere with what Parkside wants 19 to do with the redevelopment with their Neighborhood 20 21 Plan.

So when I look at the program that he's doing, to me there's not a difference than what the churches are doing in their basement with AA meetings and NA meetings and feeding the homeless and doing

1 all the activities that churches are doing. And 2 based on what the attorney had spoke about with the 3 Municipal Land Use Law and whether it's a church, a 4 shelter or whatever, this man is in the guidelines of 5 the law. And in my professional career, we would go 6 by facts and the law.

So, again, I don't think there's anybody 7 8 in this room that could say that they live as close to a boarding house as I do. Because when I step in 9 my yard, I'm right there. And these individuals that 10 11 are there, the ones that are there now and they may 12 not be classified as a boarding house now, might be 13 privately owned but the residents are the same. 14 These are men and women that are in transition. Thev 15 go to work everyday. They live their lives. They're just in a situation temporarily. 16

So here we are tonight. We have a 17 decision to make. Again, as a resident of Parkside, 18 I have no fear by it being classifying as a shelter 19 20 living there. Because, again, in my opinion, they're 21 not stealing catalytic converters anymore on our 22 block. You know, the presences of more people. 23 Every now and then I might see two or three people go in the facility. But for me, I'm in support of what 24 25 this man is doing. And I cannot and I will not

discriminate against individuals that may have a handicap or may be classified as disabled. And as the attorney spoke, with the Americans With Disability Act and the Religious Land Use Act, you know, we have a responsibility to take care of our own.

We always say, when we see the homeless 7 8 people in Camden, why don't they go back to their neighborhoods? I don't know what happened down 9 south. I do know that it can get pretty ugly down 10 11 there. But these are our people. These are our 12 nephews, our nieces, our brothers, our sisters that 13 we don't want in our house, but do we want to see 14 them on the street? That's my digressing. That's my 15 opinion. Thank you. 16 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right hand, please. 17

19 QUINN DEMENNA, having first been duly 20 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 21 follows: 22 ---23 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 24 and address for the record. 25 MR. DEMENNA: My name is Quinn Demenna,

576 Benson Steeet, Camden.

1

2	I'd like to begin by saying that I really
3	appreciate the work of mission-driven organizations.
4	I don't know Pastor Khan. By the way, that is a
5	tough act to follow. But I appreciate the work.
6	There is epidemic in this country with addiction.
7	I am involved in mission-driven
8	organizations. I'm an architect. I do design work
9	for organizations similarly. I was part of the team
10	that did the ARS Building out in Cherry Hill. I'm
11	also a member of the Residential Guidelines
12	Institute. And they are the ones with references
13	that the State of New Jersey DCA will follow those
14	guidelines. I've spent hours, hundreds of hours. I
15	was on it on 2018, 2022 and I'm on the 2026. And the
16	intensity of guidelines for addiction is in this
17	past. It's indictive of what's going on in this
18	country. And where it's going on in this country is
19	in urban areas. That's where you see the majority of
20	it.
21	And with my appreciation, there's also my
22	sensitivities. I live on a street. There are two
23	group homes at either end of the street that I live
24	on, Benson Street. You all must know the
0-	

25 organization. There are organizations that may not

1 care and do the management skills that this
2 organization. I am not familiar and I don't know
3 Pastor Khan but I just know and I have seen a
4 difference in the types of organizations that are out
5 there.

Some organizations and many 6 7 mission-driven organizations -- I have a colleague of 8 mine and it's actually it's a client and we got to talking. And he's part of a ministry in Medford. 9 And you can see him on weekends coming here to Camden 10 11 to deliver food, clothing to the homeless. And I 12 questioned and I had a good conversation with him. 13 Why don't you do that in Medford? Similar to my 14 neighbors on my street, most of their residents and I 15 see the residents that live there or the addiction 16 that's on the street, it's the homeless. The majority as Pastor Khan mentioned, the majority of 17 18 them that aren't even from Camden.

So I have a question and I'd like to get 19 20 some clarification. We heard the planner talk about 21 the negative impacts and the beneficial use of what 22 this proposal is about. And that's the criteria which we're going to judge offering a variance. 23 24 So my question is, is the beneficial use to Camden 25 I'm not a lawyer. I'm an architect. residents? So

I'd like to know that if beneficial use has to be to 1 2 the municipality which means to me that the eight people that will be here, are from Camden. 3 I'd like to see that assurance to know that there's equity 4 5 with the City of Camden and the surrounding municipalities. Thank you. 6 MR. EINGORN: Inherently beneficial is a 7 legal term used. It's a term of art that describes 8 9 certain uses. It has nothing to do exactly with a certain community but with certain uses throughout 10 11 the State Of New Jersey. So it's not exactly related 12 to people being from a certain municipality but more, does this use qualify as inherently beneficial 13 14 globally, whether that be a church, whether --15 MR. DEMENNA: But to who? MR. EINGORN: Under state law. 16 It's a term of art. 17

MR. DEMENNA: Who gets the benefit of 18 19 that use? 20 MR. EINGORN: I hear what you're saying. 21 MR. DEMENNA: Isn't it the municipality? 22 MR. EINGORN: It's like any other definition, right, you define a word. Inherently 23 24 beneficial describes a certain group of uses such as 25 churches and hospitals and other public buildings,

1 things like that nature: It's not, who is 2 benefiting. It's these uses are quote inherently beneficial. 3 4 MR. DEMANNA: So there's no guarantee, no 5 assurance that the eight men will be from Camden here? 6 MR. EINGORN: We can ask Pastor Khan if 7 8 the men in the home right now are from Camden. But 9 there's no guarantee that they're going to be from Camden. That is not how inherently beneficial use 10 11 works. 12 MR. DEMENNA: Thank you for that clarification. 13 14 MR. EINGORN: Yes, sir. Thank you for 15 coming. 16 Would you raise your right hand. 17 ROBIN JEFFERSON, having first been duly 18 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 19 follows: 20 21 22 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record 23 24 MS. JEFFERSON: Robin Jefferson, 1220 25 Empire Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08103.

I'm not a good speaker but I'll do my 1 2 best. I live in Camden; born and raised all my life. And I see what's going on. I know addiction. 3 Μv problem with this situation is, it's in my 4 5 neighborhood. And it came by way of a letter with just like words, a shelter is coming to Parkside. 6 7 And so I had a whole lot of questions, you know. I work in addictions; I work in mental 8 health. Ms. Nancy's House, I've placed clients in 9 her house. She has a mental health boarding home. 10 That's what that is on Kenwood Avenue. So I know the 11 12 city. So my questions were -- I had a lot of stuff 13 but more than anything like, why did we have to find 14 out in a letter? Because Parkside business opens the door to everybody in Parkside. 15 16 MR. EINGORN: I'm sorry, ma'am. You need to address the Board. 17 MS. JEFFERSON: So Parkside opens the 18 door to everybody in Parkside. So when I got the 19 letter, I was like, where did it come from? But then 20 I found out he was there the whole time with the 21 22 house with eight people or however many, before they was living there free and then all of a sudden it 23 24 changed over and now he wants a shelter now in there. 25 My thing is, I help people. I work at

Ancora Psychiatric Hospital. I have people committed 1 2 for mental health; heinous crimes. And I go there in loving being there, everybody, anybody. So that's 3 not our issue. That's not Parkside's issue. We're 4 5 loving. We want to raise our kids there. We want our men to not use drugs. We want them to get clean. 6 We want that. We just don't want no underhanded 7 8 just, you know, it's just a free house for people who need help. But now it's about this grant that is up 9 for -- there's some money involved. And now it's all 10 11 lawyers and people in front of here. That was my thing. And then because it's like that, it's like 12 13 the guys.

14 I appreciate the fact that men are 15 getting clean. I hate seeing -- I go to the park downtown and there's addicts in all cracks and 16 crevices and cracks. It's not the way it was when I 17 used to go downtown to the park. It's different. 18 Ι see it. I want that to end. I want people to get 19 20 clean. I want that more than anything. Because it's scary. It's scary to be out with addicts all over 21 22 the place bent over. I got grandkids and stuff. I don't want to see that. I welcome substance abuse 23 programs. Not like that, though. Not underhanded 24 25 just coming into the community after it has already

been there. It's been there for months. Now all of a sudden it's like: I have the right to be here and this is, you know, how; we're not causing harm; and this is what... That's not cool.

5 I welcome recovery in our community but done in a way that is welcoming to us. Come to 6 7 Parkside. Talk to us. The program Parkside Business 8 Incorporated, they hire people from the community to clean the community; to support each other in the 9 community. It's not no secret organization. 10 It's 11 open. You know about what they do there. Right? So 12 nobody is saying: No, we don't want recovery; we 13 don't want our people to get clean and stay clean for 14 life; not no 18 months. Because it takes -- it's a 15 life-long process; not a 18-month process. You could get clean and you can stay clean over time. Your 16 time. Not nobody else's time. That's not how 17 18 recovery is.

19 So I'm big on recovery. I'm big on, you 20 know, programs to help people. Just not done in a 21 way that is not on the up-and-up with the people 22 whose community you're putting it in. It would have 23 been cool. We wouldn't have had no problem. Because 24 even last month when we was here we asked him, bring 25 the people to our -- we had a business meeting.

We had like an open meeting. There was a 1 2 bunch of people there. We asked Pastor Khan to bring 3 his stuff to us and let's talk about it openly in Parkside, but they didn't show up. They didn't show 4 5 up. But we're here and everybody is, you know, deep with present, right, God this. I believe in God too. 6 I love God. And I know it's only by God's grace and 7 8 mercy that any of this happened. But don't do it in any old kind of way. That's all I'm saying. Do it 9 10 on the up and up. Because we're about helping each 11 other but not like that. That's all. 12 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have a question for 13 you. But listen, I'm asking you a question right 14 now. I'm listening to you; I feel you. But I want 15 to know if you hear yourself now. So are you saying now that you know, it's out in the open? You heard 16 all the other testimonies. Are you for it now? 17 18 MS. JEFFERSON: I'm for recovery. I'm for helping those eight guys. I'm for that openness. 19 I just don't believe --20 21 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Like how it was done? 22 MS. JEFFERSON: Right, not like that. 23 But I'm for it. Parkside has been helping. Don't 24 think we're not. 25 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. EINGORN: You've been sworn. 1 Just 2 say your name one more time. MS. GREENE: Sheliah Greene. 3 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. 4 5 MS. GREENE: There has been a lot said tonight and there's a lot more that's probably going 6 7 to be said and we have a lot of stuff to cover. 8 MR. EINGORN: It's getting late. 9 MS. GREENE: Yeah, it's a lot. 10 You heard things about the Neighborhood 11 Plan for Parkside and all the things that happened 12 with that. I was the organizer. I walked the 13 streets. I knocked on the doors. I sent out the 14 emails; I sent out the text messages; I made the 15 phone calls with the team of people that I put together that was in Parkside. It's the first time 16 I've ever done this. I've never done it before. 17 18 My background comes from living in Camden since I was ten years old growing up around here; 19 moving in and out back and forth between being in the 20 21 military and out of military. And also served in the 2.2 United States Senate for 18 years. And the United 23 States Senate, what we know is, who needs money; how 24 they get their money; and why they get their money. 25 It's called appropriations. We don't do that

1 anymore.

2	But the thing is that when the Bush
3	Administration became part of the government and
4	became the president, the faith-based initiatives
5	started up there. A lot of money started being
6	poured into these pools so that they can actually
7	have money for the houses of worship so they can do
8	things such this. The thing that I have a problem
9	with out of all of the things that have been said
10	today, is the fact that there's a decency and order
11	in everything that we do. You have to do the things
12	the way it's suppose to.

13 As a former person that worked here in this hall and building, and I wrote it down so I 14 15 would remember it. The thing that you did was, you 16 would get your application; you would go to zoning; 17 zoning approved you; you go to building bureau; you 18 go to building bureau; building bureau inspects your 19 property; your property passes; you get a CO. Just 20 that simple.

Now, Pastor Kahn is a native of Parkside. His father, my former doctor as well, did everything in decency and order from what I remember. This thing that has been done is out of order. And this is the reason why Parkside is saying what we're 1 saying. Not everybody is against it. I have family 2 that have been incarcerated; still incarcerated right 3 at this very second. I deal with that every single 4 day of my life. I have people who have just come out 5 of incarceration who have now are trying to get 6 themselves together.

And this program is the type of program 7 8 that every person would has been incarcerated needs, cause it's something that is going to benefit them 9 because they have somebody to walk them through the 10 11 process. But without being walked through the 12 process, you don't know what you're doing. And if 13 any of what is going on tonight is showing them that 14 when you do things out of order, that's basically all 15 alleviating and eliminating what it is that was 16 suppose to be put there, to be a positive. It's not negative in its own right. 17

18 It wasn't easy getting 900 people to 19 participate and understand what it meant to have a Neighborhood Plan. It wasn't easy to get them 20 understand that; to walk from door-to-door-to-door 21 22 knocking on peoples' houses and doors at 100-degree weather and asking them, did they want to 23 24 participate; did they want to know. PBCIP holds 25 meetings and last year we held meetings every month. I If there was anyone that wanted to be a part of our meeting of which I host, they were allowed to come to these meetings.

If Pastor Khan needed us to know early 4 5 when he first had this problem, all he had to do was come and let us know. He knows our community. 6 He knows what we do. He's always in the park. 7 He's 8 always doing stuff. We see him all the time. But we just don't know why this part didn't happen. 9 I'm trying to keep my thoughts together. 10 11 I was taught that we're to do undo others as we would want to have it done undo to us. And what we want 12 13 is, these young men to thrive. We want them to grow. 14 I don't want to see them out in the cold. 15 I don't want to see none of that. I go to Joseph House with my cousin and we serve the homeless 16 because it's the right thing to do. Because we are 17 just on step away from possibly being them. 18 Ιt

19 doesn't take very much anymore.

Jobs are just what they are until you don't have. Coated sugar is that your job can be gone tomorrow. You got up go to work and it's not there. So we're going through all of these changes right now and making all of these statements and everything about something. The only problem in this whole thing is, it's out of order. It should have come to you first. It should have been approved the right way. It should have been brought to the community that it was going to be in. And then we would not be sitting here taking up your time, our time, his time and everything else.

I'm concerned about the App because it 7 8 says shelter. And shelter means just what that I looked it up while I was sitting there and 9 says. I'm just looking it up. What does shelter mean like 10 11 overall? But when you're looking at a shelter, it's just what it is. Now, whether talking you're about 12 13 six months, 12 months or 18 months, it's still a 14 matter of people having to be governed in a situation where they have to be overseen. 15

16 These are grown men. These are not children. They want what they want the way they want 17 It's going to be girlfriends. It's going to be 18 it. all kinds of stuff. Joseph House taught me a lot. 19 They told me a lot of what you're going to possibly 20 go through in this short amount of time. We don't 21 22 know what the future holds. We don't have no idea what's coming. All we know is that this particular 23 24 application needs to be in the order that it's 25 suppose to be with a time limit.

All this Sunset and grandfathering and 1 2 all this kind of stuff, it has to have a start and a Because in order for it to work, that's the 3 finish. way it's got to work. He's going to go back to 4 5 Millville in due time if everything works out for him. But in the meantime, we have to deal with this, 6 our police force, our fire department, our EMT's, all 7 8 of them. All of that is going to be a part of this if this is approved. So what we need to do is to 9 look at, did we follow the rule? That's what your 10 11 job is. Was the rule followed? Did he come to you 12 and get this done before this happened? Because if 13 he did, then this wouldn't have happened. Just like when we had our meeting on Monday, we asked that 14 15 question. If this had been approved in November, 16 would the meeting have happened on Monday?

So we just have to do better in making 17 sure that we do things in decency and order. 18 We have to respect the rules. We have to respect the laws 19 that's already here. And the respect the jobs that 20 21 you guys hold; that you have to sit here and decide 22 how this is going to go one way or the other and 23 you're going to go by the law. There's nothing else 24 that you can't do. So I thank you for your time. 25 MR. EINGORN: Thank you.

Would you raise your right hand, please. 1 2 NATE PEOPLES, having first been duly 3 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 4 5 follows: 6 7 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 8 9 MR. PEOPLES: Nate Peoples, 321 Cedar 10 Street, Camden, New Jersey. I've been a resident of Camden all my 11 life. And I've been on both sides of the fence. 12 In 13 the 80's I was part of the problem. And I'm watching 14 family go through it. I've watched friends of mine 15 go through it. I even went through it. And from that time I was like, I got to give back. I love 16 Camden. I'm going to leave with nothing. Like my 17 grandmom. You know what I mean? And she talked 18 about order but what's the order that you take when 19 you try to save lives. What's the order? 20 That was 21 her main priority. It wasn't, oh, we're trying to 22 intrude on Parkside. It was, we got to save these brothers. We're in a situation now. They need our 23 help now. It was no order cause our main priority, 24 25 there ain't no alternative motive or intention. Our

1 intention was to try to save people. You know what I 2 mean? Cause in saving them I'm saving myself. And 3 that's the part that I teach each one of them.

We do outreach twice a week to serve 4 5 people. Cause I try to introduce them to something that's greater inside of them then where people judge 6 them as. All these preexisting notions of who we are 7 8 and what we're doing. And that's all they had to do was come ask us. Like I'm a baby in this. I don't 9 know the logistics of anything. I just know I love 10 11 my people in Camden and I'd do anything to try to help save souls. I wish somebody was there for my 12 cousin. 13 I wish somebody was there for my dad and my 14 uncle. I wish there was programs like this a long 15 time ago then maybe I wouldn't want them to have the trauma I went through. 16

But see as men, we don't do trauma and 17 18 it's ignored. We had nobody looking at us saying, yo brothers, are you all right? Do you need a helping 19 20 hand? You get ignored. Just because you ignored a 21 problem doesn't mean the problem don't exist. You 22 can take us away from Parkside or wherever. That 23 problem was preexisting since then. And I guarantee you, any one of my men or any one of my brothers from 24 25 the house, they would help you. They'd jump over ten

people to help you before they take a step to harm 1 2 you. Because that's the love we instill in them. That's the love we put back into the community. 3 Because you got to understand like what 4 we going through at the meeting last week. 5 We was called rapists; we was called thieves; scared to walk 6 up the street. We're not responsible for none of 7 8 that. Because I guarantee you, it was none of them. It's like we get pre-judged. And that sends us 9 further into the streets. It makes us harder to 10 11 save. Our intention wasn't nothing but okay, let's 12 grab these brothers and save them. That's all we 13 came here with. And it made me proud because we're 14 back in Camden where I'm from. And now the people 15 that look at me like, yo, you was part of the problem. And then you out here. 16

17 I've never been so proud or more proud of myself then working with Pastor Khan. Like before 18 all this, the grants and all this, I was out there 19 20 volunteering for seven years feeding the homeless; 21 doing anything I can to try to be a benefit to my 22 city. That's it. And all the opposition, we ain't 23 doing it the right way. What was the right way to try to save a life? But that's all we was concerned. 24 25 That's all I'm concerned about. These brothers need

help. When I needed help, everybody turned their back on me. And I was on the street. Like nobody no care and that put me in the worse space. Like sometimes we just need to be seen. Sometimes we need to be cared for. Sometimes we need, yo bro, I'm here; I love you; what can I help you with? A lot of these brothers are real resilient.

If you look at most addicts, they'd do 8 anything they can to get the drug. What if you just 9 reverse that mindset to something positive, they had 10 that same resilience and I see it. These brothers 11 12 work hard; Bible study three times a week; outreach 13 two times a week; computer literacy program. Because 14 they want to better their lives. Because it's just 15 not about them. Like you said -- like they said, each one of them, their addiction affected ten people 16 that they love. And they family and they want to 17 make that better. And that's the greatest strength 18 you can have when you have a purpose outside yourself 19 greater than yourself. And that's my purpose. 20 This 21 ain't for me. This is for them, because by helping 22 them. I'm creating a better me. And I'm being a better dad to my children. I'm being a better 23 24 husband to my girl. I'm being a better citizen to 25 Camden because I'm learning what love is; when people pay you attention and act like they care.

1

2 What are you going to get when people turn their backs and act like they don't care and 3 like you're a problem because you didn't follow a 4 certain rule that we didn't know about? I didn't 5 know about. My intention was, let me help this 6 brother. And I do it. If I see a person crying up 7 8 the street, I would stop and say, hey, are you all right? Do you need some help? Are you hungry or 9 something? And so will my brothers because that's 10 11 the heart they got. That's why they do it. There's no other intention or no, no money. It has nothing 12 13 to do with that.

14 It's about love and sharing the love for 15 our brothers. We ain't need to cause no disruption in your organization or the Parkside Coalition or 16 whatever it's called. That's the building that was 17 available. And no brothers need saving like that so 18 we took advantage of it. Just know we try to keep 19 the place clean. Like I said, if anybody need any 20 21 help in the community doing, anything, knock on the 22 door. We got prejudged before anybody even spoke It's all these scenarios and ideas of why 23 with us. 24 we here. But that's all fear-based in your mind. You 25 can't make a assumption unless somebody realized the

1 facts.

2	And it's kind of disheartening to them
3	and I'm glad they strong enough where it don't set
4	them back when you're trying your best to do the best
5	you can to better your life would be the best version
6	of yourself. And you still got people that don't
7	even know you shunning you like, you're the cause,
8	you're the reason. That's hard to get over with.
9	You know what I mean? Just show each other love,
10	man. We all love Camden. Let's build it together.
11	But regardless of anything, problems still exists
12	whether we're on Princess Avenue or not. It's still
13	people on the corner; it's still people need help;
14	it's still men and women still need help. And it's
15	going to be people that's still going to be hungry.
16	That's not going away whether we need it or not.
17	And I love my city and I love my city
18	because when I was growing up, my whole block looked
19	out for each other. It ain't you don't belong here.
20	Are you hungry? Are you all right? That's how I
21	grew up. It was no separation whether you're from
22	Parkside, Fairview, Downtown, North Camden. We
23	Camdenites. We look out for each other. And that's
24	what we're suppose to do. That's what God wants us

25 to do. What would God do? Worrying about an order?

All right. We messed up. Okay. Now we're trying to
 correct it. Now how long are you going to punish us
 for that? You don't know. We try to move on.

We kind of show you that we got proof 4 5 that this working. We're saving lives. By saving lives, we're becoming better people. They become a 6 better people. And I tell them to be a king, you got 7 8 to be a better servant and what's what we do. We serve the community. They're out there every week 9 10 with me serving the community. Whether they from 11 Camden or not, they're serving the community helping 12 people.

13 And when they get done with us, guess 14 what, they go around still serving the community. 15 Hopefully, they can get other people to serve the community and bring more abroad. That's how you 16 start one person at a time. But how much can we take 17 when every time we try to rise a little bit thinking 18 we're doing something right, we get punched in the 19 back of our head like, oh, you all are doing it 20 21 wrong. I've done it the wrong way. This ain't the 22 wrong way. We're out here saving lives. 23 So I just want to say, see it past all 24 the logistics. We're going to get back in order.

25 But look at the work we're doing. Judge us for that.

Not by hearsay or something theory-based idea in your 1 2 head. Cause that's not who we are. You want the facts? You can come to the house any day. I'm there 3 every day; ask us; take a tour. I'll cook you 4 5 breakfast cause I'm a good cook. You know what I mean? We can talk. We're friendly people. We show 6 I love Camden and I love the Camdenites. 7 love. 8 That's the one that's with us and ones that's against They're still part of the community. 9 us.

So whether we're messin' with your idea 10 11 what your block is suppose to be or not, we're still 12 the community. Just because you choose to ignore 13 us, that don't mean that we're not there. These 14 elements are still part of the community that needs 15 to be fixed and we out there snatching up men. I'11 teach you something. We can't save everybody but we 16 can save some of you. And that some people can save 17 more people. And that's how -- it's like a fact. 18 And that's how our progress starts. 19

Now, I see Brother Nate still out there doing stuff. You inspire me to go out there and help. And that's all we really want. We just want to help people. We want to better their lives to bring it to the version of themselves. Our position, it makes you kind wondering the humanity of people.

How can you be against this when it's obvious it's a 1 2 good thing. It benefits a lot of people and it 3 benefits your community whether you want to see it or That's all I got to say. 4 not. 5 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. I hate to do this to you. I know you're 6 7 the next speaker up and there's only three left. But 8 the Board has got to take a break. We've been at it for three hours. So we got to take a bathroom break. 9 The Board should not conduct any discussions that are 10 11 not on the record related to the application, whether 12 with each other or with the people in this room of 13 the public or the applicant. Okay? It's a bathroom That's it. That's for the record. 14 break. Be back 15 at about five of. 16 (Off the record at 8:47 p.m.) 17 18 (Back on the record at 9:03 p.m.) 19 20 CHAIRMAN HANCE: We can only take two 21 more people because we have about ten more cases to 22 go and this case has taken almost three hours. When 23 we took the break it was three people here. 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But I was sitting 25 down cause of my back. I've been standing all night

now and I was behind this line. 1 2 MR. LARIO: Mr. Chairman, if I could. I think one way. I hate for the people here that want 3 to talk wouldn't be given the ability. Maybe an 4 5 instruction such as any repetitious comments that are going over the same things that were said or just try 6 to be brief. I hate for the people that want to 7 8 speak wouldn't be given the opportunity. So that's my only concern. I think an instruction, again, to 9 10 maybe just not repeat some of the same concerns, 11 potentially could address that problem. 12 REVEREND MARTINEZ: I don't feel good so 13 hate to go. 14 MR. EINGORN: Next please. Try to keep 15 it brief. Would you raise your right hand, please. CHAIRMAN HANCE: We appreciate it. 16 17 BALEEIA BAKER, having first been duly 18 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 19 follows: 20 21 22 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 23 MS. BAKER: Baleeia Baker, 1535 Greenwood 24 25 Avenue, Camden. I've been a resident of Camden for

34 years. My husband was born and raised here and 1 2 I chose to stay because I love my community. My husband supported men in every way. He ran a food 3 program; served the community to the point that he 4 5 got men's clothing and things. He made sure that the men directly got them; that the women didn't pick 6 them up. He was about helping men. And having 7 8 lived, he always said, if we ever got a large sum of money, he would start a men's shelter. 9

10 So there is support for a men's shelter. 11 However, as I have -- I was at the meeting on Monday 12 when I heard about it. And I've known Pastor Khan 13 since my 20's, his family. And what he does, he does 14 great things in the community. We should be giving 15 to our community. We should be helping our fellow That's what we are birthed to do. It has been 16 man. mentioned about faith here. And in faith it also 17 says, when you know what is right to do and don't do 18 it, it's a sin. And there are things that weren't 19 20 done right so, of course, it is a sin.

21 When I received a copy of the report of 22 Maurice River, I was shocked, disappointed and hurt 23 with all of it because it was represented in a 24 different way. If things were presented as it was 25 given on Saturday that it was a shelter for these men

and everything was cut and dry, I'd be the first one 1 2 willing to help support, cook, whatever they needed. 3 But now I do have more questions than answers. There were 20 men and in this report that were in Maurice 4 5 River. Now there's eight here. My question is, what happened to the other 12? Why didn't all 20 of them 6 go together when they are there to support one 7 8 another?

9 Also at the meeting it was presented that 10 it would be for maybe six months; maybe a year; a 11 temporary situation to the issue in Maurice Village. 12 But since we've been here tonight, it went from six months to 18 months. And when is the 18 months 13 14 beginning? From what I have also heard is, they have 15 been in the house since February. So does that 18 16 months begin from this February of the February they started on which means it would be six months from 17 this February? 18

19 It also said that this is a volunteer 20 program. They're not in prison. They can come and 21 go if they choose to. When I left the meeting that 22 Saturday, really wanting to support this, I had a 23 concern for also for the men. If they had been 24 rehabilitated from a drug habit, we still have some 25 issues in Parkside that I wouldn't want them to be

leaned back to going into that crawling down
 backwards.

So those are, you know, just some of my 3 Not against them as far as helping them. 4 concerns. 5 I'm for helping and doing good will wherever good will can be done. But there are some really serious 6 concerns that need to be hashed out. 7 So I can't 8 support it tonight. As much as, you know, I love Amir Khan, I think he does great work. I volunteer 9 all over. I don't tell anybody things I do because 10 11 our left hand is not suppose to tell a right hand 12 what's going on. The easiest thing to do is do what 13 is right. But we have to do it as Ms. Greene said in 14 decency and order. So that's where I stand. 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Thank you. 16 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right hand, please. 17 18 ANGELA RANDALL, having first been duly 19 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 20 follows: 21 22 23 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 24 and address for the record. 25 MS. RANDALL: Angela Randall, 16 Turn

About Lane, Sicklerville, New Jersey.

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2 Although I do not live in Camden City but born and raised. I remember my address until this 3 day, 1607 Park Blvd. Forest Hill. Went to Hatch 4 5 literally. None of that is really questionable or anything else. I will tell you in regards to my 6 position of the work that I do states that I help 7 8 individuals with an Emergency Savings Match Program 9 because I want to encourage them to actually start a bank account. I will tell you that I'm a housing 10 11 counselor because I get numerous calls. And I would 12 actually state that I'm not only getting Camden City, 13 Camden County residents who are standing in need of 14 eviction prevention who are also standing in need of 15 imminent of homelessness who are already homeless.

16 I would also tell you that I have families who are actually homeless. I would also 17 tell you that I'm a pick coordinator. And what that 18 is, it's a homeless network, homeless planning 19 network coordinator who goes out annually on the 20 21 coldest night in January to assess individuals who 22 are unsheltered from homelessness. I would tell you 23 that on my committee meetings that I host monthly, I have stakeholders who are represented who come to 24 25 me and ask for support letters from DCA, Department

of Community of Affairs, Department of Human
 Services, Department of Child and Family Services, as
 well as Department of Corrections.

I would tell you that those support 4 5 letters are asked because it's a way of decency and order of representing the same. Like we stand behind 6 you in support of actually helping vulnerable 7 8 populations. I would definitely stand here to tell you that if I turned around and offered the eight 9 gentlemen or six that are here present, if I could 10 11 offer you a single-family home in renting in saying 12 like this would be something beneficial to you 13 because six months, 12 months post-graduating, 14 (inaudible) speaks to institutionalizing you again. 15 I would offer and say like, hey, if I had somewhere to place you independently for housing, would you 16 take it or would you consistently want to stay with 17 seven other males in a small square footage? 18

I would also tell you that -- I would like to tell you that Pastor Amir Khan does a wonderful job in regards to all the work that he's been doing within the community that has been recorded. He has came and sat in on my committee meetings. We didn't offer a support letter. One wasn't asked. I would state to you that there are 1 some questions unanswered. What determines when a 2 person is ready for independent housing? If housing 3 was available for them within other programs with 4 options for New Beginnings to continue to provide 5 services, is that an issue or not?

I would ask you, if one or two residents 6 moved on or graduate out of the program, will new 7 8 graduates be accepted cause the quorum is eight? I would also ask, what are the statistics for men 9 living within the square footage that provides or 10 11 shows a success rate? I would also ask you that upon discharge, what are the provided aftercare services 12 13 that are provided? I would ask that, is there any 14 family reunification provided because we actually 15 understand that, yes, broken homes was done, correct?

I would ask, is there any proposed plan 16 to actually reunite the family? Because I could tell 17 you in a test that I came here and actually asked for 18 a letter of support from the City Council by way of 19 being a director of homeless services helping youth 20 21 and young adults who are actually in homelessness. 22 I will tell you that some of those children may have not been children of these individuals but they were 23 24 children of incarcerated families.

25

I would tell you that they are children

of those who were addicted. I would tell you that 1 2 there were children who were in a foster homes. Ι would tell you that they are in need of housing just 3 as deserving as anyone else. I would stand here and 4 5 actually ask you some questions like, okay, so if we're not suppose to be talking about structure of 6 land taxes and so on and so forth, I would then ask 7 8 you then, why are you paying these taxes? Why does that value matter? If decency and order is to be 9 10 pushed to the side then I would ask you, then why are 11 we here?

12 I would also ask you several questions 13 again. I'm not posing questions to anyone else. I'm 14 just asking you in regards to your position and your 15 rule. There are residents who not only actually have some challenges and some circumstances that they went 16 through, but they overcome those certain 17 circumstances to be able to actually rent a home, 18 purchase a home, develop a business. For some odd 19 20 reason, the government, the law says that we have to 21 do things. And, I guess, in your position, you have 22 to actually vote on some of these things. And I know 23 it's an uncomfortable position for you. However, I don't want you to think that we're actually voting on 24 25 the whole concept of, do we care for a person or do

we not care for a person? I don't get the right to 1 2 actually say what is and what's not. I'm just asking you, are there questions 3 that are not answered and is that support to align 4 5 with what you've already stated that one would need to do? If I had a house -- If I purchased a house, 6 do I have to come to you and to say that I would like 7 to actually, I don't know, just turn it into a strip 8 joint; have a strip bar; have a Speakeasy? There's 9 some rules and there's some decency in order I do 10 11 not know the rights or wrongs of it. And I do not live here now in the City of Camden. However, again, 12 13 with my work space, I do a lot of city residents. Ι 14 do a lot of work with the City of Camden, the Mayor's 15 Office. I do a lot of work with the county. I do a lot of work that speaks to, it's 16 not just eight individuals whose lives are impacted 17 here today. There's numerous individuals who stand 18 in need, not only from Camden City but Cumberland 19 20 County, Philadelphia as well. I'm not sure who gets 21 the right to actually decide and say who is right or 22 who is wrong. You guys have a lot on your plate.

The only thing I'm asking you is, please make certain that you're making the right decision as it relates to decency, order, land uses, communities,

and whatever your role is. If there's some questions 1 2 in here; if it helps you, I have more. But I don't want to be in a time constraint because there's been 3 100 people already speaking. So that's it. That's 4 5 all. I thank you for your time. I ask you to think in regards to what you're doing. 6 7 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. 8 Would you raise your right hand, please. 9 CASSANDRA GRAVES, having first been duly 10 11 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 12 13 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 14 15 and address for the record, please. 16 MS. GRAVES: My name is Cassandra Graves. I live at 221 N. 37th Street, Camden, New Jersey. 17 As I listened to this whole group of 18 people speaking today, I noted a couple of things. 19 One, Parkside said they had 900 families. 20 Nine 21 hundred against eight. Think about that. Nine 22 hundred against eight people who want to renew their Then I also listened and I heard that there 23 lives. were ordinances that were made. But one thing I 24 25 asked is that when people do not do exactly what the

1 ordinance says adverse, should we forgive? How many 2 mistakes have you made that people hadn't forgiven 3 you for?

How many times are we suppose to forgive? 4 5 Seventy-seven times seven. The people in the Parkside community say they are a family. How many 6 times do they not forgive people that come in their 7 8 community? How many times? Think about it. Your job is to decide whether or not eight people get to a 9 chance to do it over again. Would one of those 10 11 people one day be your child? Would you want 12 forgiveness? You would want that for your child. 13 You would want someone to say, I love you enough and 14 I am going to say, we're going bypass this because 15 you made a mistake. And certainly that may be a big 16 mistake.

But how many of your children have made 17 big mistakes? And you welcome them back into your 18 So I'm saying to Parkside, forgive. That's 19 homes. what God would want you to do. Start all over 20 21 again. That's what he tells people to do. If you 22 are Christians and you all I believe were saying, you are Christians, then you feel that God made 23 24 provisions for those who made mistakes. If murderers 25 he made provisions for. He gave them a place of

1 refuge to hide from so that the peoples that were 2 after them could not murder them. Would we be 3 murdering these eight men out of 900 so that they 4 could not start their lives again? We all live in 5 comfortable homes.

You asked the question. Why were they 6 7 not in Millville? Well, I'm going to tell you my 8 opinion. I'm black. I live in Camden. Millville is white. Not only are they white, they're rich. 9 They don't want no black people that are poor to come into 10 11 their community. Why in Camden when our economy is 12 low that we can't accept eight people? Eight people 13 that will go out, get a job, and bring Camden up, and 14 perhaps buy a house next to you. Why? I leave it up 15 to y'all to decide because I don't have the right. God didn't give me the privilege to sit on your 16 Board. But I'm telling you, what we ought to do is 17 18 come together. We are suppose to be family. Α shelter is a place where people come to recover. 19 Help people recover. Camden has grown since I've 20 21 been here. I see it developing all over. And 22 they're making provisions. Even Parkside is making 23 provisions for those people that need help. Don't 24 deny these eight out of 900. 25 MR. EINGORN: Thank you.

Would you raise your right hand, please. 1 2 TIARE JUNE CORSEY BURT, having first been 3 duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 4 5 follows: 6 7 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 8 9 MS. BURT: My name is Tiare June Corsey Burt. I live at 1423 Kaighn Avenue. 10 I have 19 years of service working with 11 12 children every day here in the City of Camden. Poppy 13 Sharp was my first boss. I lost a son in 2008 in 14 East Camden. I'm a William; I'm a Carpenter; I'm an 15 Ingram; I'm a Primose; I'm Bennett. That's my family. Now, I just took in a Vietnam Marine because 16 he got washed down on Admiral Wilson Blvd. I feed 17 the homeless. We have a food ministry at 1435 Kaighn 18 Avenue. We feed and pass out food on Saturdays at 19 20 1:30 and Sundays at 11:30. 21 Now, I was at the meeting Monday. And 22 these are some strong, young black men. Because they was looked at and ridiculed, I couldn't believe it. 23 24 My son got shot 16 times in the back. Just like 25 Malcolm X. So I said, it wasn't a murder. It was an 1 assignation. And in this City, I've worked the 2 election; I've worked for unemployment. And when 3 they moved us to Woodcrest, they had to get a shuttle 4 bus because the caucasian people were scared because 5 all the black people was coming into Cherry Hill for 6 probation. Scared.

My thing is this. We have to help each 7 8 other. If we're going to hurt then we can't help I've worked with Pastor Khan. When his father 9 you. died, it was a whole block, the City of Camden owed 10 his father for being a doctor and Dr. Henderson; 11 12 Dr. Wrent(phonetic spelling) We as a people, we 13 don't have and I'm telling you this black people, we 14 don't have no country to go back to. I don't 15 celebrate Thanksgiving because they slaughtered the 16 Indians and then they worked the slaves. So we have to pay attention to what's going on. 17

When they shot my son 16 times, I didn't 18 have no reverend speaking at my son's funeral. 19 I'm a black panther. I'm an Ingraham; a 20 I spoke. 21 Primose. I work for PBUM with 19 years of service. 22 I fed people. I had a Speakeasy and fed people in Centerville so women wouldn't have to do a blow job. 23 I gave them one. You ain't got to do that. We don't 24 25 help each other. And you all got all these forms.

Where was they at when the people was sleeping on 1 2 Camden Trust and Camden Free Library? I have a park named after my uncle, Ralph Williams. People were 3 sleeping there. People were sleeping in the 4 5 transportation center. You shouldn't have to step over nobody. I'm a queen. First of all, I don't 6 need no man doin' nothin' for me or showing me where 7 8 your daddy is, okay, cause I can take care of myself.

I'm a survivor of breast cancer right 9 now. And the thing that makes me mad is, we sit up 10 11 here and say this. And we can't even come out and 12 vote. You can't even get out here and do anything 13 for your kids. My husband just passed, Thursday the 14 30th, 3 years. I sleep by myself; eat by myself; get 15 up by myself with the grace of God. But I'm going to say this, we as a people, we vote you in. 16 Think about it. You said these schools, these buildings, I 17 18 wanted to get PBUM. I wanted to get homes and land. You know what, can't do it. You all make up all 19 20 these rules but where is the rule when this says, 21 take care of your brothers. That's all I'm saying. 22 I'm tired. Pastor Khan, I wish you all the luck in the world. 23

24 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 25 hand, please.

1 2 ALEXIS ANDERSON, having first been duly affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 3 4 5 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 6 7 MS. ANDERSON: Alexis Anderson, 1546 8 Greenwood Avenue, Camden. 9 So first of all, I want to thank you all 10 for hearing me today. I want to thank everybody 11 here. To the gentleman that's part of this program, you guys are doing a commendable thing, let me tell 12 13 you that. Because guess what, we are all ministers 14 to God. We all have a ministry. What I'm about to 15 say is nothing personal because guess what, God handpicked every last one of us to do a certain job 16 to his and his alone, his glory. 17 This is not about -- I've heard people 18 get up here and say that you're saving lives. No, 19 20 you save nothing. God and God alone saves lives. He 21 saves whom he wants to save. And make no mistake when you talk about God, I am talking about the same 22 God that Abraham, Issac and Jacob served. 23 The same God that stood in that fire with three Hebrew boys 24 25 and he saved them. That same God that shut the mouth

of that lion when Daniel was in that lion's den. 1 2 Make no mistake, that's the God I serve. So I have been in service to this 3 community for years, well over 20 years. Make no 4 mistake about that. I have counseled kids here. 5 I have offered help. I have done some of these kids' 6 hair in my home and I probably shouldn't have because 7 8 in the times that we're living, that's not a good idea. But you know what, God put it on my heart to 9 do that. I've paid money out of my own pocket and 10 11 went without so the kids here can get the things that they want and need. So I'm going to tell you this. 12 13 I am a public servant, a paid public servant. 14 And based on the definition that Pastor 15 Khan and his attorney gave about being homeless, I'm a paid public servant who is homeless. But I get up 16 every day. I do my job. And I come home and do the 17 best that I can. I sit in the library sometimes over 18 there in Camden to do my work. So I'm telling you 19 gentlemen back here, no one is knocking you. 20 The 21 issue is, and I'll say this to you, Pastor Khan, you 22 say you're a man of faith, you a man of God. First Corinthians 1440 says, "But let all things be done 23 decently and in order." 24 25 Now, I just heard the gentleman back here

and I love your passion for it. We're talking about 1 2 decency and orderly MR. EINGORN: Ma'am, I'm sorry. We can't 3 be addressing other people in the public. You're 4 5 suppose to address the Board. MS. ANDERSON: I'm sorry. No. 6 Because I saw other people do it. I apologize. 7 So the 8 gentleman back here did say that, what about decency and order. Everything has a place. God sent it 9 forth for that reason. And I'll give you an 10 11 example. When the Apostle Peter cut off the Roman's 12 ear, what he was trying to do was prevent Jesus from 13 going to a death that he was suppose to go to so that he could save all of us. So although Peter was 14 15 passionate, he was wrong. And Jesus made that known. Same thing when they tried to get him to go down in 16 Jerusalem too early, because they wanted him to be 17 seen, he shut them down again. 18 So I get your passion but I have a 19 20 problem with the way this gentleman conducted himself 21 in my community. He said he went to the neighbors. 22 I have never met this man before in my life. I haven't gotten a note from him; not a letter; 23 24 nothing. I find his behavior to be atrocious and 25 inconsiderate. I know nothing about the people and

he was going do it anyway without permission which,
 again, it's just inappropriate.

The resolution for that is from Maurice 3 Township, that had nothing to do with -- this is not 4 5 a black or white issue. It's not that they didn't want black people in that community. And I am 6 requesting that you all read the entire resolution. 7 8 It is almost 41 pages. It's not a big read. So I'll give you some notes on numbers. Number 16: 9 Approximately 30 percent of the applicant do not 10 11 finish the program. So when he's saying that has a 12 90 percent success rate, a 90 percent success rate of This is under oath he testified. 13 what? It's 30 14 percent or 30 percent of applicants only finished 15 the program.

He did the same thing down in Maurice 16 Township. He started this program without their 17 permission. And when they found out -- what he's not 18 telling you is that on April 27 of 2023, they filed 19 an order to show cause. That is Number 32 in the 20 21 resolution. And, therefore, that's when he made the 22 decision to move those applicants. There was 20 23 there. He supposedly moved eight here. Where's the other 12 at? He had also made, he said, Number 48, 24 25 \$400,000 in improvements at that property and he

admitted on record he did it without seeking the
 required permits, which it appears that he's done the
 same thing at the property that his father owned.
 Again, without, seeking permits.

He also stated in Number 51 that he 5 thought he could piggyback on to the operations 6 of Bethany Church. Someone once told me that the 7 8 road to hell is paved on good intentions. Item Number 54 in the resolution, he agreed to relocate 9 said persons from Maurice Township. Make no mistake 10 11 it has Millville address, but it's Maurice Township. 12 And he only did so is because, again, they filed an 13 Order to Show Cause. He had no intentions of doing 14 the right thing until he got caught. I had an old 15 boss tell me one time, that it's easier to ask for forgiveness than permission. 16

Pastor Khan has proven that he lives by that motto. That's not okay. It's not acceptable. We live in a society that has rules and regulations they are there in place for a reason. And he apparently feels that he can usurp those rules and regulations when he feels like it.

Item Number 56 in the resolution from Maurice Township. There have been a number of 911 calls that was exhausting their resources. Now,

unfortunately, I was not able to get all the CAD 1 2 reports. This city is already down so many police 3 officers. We don't have those type of resources. And it appears that the staff that he does have are 4 not trained to know when to call -- when to use 5 emergency services and when not to use them. 6 That is concerning in an already fragile area in Parkside. 7

8 This past summer there had been a number 9 I'm going to tell you that my car was shootings. stolen. One of the reasons for my homelessness in 10 11 regards to how he defines it because I am 12 couch-surfing. Now it has cost me upwards of \$50,000 13 and counting because I still don't have my car Aback. 14 And that's because somebody selfishly stole my car so 15 when I went to get up to go to work, it was not 16 there. And, unfortunately, I did not have enough time to go get affidavits from the residents that 17 testified against Pastor Khan and his church for 18 having the program that they had there that they 19 should not have had there. 20

Item Number 95, he talks about they don't have to make payments. They make financial arrangements.

24 MR. LARIO: Mr. Chairman, and I hate to 25 do this because I know it has been a very long night

here. I think we're getting a little off from the 1 2 testimony --Excuse me, sir. This is MS. ANDERSON: 3 4 the thing. You don't live in Camden. I do. And 5 this my right. I pay my taxes and I can pay the bill. So you had your moment. You're not going to 6 steal my time. Because what's going to happen is, 7 8 I'm going to tell you this. If you can take --CHAIRMAN HANCE: You have to address us. 9 10 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you. 11 MR. EINGORN: Ma'am, the issue we're 12 running into is, we have seven other applicants. 13 MS. ANDERSON: I understand that, sir. 14 But this is the thing. Had Pastor Khan done this 15 correctly --MR. EINGORN: We agree. 16 MS. ANDERSON: -- this could have been a 17 whole day set to this. Because, again, he did not do 18 that. So this is why we're here right now. 19 20 MR. EINGORN: I know why we're here, 21 Ma'am. And I agree that Pastor Khan should have gone 22 to the planning office first. I think that's a known fact and the Board will acknowledge it; that the 23 general consensus and rule of law is, you're suppose 24 25 to go get your approvals first. Right?

MS. ANDERSON: Correct. 1 2 MR. EINGORN: We know that. And that's 3 been established and testified to by the public. And I think has taken quote unquote judicial notice 4 5 because we're a quasi judicial Board. MS. ANDERSON: And understand that, sir. 6 7 But this is the thing, I'm almost done. If you can 8 just bear with me. MR. EINGORN: Can you cut it down to like 9 a minute, minute and a half? 10 MS. ANDERSON: Give me -- let's try five 11 12 If you can negotiate it. minutes. 13 CHAIRMAN HANCE: We can't. Get to your 14 point because we've been here for three hours or more 15 and we have another seven cases to hear. MS. ANDERSON: And understand that. 16 CHAIRMAN HANCE: You'll be out of here 17 and we'll still be here. 18 MR. EINGORN: Give me one second. 19 20 Counsel, do you want to make an evidentiary 21 objection. 22 MR. LARIO: So it's just -- with 23 reference to this prior resolution, obviously this is not the matter before the Board. It was a type of 24 25 use; there were different experts; there was

different testimony. I'm concerned that by bringing this and trying to paint this applicant by what was done in Maurice River, Millville, it's a different application. Obviously, --

5 MS. ANDERSON: It's a different 6 application but the same attitude with the same 7 ubiquitous attitude.

8 MR. EINGORN: Our court reporter can't 9 take you both down at the same time. Please let 10 counsel finish and you'll get your time to finish.

11 MR. LARIO: So public comment, it should 12 be limited to the information and testimony that was 13 provided to this Board at this meeting. And we're 14 happy to answer or try to address any of those questions or concerns. But to use another 15 16 application in another municipality and try to bring that up now when it's clear, not applicable to the 17 testimony that was provided, that's where we draw the 18 objection to. 19

20 MR. EINGORN: Your objection is noted. I 21 do have read through a good portion of this 22 resolution. And I do think that the need for tonight 23 does arise from the denial of this, so it is somewhat 24 relevant to Alexis's point. Alexis, we hear you loud 25 and clear, but just running out of time.

MS. ANDERSON: So this is the thing. 1 2 Past history teaches that past behavior is a predictor of the future. So he's done this before. 3 He's going to continue to do this until somebody 4 5 stops him. Again, to the young men in the back, the eight, I'm going to call you guys the Camden Eight. 6 This is not against you. I support you getting the 7 8 help that you need. But the way it's done, no, I do not support this house here. 9

So these are the questions before you the 10 11 Board makes their decision, that I would like you to 12 all to ask. Ask yourselves and ask him. Did he 13 upgrade the septic tank? Is it good enough for eight 14 people? What other property? He said he's looked at 15 other properties for this program. Where is he 16 looked at? Can that be verified that he's done these things? What's the floor plan? What's the policy? 17 He told us who the staff were but what are their 18 credentials? Are they offered mental health 19 20 counseling?

What happens when the sun sets when this 18-months and Maurice River denies their application? Because if you read their final descent, it appears that that's not going to get approved but I'm not God so I can't tell the future.

What happens with that? He says he has security 1 cameras and that's nice. Who monitors those security 2 cameras because they would have to be monitored 3 24-hours a day. What credentials do they have to 4 5 monitor those security cameras? Also, all his supporters, none of them reside in Camden. What's 6 the curriculum that these gentlemen have? 7 What's 8 their daily plan everyday? He said, they have 9 financial planning and they're saving up for housing. Can he provide statements that show that they have 10 11 been successfully saving their money so they can move forward? 12

13 I've heard people get up here and say 14 he's a humble man. The definition of humility is 15 defined as modest or a low view of one's importance. 16 But it seems like he has exhaulted himself by doing what he did. Because actions does not align with 17 humility. Again, his actions align with the fact 18 19 that it's easier to ask for forgiveness than 20 permission. So I say to you gentlemen and ladies, I 21 leave you with this. Character is what you say and 22 do when nobody is looking. 23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll be very

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER. I'll be very
24 brief.
25 MR. EINGORN: Do you work -- are you part

of the --1 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I promise you, I'll be very brief. 3 MR. EINGORN: If counsel wants to call 4 5 you as a witness, that's one thing but you're really not a member of the public. You work for the 6 7 applicant. 8 CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's open to the 9 public. If you work for him that kind of excludes you. And like I told her, we have seven more cases 10 11 to go through. 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Someone else was here that spoke that --13 14 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Let us get through this 15 Let me close it to the public. case. MR. EINGORN: Yes. Closed to the 16 The application is closed to the public. 17 public. Counsel, do you want to give you closing 18 19 remarks? MR. LARIO: Yes, very briefly and, again, 20 21 I thank everyone for your patience here tonight. Ι 22 now this has been a very long night. Just a few items that I wanted to address based upon the public 23 comment. And, obviously, there was a lot of public 24 25 comment so I have strong feelings about this.

The first item is, is this question as to 1 2 a shelter license. And that shelter license, that term shelter is really being necessitated by the 3 state licensing for this site. The actual day-to-day 4 5 operation, how this site will be used, will match the testimony you heard tonight. There will be eight men 6 as part of this program. They will be there until 7 8 they are able to get their own independent housing. There will be a member of the staff on-site at all 9 times. Again, that's how it is functionally going to 10 11 be used. And we don't have a choice in changing Because in your resolution of approval, what's 12 that. 13 going to dictate how we utilize this site is going to 14 contain that exact type of language and we're going to be bound by that. 15

There's a question as to what this 16 changes in the future. What if what we are proposing 17 here tonight, down the road we want to change, we 18 want to go over the 18 months? Again, we're simply 19 without the ability to do that. If the resolution, 20 21 the state regulations, they're going to dictate 22 exactly how this type of facility is going to have to be operated. And that resolution can be used by both 23 the municipality and neighbors. I mean, if they were 24 25 to see something that is inconsistent with that

resolution, it's a zoning violation and we're 1 2 well-aware of that. But we are bound under the zoning laws to adhere to that. 3 I know there's a lot comments as to the 4 5 Redevelopment Plan. I would note that the Redevelopment Plan does not supersede the MLUL, 6 Municipal Land Use Law, and your Master Plan. 7 And 8 both of those talk about the types of inherently beneficial use, this type of beneficial use and why 9 10 this is so important to promote and the good that 11 this does. Now, there's analysis that this Board has 12 to do as part of that. And, again, our planner 13 provided that testimony that we'll be able to have 14 this inherently beneficial use without causing any

15 substantial detriment to the Neighborhood Plan.

And, I think, what's worth noting here 16 is, obviously, this is a situation where Pastor Khan 17 is intimately involved in this. And I think there 18 was a lot of comments about management. 19 And I think 20 that was a very good comment by a member of the 21 public who spoke about management. Because these 22 different facilities are obviously managed 23 differently. I think there is a unique circumstance 24 here where you have a member of this community who 25 has been involved in this community for so long.

I don't want to speak for Pastor Khan but 1 2 I have a feeling he would agree that if there was any issue with any of these neighbors as to the site, if 3 a call was made to him, he'd the first one to answer 4 5 it, and I'm confident in that. Obviously, we're looking at a 18-month window here. It's what we need 6 in order to provide for these men. Again, I thank 7 8 you very much for your time. If there's any additional questions for me or any member of the 9 applicant's team, Mr. Landgraf, Pastor Khan, we're 10 11 happy to answer them. Thank you. 12 MR. EINGORN: Thank you, Counsel. 13 Now is the Board's time to ask any 14 further questions, wrap up the last bit of 15 information you may need to make a decision and to 16 articulate that decision on the record. And then propose a motion whether or not to grant the 17 application which is for a use variance and a site 18 plan waiver related to the use of the property. 19 As you've heard, the testimony from --20 21 sorry -- legal argument from counsel and testimony 22 from the planner, the professional planner, this is an inherently beneficial use as defined by state 23 Whether or not you personally agree with the 24 law. 25 definition is not really relevant to the analysis.

It's a term of art which the Board is familiar with, 1 2 and which controls this application as it relates to the standard as articulated by Mr. Landgraf. 3 Last questions; discussion; motion. 4 CHAIRMAN HANCE: When is the 18-month 5 starting? What's the initial date? 6 MR. LARIO: We're proposing the 18 months 7 8 from the adoption of the resolution next month. 9 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So that's 10 January. 11 MR. EINGORN: Now, the Board has the 12 right to condition it as it sees fit. There is an 13 agreement of 18 months so that's something you can 14 obviously articulate as a condition of approval that 15 they have agreed to. 16 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Mr. Khan, I commend you for the work that you're doing in our 17 community here. You're out there on the front line. 18 I know family members who have been there with you 19 during Code Blue and all that stuff. Again, when you 20 21 come to us for this ordinance here, you know, we have 22 things -- safeguards in place here like 870-54. Ιt 23 says, lodging houses, boarding houses and rooming houses, multi-family dwellings are or any combination 24 25 therefore, it's not permitted. And this is -- I know

183

1 you're coming up.

2	MR. LANDGRAF: If I may. That's your
3	role here. Your role is a Zoning Board of
4	Adjustment. You are here to adjust that, your
5	ordinances when you see fit. That's your role. Is
б	to look at these applications and review them for
7	variances. You don't see By-right applications. You
8	see things for variances, mostly use variances. You
9	have a separate planning board here. So that is your
10	role. That is your role as a zoning board member, is
11	to look at these applications. Yes, it's not a
12	permitted use. That's why we're here. If it was
13	permitted, we wouldn't have been here.
14	VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: But the Planning
15	Board should be
16	MR. EINGORN: They don't go to the
17	Planning Board because they're requesting a
18	variance a use variance.
19	MR. LANDGRAF: A use variance is solely
20	the Zoning Board's responsibility.
21	MR. LARIO: If we were a permitted use,
22	we wouldn't be before this Board. It's only
23	because
24	MR. LANDGRAF: I'm not saying it's an
25	easy role. That's what your guys' role is is to

review cases and look at the justification on both
 sides of it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: We heard 21 witnesses, 3 right, about 21. And out of the 21, I heard one 4 5 young lady, one person, that feels unsafe. No one else felt unsafe. I can also say, me, my nephew 6 lives on Princess Avenue, right across from the New 7 8 Beginnings. I have been there numerous times. Т thought they closed down. That's how quiet it was. 9 There was no movement. No one there that I saw night 10 11 and day. And he lives directly across the street on 12 Princess Avenue. Not down the block; not around the 13 corner but right across.

To put it this way, if he would have 14 15 never came up here, this place would be empty. Не came up here to say, hey, I'm doing this wrong, 16 I need help. Okay? But if he didn't do that -- you 17 know how are beings are, a few people out here, 18 that's what would have been out here. I'm saying 19 20 this, I don't see anything wrong with helping eight 21 guys, ten guys, one guy. Because this is what -- we 22 are here for that. That's being human. I heard 23 about property; I heard about money; I heard about everything but helping these guys. 24

25

And it's easy to tear something down, but

hard to get something positive and keep it running. 1 2 And, yes, we all make mistakes. And I'm not on his side; I'm not on their side. I'm just saying what I 3 feel. We've been here over three hours and 21 4 5 people. So I'm about making a difference. I've been doing it all my life. I work for Camden County OEO. 6 We help people. And, yes, we don't get it right all 7 8 the time either but we still hang in there. We do what we have to do. I mean, I wrote a book here. 9 10 REVEREND MARTINEZ: Can I make a 11 motion? MR. EINGORN: Wait. Wait. 12 13 MS. ATWOOD: I've known them since I was 14 a teenager. But my problem is the pattern of 15 deception. That's my problem, the pattern of deception. And you need to be able to follow the 16 rules but it's a classic case of Pastor Khan not 17 being able to follow the rules. 18 MS. ALSTON: And, you know, I, too, have 19 20 listened to the public and what they've been 21 saying. And everyone has been saying that they are 22 for them being there. No one has -- I think maybe 23 one or two people are against it but for the wrong 24 reasons. Like they're against what the path he has 25 taken to get here. And I don't think -- I don't

believe that's something that we are going to -- in my opinion, that's not going to play a factor in determining on whether we approve this or not.

He's doing a lot of good things. We can, 4 5 in the Resolution, ensure that what we want to happen happens. And we do that by saying, we're going to do 6 7 it; we're going to allow a temporary 18 months. Or 8 if it's the septic system that one person mentioned. Whatever the case may be, we can add this into the 9 Resolution to make sure that it is being adhered to 10 what he needs or he's doing what he's suppose to be 11 12 doing in terms of that regard.

I don't think the program is the problem. It is a good business model in place that's structured. It has a curfew. It's short-term. So there's a lot of positive here. And I think if the concern is following the rules or choosing the path that we need to include that in the Resolution.

MR. LARIO: If I may briefly. I don't want anyone on this Board to think there was a model of deception here. When Pastor Khan realized he needed specific documentation for this type of use from the state for his license, this application was made. And it has been -- the date of submission, Pastor Khan, do you know off the top of your head?

Some time over the summer approximately? 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Are you talking about the appeal or the application? 3 MR. KHAN: Some time in May. 4 MR. LARIO: May? 5 No, no. Once we found out. 6 MR. KHAN: MR. LARIO: So this has been a process. 7 8 And I know it has been process that -- and I understand there's members of the community that are 9 hoping or asking that it went a different way, but I 10 11 can tell you that the Municipal Land Use Law lays out 12 a way to do this. And I know it doesn't require 13 meetings with the community. It doesn't require 14 personal letters that Pastor Khan has done. He's met 15 with the community. He sent out personal letters. 16 This is certainly not something where he's trying to fast-track. That's because, again, 17 this has been over six months we've been waiting to 18 get this application before this Board. The word 19 20 deceptive, that's one thing where I don't think he's 21 been deceptive. Tonight has not been an easy night. 22 I know all things being equal, we wish we didn't have 23 to do this, but obviously this is the way to do it. 24 And this gives an avenue and a vehicle to all these 25 members of the public to talk.

MS. ATWOOD. When I'm saying a pattern of 1 2 deception, when Pastor Khan ran for mayor of the City 3 of Camden, he said he lived there. I'm just saying. Okay. I wouldn't use the word deception if it were 4 not applicable. 5 MR. LARIO: All I can speak about is this 6 7 application. MS. ATWOOD: I understand. 8 MR. EINGORN: So Reverend Martinez is 9 10 feeling a little ill so we need to get moving. 11 So is there any further discussion on the record? 12 13 MS. ATWOOD: No. 14 MS. MERRICKS: I just wanted to ask, do 15 they have a license at the other facility; was that licensed? Or were you trying to get a license at the 16 other facility? 17 18 MR. LARIO: We were trying to get the approvals to get the license. 19 20 MS. MERRICKS: To get the license, okay. 21 Then another concern. How many people in 22 Camden is in the house? I'm for everybody getting 23 cured. But how many people live in Camden that's in 24 that house? 25 PASTOR KHAN: Technically, there was of

the seven, there was only one or two that are 1 2 original. They're all residents now. But there's only one or two originally from Camden. 3 MS. MERRICKS: Because my concern is, I 4 5 remember like a couple of years ago, they was flooding people into our City at the bus 6 transportation center, loads of them and let them off 7 8 the bus, dropping them off and in our community. And I just want to make sure that this is another 9 drop-off station. 10 11 MR. KHAN: No. It's absolutely not a 12 drop-off station. And, again, I want to 13 re-emphasize, and I heard a lot of people talk and I 14 didn't want to interrupt, and they talked about doing 15 things not correct and not decent in order. Everything was done in decent order here. We filled 16 out the application. You guys understand there was a 17 backlog. It was difficult to get before you. 18 There was a problem with the Courier Post and post dates 19 20 had to be put us on another month. Last month, the 21 two months ago, I quess it was, you didn't have 22 quorum. So we're doing everything correct. 23 I don't want to bring up Millville, 24 Sister Atwood. But I can tell you there are 25 circumstances that we can't get into now. It's

190

totally different. But I can tell everybody in this 1 2 room, anybody that doesn't understand, just drive down Millville and you know why, and what we got 3 But I can tell you this without getting myself 4 into. 5 in trouble, they've already come back and their attorney said that they were wrong and they're trying 6 to settle out of court. Okay? I'll you right now. 7 8 So that's why we know we'd be down here soon. Okay? 9 Just so that everybody is aware.

Millville is the post office box. Maurice River 10 11 Township is the actual city. That's how it is now in 12 that area with small little towns. Okay? So there 13 is a Federal lawsuit and we can't talk about that 14 now. But that's what's going on there. We'll be 15 back there real soon. I had no problem putting out \$450,000 into that place for renovations. 16 And we still continue to fix up the place because we know 17 we'll be back there real soon. 18

19 There wasn't deception. There wasn't 20 dishonesty. If I had to do it all over again -- when 21 I did call Parkside and I talked to Roger Dickerson 22 and there was a time already scheduled for the 23 meeting that month. The month before, Brother 24 Dickerson just passed. What we said, we'll come to 25 the next cause we're already scheduled for January.

191

We couldn't go to this last one because they had Lady 1 2 of Lourdes there. They said we couldn't go. So people are getting half-truths and half-stories. 3 That's not the truth. We tried doing everything the 4 5 right way, filing the paperwork so forth and so on. And by the way, Sister Theresa, I did live there when 6 we did run. Okay? I'm not there now but during that 7 time period, I did. Thank you. Any other questions 8 for me? 9 10 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. If we pass you for 11 18 months, 12 months or whatever the case may be, 12 what happens if you don't find a place? 13 MR. KHAN: I can't -- if the attorneys --14 if you guys agree on this, I will agree not even to 15 come back and ask for an extension. I know that's strange. I don't have a problem with that. I know 16 for fact where they're going. I know for a fact 17 we're not going to stay there. I will say to you 18 right now, we won't even come back for an extension 19 if that can be worked out. And I know you probably 20 21 don't like that. I don't have a problem with that. 22 I know where we're gong. 23 MR. LARIO: You won't want to see us just 24 as much as we won't have to come back for an 25 extension of it. I'm sure.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And if Millville 1 2 opens up before --CHAIRMAN HANCE: -- the 18 months -3 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: -- we get --4 MR. KHAN: Correct. We might be opening 5 up real soon. 6 7 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Right exactly. MR. KHAN: We have to check so that we're 8 9 legal and honest with the state. 10 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I got you. 11 MR. KHAN: Thank you. I want to make a motion to 12 MS. ALSTON: 13 go ahead and pass it with the stipulation that we do the 18 months. 14 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So say it little bit 16 louder. MS. ALSTON: I thought I was talking 17 Making a motion to pass. I want to make sure 18 loud. we want to add to the Resolution the 18 months. 19 20 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: If their other 21 facility opens --22 MS. ALSTON: I'm not even concerned about I'm thinking 18 months and if it happens 23 all that. 24 earlier, then it happens. Whatever else needs to 25 happen.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: And I second it. 1 2 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Wait, wait. MR. EINGORN: There was an offer not to 3 4 come back. Are you going to add that as a condition? MS. ALSTON: I'm not even concerned about 5 the offer. 6 7 CHAIRMAN HANCE: We were going to add that in there. 8 MS. ALSTON: Advise --9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes, the offer we're 10 11 going to add that in there. Now, Reverend. REVEREND MARTINEZ: I second. 12 MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote. 13 14 Chairman Hance. 15 MS. ATWOOD: I didn't hear the motion. MR. EINGORN: There's a motion to pass 16 with a condition of 18 months with the agreement not 17 to come back for an extension. 18 MR. LARIO: Obviously the Board -- you 19 can institute that condition. 20 21 MR. EINGORN: Your client just agreed to 22 it on the record. Chairman Hance. 23 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. 24 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper. 25 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.

MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez. 1 2 **REVEREND MARTINEZ:** Yes. 3 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood. 4 MS. ATWOOD: No. MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. 5 MS. MERRICKS: No. 6 7 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston. MS. ALSTON: Yes. 8 MR. LARIO: Members of the Board, thank 9 you for your time and attention tonight. 10 MR. EINGORN: We have four in favor and 11 12 two against. The motion did not pass which equates 13 to a denial. The applicant had to obtain five 14 affirmative votes. They only obtained four. It did 15 not pass. 16 MR. KHAN: Thank you very much, guys. Ι appreciate it. 17 18 MR. EINGORN: We appreciate your time. 19 20 (At which time, Ms. Alston and Reverend 21 Martinez leave the meeting.) 22 23 MR. EINGORN: For the record, the 24 application 3250 to 3252 River Road, LLC. The 25 applicant was tired of waiting and has requested an

adjournment to February. That matter will be 1 2 adjourned. If you're here for that matter, come back in February. This is the last notice that will be 3 provided for the February meeting. 4 In addition, due to the lateness of the 5 meeting, two of our Board members are departing, not 6 in life but just the meeting. So we will only have 7 four members and we'll be unable to handle to 8 anything that requires a use variance. I apologize 9 10 for anybody who requires a use variance to that 11 extent. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 12 That's not fair 13 cause he took up all the time. So we got to stand here and wait another month. 14 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Some of our Board is sick. 16 That's why they're leaving. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I understand that. 17 Are you doing this tonight? 18 MR. EINGORN: If you require a use 19 variance then we cannot continue to hear you. We 20 21 don't have enough Board members to vote in favor of 22 it. There's a meeting in January. 23 MS. MUHAMMAD: Everyone calm down. We're trying to schedule a Special Meeting. We need all 24 25 them all up here. So when we get them in the room,

if we have to continue, we're going establish a 1 2 Special Meeting right now. You all got to calm down. 3 We already know how January is so I don't know if --January is just as full as this. So we can't take 4 5 this overload in January. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can come in 6 7 February. 8 MS. MUHAMMAD: Give us a second. MR. EINGORN: Off the record. 9 10 11 (Off the record at 10:00 p.m.) 12 (Back on the record at 10:06 p.m.) 13 14 MR. EINGORN: Back on the record now so 15 everyone can hear what I have to say. So we're going 16 to try to set up a Special Meeting. For the Special Meeting we'll have everybody appear. We usually do 17 them via electronic platform so you can show up from 18 your computer at home, if possible. I can't 19 guarantee it but that's how we've done it in the 20 21 past. We'll try to accommodate everybody. We know 22 this process can be long and frustrating and we're 23 not trying to hold you up. We get it. But the Board is a bunch of volunteers and everybody is tired and 24 25 we've had a lot of very big agendas the last four or

five months.

2	So we're going to do our best to schedule
3	a meeting. It'll be a Special Meeting. You'll get
4	notice from Evita of the date and hopefully we can do
5	it via electronic so you can show up from your
б	computer.
7	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Try. Try is not a
8	guarantee so you're going to try your best. The bad
9	part is you're doing your best and we don't know what
10	your best is. The bad part is, some of us work and
11	some of us bought property that we're losing money.
12	So this is not fair that we have to wait and believe
13	in y'all and trust y'all
14	MR. EINGORN: One second.
15	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: to make y'all
16	that y'all are coming in.
17	MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
18	hand, please.
19	
20	BILAL DIXON, having first been duly
21	sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
22	follows:
23	
24	MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name
25	and address for the record.

MR. DIXON: My name is Bilal Dixon, 12 1 2 Roosevelt Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey. 3 MR. EINGORN: What application are you 4 here for? MR. DIXON: I'm here for 218 Morse 5 Street. 6 MR. EINGORN: You don't need a use 7 8 variance. MR. DIXON: I don't need a use variance? 9 10 MR. EINGORN: No. You need a 11 nonconforming use, a Certificate of Nonconforming 12 Use. 13 MR. DIXON: Yes. 14 MR. EINGORN: We'll hear you. 15 MR. DIXON: That's what I wanted to know 16 All right. Very good. 17 MR. EINGORN: Mr. Gabay, are you here? MR. GABAY: Yes. Did I hear that you're 18 willing to go to February for both? 19 20 MR. GABAY: Unless you do a Special 21 Meeting, I'd rather have it electronically. 22 MR. EINGORN: So how about this. We're 23 going to --24 MR. GABAY: If you can do a Special 25 Meeting electronically, that would be good. Whatever

vou decide. 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Give me a second. So we can take Respond. I think Victoria 3 Realty is a use variance. Mr. Machigal, 2500 Baird 4 5 Boulevard, that's a use. So I have to put you off. Ms. Garcia, is a use. This is a cert of 6 7 nonconforming use. 8 Stevens Housing proposes a duplex. Variances are needed for lot area, lot width. 9 Those are bulk variances. We can hear that. 10 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I am here to make 12 sure that the public is aware for the 2500 Baird 13 Blvd., Lot 1177, Lot 133. How would I be notified if 14 you decide to have this Special Meeting because, you 15 know, I'm not a participate. I'm from the public. MR. EINGORN: So notice of a Special 16 Meeting is published 48 hours in advance. It will be 17 on the City's website. 18 So here is what's going to happen. 19 Since 20 Mr. Gabay has already got one on in February and he 21 so graciously volunteered, we're going to hold both 22 of his meetings -- hear the applications in February to be heard at the same time so he doesn't have to 23 come back twice. 24 25 The three other applications that require

a use variance, Victoria Realty; Roger Machigal which 1 2 is 2500 Baird Blvd.; and Melany Garcia, NS Sherman 60 E. 28th Street, those use variances will be heard 3 in January. And this is notice of those 4 5 adjournments. Mr. Gabay, I appreciate your understanding. 6 7 MR. GABAY: Okay. Is this notice? 8 MS. ABED: MR. EINGORN: This is notice. 9 No further 10 publication; none of that. Your case is January 8, 11 2024 at 5:30 p.m. 12 Can we get Respond, Inc., 3001 Fenwick? 13 That's the next matter. 14 MR. OTTO: My apologies. I didn't lose 15 my guy but he's on his way back. If you could go to the next one and I'll get him here. 16 MR. EINGORN: Okay. That's fine. 17 18 MR. OTTO: Thank you very much. Mr. Dixon, it's your time 19 MR. EINGORN: to shine. Mr. Dixon, you need a Certificate of 20 21 Nonconforming Use for a duplex. I've already sworn 22 you in so you can put your hand down. I'm going to read your appeal for zoning. 23 24 The name and address of the applicant is 25 Bilal Dixon, 218 Morse Street, Camden, New Jersey.

He's the owner of the property. He's the applicant 1 2 and that's the location of the property in an R-2 Zone. The lot has a frontage of something I 3 can't read: Feet on front yard and a depth of 8 4 5 feet. There's a 3 scribbled out and a 1 building on the lot. It's a two-family house. It's presently a 6 So you're here because you want a Cert of 7 duplex. 8 Nonconforming Use. And you got a duplex; is that 9 correct? 10 MR. DIXON: Yes. 11 MR. EINGORN: How long has it been a 12 duplex? 13 MR. DIXON: I bought it as a previous 14 duplex. As you can see it's two heaters and it's two 15 boilers. So when I bought the complex, it was already two in and I provided documentation from City 16 Hall with the residents that lived there before I 17 18 obtained the property. 19 MR. EINGORN: And attached to your 20 application are these Certificates of Rental approval from 2022? 21 22 Those applicants that moved MR. DIXON: 23 out and those that rented for 2022, yes. Both of 24 them lived there for ten years with the previous 25 owner.

1 MR. EINGORN: And Felix Roman, he's the 2 prior owner? 3 MR. DIXON: Yes. 4 MR. EINGORN: And you bought the 5 property from him? MR. DIXON: Yes. 6 7 MR. EINGORN: Are you doing work to the 8 property? 9 MR. DIXON: No. 10 MR. EINGORN: And is there people 11 currently living there? 12 MR. DIXON: No. 13 MR. EINGORN: It's currently vacant in both units? 14 15 MR. DIXON: Yes. MR. EINGORN: Other than the rental 16 approvals, do you have any other documentation which 17 would tend to show that this was a preexisting --18 19 MR. DIXON: All the pictures that I 20 provided is evidence that I have to prove that. 21 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So you have two 22 meters; two hot water heaters; two heaters? 23 MR. DIXON: Yes. 24 VICE-CHAIRMAN: And when you bought this 25 property, it was already a duplex?

MR. DIXON: 1 Yes. 2 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So you just need the CO for them? 3 MR. DIXON: I just need a CO for them, 4 5 that's correct. MR. EINGORN: Any other questions? 6 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: 7 No. 8 MR. EINGORN: We got an application for a 9 Cert of Nonconforming Use for a duplex. Anybody in the public here tonight to be heard on Bilal Dixon, 10 11 218 Morse Street? Hearing none, we'll close the 12 public portion. 13 The applicant has appeared tonight 14 seeking N.J.S.A. 40:55D-68 relief, a Cert of 15 Nonconforming Use for a preexisting duplex. The 16 applicant has provided documentation including photographs and rental approvals from the prior owner 17 18 that demonstrate or intend to demonstrate a preexisting nonconforming use. Now it's time for the 19 Board do a discussion and make a motion whether or 20 21 not to grant the requested relief. 22 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I make a motion to 23 accept. 24 MS. ATWOOD: Second. 25 MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.

204

Chairman Hance. 1 2 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper. 3 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. 4 5 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood. MS. ATWOOD: Yes. 6 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. 7 8 MS. MERRICKS: Yes. MR. EINGORN: All in favor. 9 10 Congratulations. Have a great night. 11 MR. DIXON: Thank you. I appreciate it. 12 MR. EINGORN: Do we have Respond? 13 MR. OTTO: Yes. 14 Good evening. In light of the hour, I'm 15 going to try to expediate and dispense with what would normally be an opening. My name Mark Otto. 16 I'm a partner with the firm of DuBois Sheehan here in 17 We are appearing this evening on behalf of 18 Camden. 19 Respond, Inc. I believe my client did appear 20 previously but was unaware that counsel was required. 21 So we're here this evening in support of 22 that application. And it's with regard to 3001 Fenwick Road, Block 625, Lot 43 for the purpose of a 23 24 c(1) bulk variance for a 6-foot high fence where, I 25 believe, the allowable is 4 foot. It's my

understanding that we did not do this ourselves, that 1 2 is, my law firm, because we came in after the fact. 3 But it's my understanding that everything has been provided to the Board. So rather then, again, making 4 5 a presentation in that way, I could call my client to testify. Is that Okay? 6 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 7 8 hand, please? 9 DION WILES, having first been duly 10 11 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 12 13 14 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 15 and address for the record. MR. WILES: My name Dion Wiles. I live 16 at 562 State Street here in Camden, New Jersey. 17 18 MR. EINGORN: Can you tell us your relationship to Respond, Inc.? 19 20 MR. WILES: As it pertains to this 21 matter, construction official. 22 MR. EINGORN: Construction official, 23 great. And were you in charge of installing the 24 fence? 25 MR. WILES: Overseeing, yes, sir.

1 MR. EINGORN: But you're not the contractor that installed the fence? 2 MR. WILES: That is correct. 3 4 MR. EINGORN: And the photographs that 5 apply here, show a black chain link fence; is that the fence in question, sir? 6 MR. WILES: It is. 7 8 MR. EINGORN: Is that a gate? 9 MR. WILES: It is. MR. EINGORN: And the gate is 6 feet 10 11 high? 12 MR. WILES: It is. 13 MR. EINGORN: And it goes all the away 14 across the frontage? 15 MR. WILES: It does. 16 MR. EINGORN: Does it go anywhere else besides the frontage? 17 18 MR. WILES: No, sir. 19 MR. EINGORN: I'm looking at this photograph here, sir, and this photograph at the rear 20 that shows the black fence meeting up with a 21 2.2 metal-colored fence? MR. WILES: That is correct. 23 24 MR. EINGORN: The metal-colored fence is 25 not part of that applicant's property?

MR. WILES: It is, yes, sir. It is the 1 2 applicant's property. MR. EINGORN: No, no. Not the black 3 fence part but the metal fence part? 4 5 MR. WILES: Oh, no. That is not our 6 property. MR. EINGORN: So this is your neighbor's 7 8 property or the neighbor's property? 9 MR. WILES: That's correct, sir. 10 MR. EINGORN: Anything else you want to tell us? 11 Is there a reason why the applicant needs a 6-foot fence as opposed to a 4-foot fence? 12 13 MR. WILES: Several reasons. 14 MR. EINGORN: Let's hear it. 15 MR. WILES: Several reasons. One, first and foremost, we have been dealing for years and have 16 police reports to support and back up what I'm 17 stating. For years we have dealt with abandoned cars 18 and if you know anything about the City of Camden 19 20 now, it's on the owner now to get rid of the cars. 21 We have also dealt with years of illegal dumping on 22 our property. We also had an influx about several 23 years ago of people breaking into our property causing damage. And this was the reason why we 24 25 selected a 6-foot high fence. Again, not as a

permanent deterence but as some level of deterent 1 2 because of the 6-foot high fence. MR. OTTO: Also, if I may. 3 MR. EINGORN: Yes, please. 4 5 MR. OTTO: Also, what other reason or reasons are there unrelated to the security issue 6 with regard to vandalism and so forth? 7 What reasons 8 do you have why this is really required in terms of the type of function that is on this property, that 9 is, the school, the little childrens' school? 10 11 MR. WILES: Well, another reason is that 12 many of us know when you talk about school, safety is 13 a priority when we're talking about our children and 14 everything. Parents like to feel safe to know that 15 their children are actually inside of a perimeter that is actually safe. We do allow those two doors 16 of gates now to be open during the daytime but the 17 rest of it is all boxed in by a fence. 18 It adds another level of security for those that are seeking 19 to possibly send their kids to our school that we 20 21 have a fence up where before you had all access and 22 you could just walk up on to it or walk up on the 23 property. 24 MR. OTTO: What are the ages of the 25 children at the school?

209

MR. WILES: From three months to five 1 2 years old. 3 MR. OTTO: How long has that school been 4 there at that location? MR. WILES: I'm aware of at least 20 5 6 years. It may be more. MR. EINGORN: Any further testimony you 7 8 would like to proffer? MR. OTTO: Not at this time. If there 9 are questions, we certainly would want --10 11 MR. EINGORN: Certainly. Questions for 12 the applicant? Applicant seeks a 6-foot high fence. 13 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll just say that 4 14 foot is not high enough. It's a different time now; 15 different area. You got dogs; you got people going 16 to schools shooting up the place. Even the dumping, that's a big issue in Camden. So, yes, I'm 100 17 percent for that because I believe a life can be 18 saved. You can't get that back. 19 20 MR. EINGORN: Should we open to the 21 public? 22 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. 23 MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public like to weigh in on this application. Please come 24 25 forward.

MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 1 2 hand, please. 3 GREGORY SHAEFFER, having first been duly 4 5 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 6 7 8 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 9 MR. SHAEFFER: Gregory Shaffer, 915 10 11 Dallas Road, Camden. 12 MR. EINGORN: Thank you, Mr. Shaffer. 13 What would like to say? 14 MR. SHAFFER: My concerns are, number 15 one, the type of fence that they put up and the fact that they attached it to my fence with no liability 16 or liability waiver or anything of that nature. 17 So if something happens theirs or mine gets damaged, who 18 is responsible? 19 20 MR. EINGORN: That's why we have 21 insurance. No? 22 MR. SHAEFFER: Hopefully. Do we know that? 23 24 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Wait a minute 25 This 4-foot fence is your fence and they put a

6-foot fence up? So if they put that 6-foot fence 1 2 up and this --3 MR. SHAEFFER: No. That's the other 4 side. MR. EINGORN: The metal fence is 5 Mr. Schaeffer's, right? 6 7 MR. SHAEFFER: Yes. That's mine. That's 8 where they attached to my fence. 9 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Okay. MR. SHAEFFER: This is a 16-foot roll 10 11 gate here. 12 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Right. 13 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So what they can do is 14 they put their own pole here and take it off of his 15 fence. 16 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yeah, pretty much. 17 MR. SHAEFFER: They could. Originally, that's what the contractor that was there said he was 18 going to do. And now I came home about two weeks 19 later and found it attached like that. So that's a 20 21 problem. 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm quite sure you guys 23 you have insurance. 24 MR. WILES: We do. 25 CHAIRMAN HANCE: But what I would do, I

would put my own pole besides his and attach that 1 2 fence to that pole. 3 MR. WILES: Absolutely, sir. 4 CHAIRMAN HANCE: That way, you're not 5 liable for anything. MR. SCHAEFFER: And I'm not liable either 6 7 for anything. 8 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm just getting there. 9 MR. SCHAEFFER: I'm trying to make sure 10 that we're all on the same page. 11 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is this a business right here? 12 13 MR. SCHAEFFER: No, that's my private 14 residence. That's where I live. 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Because I'm saying, you should be coming here for a 6-foot fence too. 16 17 MR. SCHAEFFER: I do have a 6-foot fence. 18 CHAIRMAN HANCE: But did you come to us 19 20 to get the 6-foot fence? 21 MR. SCHAEFFER: Absolutely. 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: When was that? 23 MR. SCHAEFFER: Dani Anise. 24 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Oh, Dani. 25 MR. SCHAEFFER: So I know what I'm doing.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So I would definitely 1 2 put another pole there; have them come back and put a pole there that way, if anything happens, it would 3 just damage your property and not his and vice-versa. 4 MR. EINGORN: So would you agree to that 5 as a condition of approval to install your own pole 6 and have it attached to that in that respect? 7 8 MR. WILES: Absolutely. I have counsel here but it's something that I want to say because I 9 heard a lot today here and I think he actually said 10 11 it out of his own mouth. We were putting our own post up. He insisted because I was there, but he 12 13 ain't say that today. He insisted that we attach it 14 because he said we would spend more money for 15 concrete. We told him we already have a saw and we was cutting it. He insisted and I was there and the 16 contractor. I just want to go on the record that we 17 don't attach stuff to it. He insisted that we that 18 and he knew I was there that day when we was out 19 20 there with the guys, although my attorney told me not 21 to mention that. That is the truth. 22 MR. SCHAEFER: Did he tell you also 23 that --24 MR. EINGORN: Let's not engage in a 25 back-and-forth. It sounds like we have an agreement.

MR. SCHAEFFER: It's already getting 1 2 there so... 3 MR. EINGORN: I get it. CHAIRMAN HANCE: No, it's not. We're 4 5 going to stop it there. You're going to put your own pole in. 6 7 MR. WILES: Yes, sir. 8 CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're going to be happy --9 MR. SCHAEFFER: So far. We're not done. 10 11 I'm sorry. No disrespect. CHAIRMAN HANCE: Go ahead. 12 13 MR. SCHAEFFER: They put the fence up 14 across the front. Are they putting the fence up 15 across the side as well where this gentleman was just pointing out with the 4 foot? 16 17 CHAIRMAN HANCE: That would be up to them. 18 MR. SCHAEFFER: The reason I'm saying 19 20 that is, everybody so far has said, we're doing this 21 for safety and security. Okay? Approximately 14 or 22 15 days after they put this fence up, nobody's notification or knowledge, I had to call 911 because 23 24 there were children, teenagers on his roof 25 vandalizing his equipment. And before the police

1 could arrive, they broke into his building causing 2 more damage. So putting a fence up across the front 3 is not totally the answer and to use security as an 4 issue or a reason for doing that is wrong. If you're 5 only doing half the job, you're only being half 6 right.

MR. EINGORN: So we're only here tonight 7 for variance for a 6-foot fence. We're not here 8 tonight for a full-out security system. The request 9 10 is, hey, we want to put in a fence. We agree -- this 11 Board has seen on multiple occasions fences of all 12 sorts. We've even had requests for barbed wire which 13 don't even think about it. But that said, the Board 14 will acknowledge, it is just one sort of safety 15 measure. We get that. But that is what it is. We're only here for that. That's what the 16 application is for. 17 18 MR. SCHAEFFER: So even though their

19 application is to put up a 6-foot fence for security 20 purposes and they're not securing the rest of their 21 property, it doesn't matter? 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: That's their property. 23 MR. SCHAEFFER: I understand.

24 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So down the road if they 25 want to put up a fence at all, they got the

permission from the Board to put the 6-foot fence up. 1 2 MR. SCHAEFFER: So it's on the record that they're only doing the front, not the side? 3 CHAIRMAN HANCE: No. It's on the record 4 5 that they can put up a 6-foot fence. MR. SCHAEFFER: Across the front? 6 7 CHAIRMAN HANCE: And you being a good 8 neighbor is great. I'm glad you did call 911. 9 MR. SCHAEFFER: Many times. CHAIRMAN HANCE: All right. Then that's 10 11 a blessing. I would like to have you for my neighbor I live right on Broadway. 12 too. 13 MR. SCHAEFER: I wish they would do the 14 rest of the security issues so I wouldn't have to. 15 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So sometimes you don't have all that money to do it so when you do get it, 16 you put it up there. But now it's on record that 17 eventually I guess you will furnish the fence if 18 19 needed? 20 MR. WILES: We definitely will take care 21 of the pole, sir. 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Okay. We appreciate 23 that. So you're going to get your pole separated off 24 your fence; you're happy; now you're happy. It's on 25 the record.

MR. SCHAEFFER: Not necessarily but it is 1 2 what it is. MR. EINGORN: It's not our job to make 3 them happy. 4 5 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It's a start. MR. EINGORN: Anybody else in the public 6 like to be heard on this application? Hearing none, 7 8 we'll close the public portion. Counsel, do you have any closing remarks? 9 MR. OTTO: Yes. Just for the record and 10 11 for clarity. Thank you by the way for your comments and your thoughts. We had already come in here with 12 13 the idea that we would do the separate post and 14 frankly we think that's better. There was, whether 15 that was a misunderstanding or not, it's of no moment at this point. We're all moving forward. We're 16 going to do the post. And it's my understanding 17 18 then if the Board considered approval that that would be the only condition, if it is even a condition. 19 Ι 20 don't know. But we are going to do it. So either 21 way, it doesn't matter. 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: That would be our only condition. 23 24 MR. OTTO: Then I will rest and thank you 25 for your time.

MR. EINGORN: Thank you, Counsel. 1 2 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I move. MR. EINGORN: You move with the 3 4 condition? 5 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: That they put another post in. 6 7 MR. EINGORN: All right. So we have a 8 motion to approve the 6-foot high fence with the condition that they install their own post. Do we 9 have a second? 10 11 MS. ATWOOD: Second. MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote. 12 13 Chairman Hance. 14 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. 15 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: 16 Yes. 17 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood. 18 MS. ATWOOD: Yes. 19 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. 20 MS. MERRICKS: Yes. MR. EINGORN: Four in favor and none 21 22 opposed, the motion carries. Thank you, gentlemen. I appreciate your time tonight. 23 24 MR. OTTO: Thank you very much. 25 MR. EINGORN: The last matter for tonight

is the nice gentleman from Stevens Housing, LLC, 1600 1 2 Haddon Avenue. 3 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 4 hand, please. 5 ANDREW STEVENS, having first been duly 6 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 7 follows: 8 9 10 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 11 and address for the record. 12 MR. STEVENS: Andrew Stevens, 2151 NJ 38, 13 Cherry Hill. MR. EINGORN: Mr. Stevens, can you state 14 15 first name. MR. STEVENS: Andrew. 16 MR. EINGORN: Andrew. I'm sorry. 17 I'm getting tired. I'm looking for your application 18 here. Mr. Stevens, let me ask you a question. Are 19 the sole owner of Stevens Housing, LLC? 20 21 MR. STEVENS: Yes, sir. 22 MR. EINGORN: Very good. You're here tonight for variances related 23 to a duplex, lot width, building coverage and 24 25 off-street parking?

MR. STEVENS: Yes. 1 MR. EINGORN: Very good. I'm holding up 2 a packet which was submitted with your application. 3 4 Is this part of your application? MR. STEVENS: 5 Yes. MR. EINGORN: This is the front of the 6 house? 7 MR. STEVENS: Yes. 8 MR. EINGORN: Very good. How many 9 bedrooms are in each unit? 10 11 MR. STEVENS: Five. MR. EINGORN: Five bedrooms total? 12 13 MR. STEVENS: You're talking about the 14 rooms? 15 MR. EINGORN: Yes. How many bedrooms? MR. STEVENS: There's five bedrooms. 16 MR. EINGORN: Total or in each thing, 17 each unit? 18 19 MR. STEVENS: Oh, in each unit is --20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's --21 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 22 hand, please. 23 24 JEANETTE STEVENS, having first been duly 25 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as

follows: 1 2 3 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 4 and address for the record. 5 MS. STEVENS: My name is Jeanette My address is 2151 Route 38, Unit 705, 6 Stevens. 7 Cherry Hill, New Jersey. 8 MR. EINGORN: Are you Mr. Stevens' mom? MS. STEVENS: Yes. 9 10 MR. EINGORN: Nice to meet you. Thank 11 you for coming tonight. Sorry we took so long. 12 So we have five total units. How many 13 are on the --14 MS. STEVENS: No, we got this --15 MR. EINGORN: Five total bedrooms. I'm 16 sorry. MS. STEVENS: But we trying to make it 17 two bedrooms downstairs, a living room, dining room, 18 kitchen and washer and dryer. Then they got a yard 19 in the back and a gate in the back. Then on the 20 21 other side if you see the other side where the gate 2.2 is at --23 MR. EINGORN: Here ma'am? 24 MS. STEVENS: Yeah. It's a gate there. 25 I took a picture of the gate. So that's what the

person upstairs is going to have their entry in that 1 2 gate here. That's going to be their yard. That's 3 what we gave you all. 4 MR. EINGORN: So there's a side entrance? 5 MS. STEVENS: Yes. So we're going to have the steps and stuff. We can't do that until we 6 7 get approval for the stairs. Can't do that til you 8 get approval. So there was a stair to go up. Then going to have two bedrooms upstairs and living and 9 dining room and kitchen. 10 11 MR. EINGORN: Did you guys get Stop Work Order? 12 13 MR. STEVENS: Yes. So you want two bedrooms on 14 MR. EINGORN: 15 the first floor and two upstairs? MR. STEVENS: 16 Yes. MR. EINGORN: So it would four total 17 18 bedrooms. 19 MS. STEVENS: Yeah. 20 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Don't they need 21 off-street parking or something here? 22 MR. EINGORN: That's the next question. 23 MR. STEVENS: They have off-street right 24 It's a lot of parking. there. 25 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: You got to get us

pictures to show something. You got to show 1 2 something here. CHAIRMAN HANCE: You got to take pictures 3 of where the off-street parking is located. 4 5 MS. STEVENS: Oh, they park in front of the house. Didn't I give you a picture of --6 7 CHAIRMAN HANCE: You gave me a picture of 8 the front of the house but I don't see a street 9 there. 10 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yeah. You got to 11 take pictures of up and down the street. 12 MR. EINGORN: We have a thousand things 13 going to come up before the Board. 14 MR. EINGORN: Can you describe what the 15 on-street parking is like around that neighborhood? 16 MR. STEVENS: Pretty much. We got multiple businesses on the side so it's a lot of 17 18 parking that you have. You should be good without parking at all. 19 20 MS. STEVENS: You would park on Haddon 21 Avenue going down and Park Avenue going back. Or you 22 park on Sycamore on this side or that side. 23 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And they start 24 that parking. 25 MR. EINGORN: PBICP comes in here all the

time with no parking on Haddon Avenue. 1 2 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yeah. 3 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood has a question. MS. ATWOOD: So I'm guessing that this is 4 5 upstairs, right, that you're going to convert this into a kitchen? 6 MS. STEVENS: Yeah, that's where that 7 8 kitchen is going. 9 MS. ATWOOD: That's going to be a kitchen? 10 11 MR. STEVENS: Yeah. 12 MS. STEVENS: It's going to be like the 13 one that's downstairs. Do you see the one that's downstairs? 14 It's the same thing. We got the 15 cabinets and refrigerator. 16 MR. EINGORN: While we're going through the pictures, this house was purchased as a 17 18 single-family house? 19 MR. STEVENS: Yeah, it was. It was 20 gifted from my aunt and from my grandmom. 21 MS. ATWOOD: That says upstairs. 22 MR. EINGORN: It's a wonderful gift How 23 many bedrooms are there now, five? 24 MR. STEVENS: It's five bedrooms. 25 MR. EINGORN: And you're going to make it

four? 1 2 MR. STEVENS: Yes. 3 MR. EINGORN: So you're reducing the 4 number of bedrooms. MR. STEVENS: Yeah. 5 MR. EINGORN: Which would obviously 6 7 reduce the parking so there they're mitigating the 8 parking issue. The use is allowed. It's a permitted use in this zone. So they're mitigating the parking 9 issues by reducing the number of bedrooms. 10 11 MS. STEVENS: We're taking that one 12 bedroom and we're turning it into a kitchen. 13 MR. EINGORN: Right. 14 MS. STEVENS: I have pictures on my 15 phone. 16 MR. EINGORN: We can't accept phone pictures anyway. Any questions for the applicant? 17 18 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you guys are going to live -- someone is going to live upstairs and someone 19 20 is going to live downstairs? Your mom will be 21 downstairs, I presume? 22 MS. STEVENS: Yes. I'm old. 23 CHAIRMAN HANCE: And you're going to be 24 upstairs? 25 MR. STEVENS: Yes.

MS. STEVENS: I'm Stevens' Soul Food 1 2 Kitchen. I'm right here on Spruce Street. So I'm on 3 8th & Spruce Street. MR. EINGORN: Any questions down there? 4 5 MS. ATWOOD: Yes. Who is going to be doing the work? 6 7 MS. STEVENS: My brother. 8 MR. STEVENS: He's a contractor. 9 MS. ATWOOD: Aren't they suppose to have 10 like a floor plan for them to show us an exact plan 11 of what they're going to do? Because I don't happen 12 to see the picture of kitchen downstairs. And they 13 said they're going to make that room to a --14 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I asked for 15 pictures too. 16 MS. ATWOOD: The plans from whoever is going to be doing the construction? 17 MR. STEVENS: I believe we had submitted 18 to the girl a part of the plan. 19 20 MS. ATWOOD: I'm sorry? 21 MR. STEVENS: When we first originally 22 Did it, we submitted a plan to it as well of what's 23 going to be put in there in the diagram. In order for us to get in, we had submit it all. So that's 24 25 why I don't understand why you didn't receive that in

227

the actual plan too.

1

2 MS. MUHAMMAD: No, they wouldn't see it. 3 They didn't make it a part of the application. When they make their application, I don't take them. 4 They 5 have to provide that. MS. STEVENS: Pretty much everything that 6 we explained, that's how it's going to be. We have a 7 licensed contractors. 8 9 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I understand you 10 explained it to us but we have nothing that we can 11 see. 12 MR. EINGORN: He's saying that the Board 13 doesn't have enough information that he can see to make a decision. 14 15 MR. EINGORN: So here's what's going to happen. We're going to continue this application to 16 January. We're sorry to have to delay you further. 17 Here's what we need. We need some kind of floor 18 plan. It sounds like you already have it. 19 20 MS. STEVENS: We gave it to you. You 21 don't got it? 22 MR. EINGORN: I'm sorry. So floor plans 23 and some pictures out in front of the street at 24 different times of the day so we can see what kind of 25 parking is going on. All right? Because you're Old

Business, Evita is going to put you on first. 1 2 MR. STEVENS: Okay. 3 MR. EINGORN: You'll go first in January 4 with the floor plan and the pictures of the street, 5 5:30 here on January 8th. MR. STEVENS: 6 Okay. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Keep up the good 7 8 work. 9 MR. EINGORN: So let's adopt our Resolutions. We have four and then the meeting 10 11 dates. 12 First Resolution, Granting Non-Conforming 13 Use, Rocky Lang, 1001-1005 Cambridge Street. Bulk Variances for CSA, IV, LLC, 508 S. 14 15 Broadway. 16 Bulk Variance Approval for CSA, IV, LLC, 1823 River Avenue. 17 Then Granting Nonconforming Use for CSA, 18 IV, LLC, 1450 S. 9th Street. 19 20 Do we have a motion to adopt those Resolutions? 21 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion to 23 adopt. 24 MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second? 25 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Second.

MR. EINGORN: Let me see who was here 1 2 last month. Roll-call vote. Chairman Hance. 3 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. 4 MR. EINGORN: So moved. He was the only one here. 5 MR. EINGORN: Now we need a motion to 6 7 adopt the meeting dates for 2024. I believe they're part of the packet that you received tonight. 8 Do we have a motion to approve the meeting dates? 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion to 10 11 adopt. 12 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Second. 13 MR. EINGORN: We have a motion to approve 14 the meeting dates. We'll take a roll-call vote. 15 Chairman Hance. 16 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. 17 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper. 18 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. 19 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood. 20 MS. ATWOOD: Yes. MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. 21 22 MS. MERRICKS: Yes. 23 MR. EINGORN: So moved. And a motion to 24 adopt the Resolution for the meeting dates. 25 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion to adopt

230

the Resolution. 1 MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second? 2 MS. MERRICKS: Second. 3 4 MR. EINGORN: Thank you. I'll take a 5 roll-call vote. Chairman Hance. 6 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. 7 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. 8 9 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Atwood. MS. ATWOOD: Yes. 10 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. 11 12 MS. MERRICKS: Yes. MR. EINGORN: And we need a motion to 13 14 adjourn. 15 MS. MERRICKS: Motion. MR. EINGORN: All in favor? 16 17 THE BOARD: Yays. 18 19 - - (*Meeting concluded at 10:47 p.m.*) - -20 21 22 23 24 25

1 CERTIFICATION 2 3 4 I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am a Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public. 5 I FURTHER CERTIFY that the witness was sworn 6 7 to testify to the truth. 8 I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing is, to the best of my ability, a true and accurate 9 transcript of the testimony taken stenographically by 10 11 me at the time, place, and date hereinbefore set forth. 12 13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative, 14 employee, attorney or counsel to any of the 15 parties to the action, nor a relative or employee of 16 such attorney or counsel and that I am not 17 financially interested in the action. lyine A. Comin 18 19 Regine A. Ervin, CCR Certified Court Reporter 20 License #30XI000222200 21 22 (The foregoing certification of this transcript 23 does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any 24 means, unless under the direction, control and/or 25 supervision of the certifying reporter.)

232

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

ZONING BOARD				December 4, 2023
		08.10.00.22.24	offine other (4) 105.14	Alberta (1) 10.5
	account (1) 157:10	98:19;99:22,24;	affirmative (1) 195:14	Albans (1) 10:5
\$	accountable (5)	103:15;107:23,25;	affirmed (3) 99:19;	alcohol (3) 27:23;
	17:24,25;94:3;95:14;	110:11;113:9;115:3,	120:23;168:3	28:8;71:20
\$1,000 (1) 35:24	100:20	14;118:3;121:1;	affordable (3) 105:24;	ALEXIS (3) 168:2,7;
\$200,000 (1) 105:15	accounts (1) 84:2	125:2;129:24;133:23;	106:4;115:17	176:24
\$400,000 (1) 171:25	accurate (1) 10:12	134:17;144:8;153:11,	aftercare (1) 159:12	Alexis's (1) 176:24
\$450,000 (1) 191:16	acknowledge (2)	23;156:24;157:3;	again (52) 11:23;	align (4) 109:18;
\$50,000 (1) 173:12	174:23;216:14	162:15;165:8;168:6;	17:16;29:7,17;31:6;	161:4;178:17,18
	acknowledged (1)	170:5;172:11;174:9;	32:17;37:16;41:3;	aligned (3) 85:15,16;
*	94:24	176:14;179:23;	45:23;46:7;60:25;	117:8
	acknowledgment (1)	198:25;201:24;	63:8;74:16;76:12;	alleviate (1) 15:15
*Meeting (1) 231:19	95:2	206:15;211:9;220:11;	77:14;81:16,19;	alleviating (1) 140:15
	acquainted (1) 100:1	222:4,6	83:15;88:1;97:14,19;	alley (1) 22:16
Α	across (11) 17:13;	addressed (4) 70:17,	119:14;123:4,23;	allow (6) 38:17;40:23;
	23:20;113:15;185:7,	22;80:3;91:21	128:7,18,20;153:9;	82:24;127:2;187:7;
A-1 (2) 11:20;35:4	11,13;207:14;215:14,	addresses (1) 97:19	158:14;160:13;	209:16
A-2 (2) 40:11,13	15;216:2;217:6	addressing (4) 89:24;	161:12;163:10,21;	allowable (1) 205:25
A-5 (3) 11:20,21;23:6	Act (9) 30:22,22;65:5;	97:10;117:11;170:4	164:4;170:18;171:2;	allowed (13) 18:17;
AA (2) 48:12;127:24	108:18;129:4,4;	adds (2) 46:16;	172:4,12;174:18;	34:16,17,19;35:5,6;
Aback (1) 173:13	130:5;148:1,3	209:18	177:5;178:18;179:20;	45:10;48:25;65:6;
abandoned (1)	action (1) 90:20	adequate (2) 77:12;	180:10,19;181:12;	106:15;114:18;141:2;
208:18	actions (2) 178:17,18	100:4	182:7;183:20;188:17;	226:8
ABED (2) 6:3;201:8	activities (3) 77:1;	adhere (2) 60:13;	190:12;191:20;206:4;	allowing (4) 31:3;
ability (6) 10:12;12:2;	104:24;128:1	181:3	208:25	41:4;61:4;83:5
15:2;81:8;153:4;	activity (1) 127:8	adhered (1) 187:10	against (20) 63:12;	allows (2) 29:4;68:18
180:20	actual (4) 39:10;	adhering (1) 61:3	76:10;101:22,25;	almost (4) 72:15;
able (23) 9:15;19:19;	180:4;191:11;228:1	adjourn (1) 231:14	102:1;106:22;122:23,	152:22;171:8;175:7
20:3;21:20;29:6,16;	actually (32) 33:22;	adjourned (3) 6:14;	24;129:1;140:1;	alone (3) 37:10;
34:8;35:23;38:8;	41:13;52:18;54:5;	7:14;196:2	151:8;152:1;156:4;	168:17,20
61:23;63:5;74:1;	56:21;70:17;73:20;	adjournment (4) 6:25;	162:21,22;173:18;	along (9) 20:1;23:19;
84:5;86:25;119:20;	104:17;106:13;	7:10,16;196:1	177:7;186:23,24;	33:8;61:3,6;110:16,
120:7;121:24;160:18;	108:24;123:3;131:8;	adjournments (1)	195:12	16;115:10;121:11
173:1;180:8;181:13;	139:6;157:9,12,17;	201:5	age (2) 58:6,8	Alston (25) 4:18,19;
186:16,18	158:7;159:14,17,18,	adjust (1) 184:4	agency (1) 74:25	5:10,11;14:20;15:21;
above (2) 58:10;81:3	21;160:5,15,18,22,24;	Adjustment (2) 72:2;	agenda (1) 7:24	26:22,23;60:15;
Abraham (1) 168:23	161:2,8,21;209:15,	184:4	agendas (1) 197:25	81:25;82:3;83:2,10,
abroad (1) 150:16	16;214:10	Adjustment's (1) 4:2	ages (1) 209:24	18;86:20;88:21;
Absent (1) 4:20	add (9) 18:20;47:5;	administered (1) 55:6	ago (13) 36:17;40:17;	186:19;193:12,17,22;
Absolutely (13) 40:13;	78:17;81:9;187:9;	Administration (1)	48:18,20;69:1;85:17;	194:5,9;195:7,8,20
43:22;44:1;46:18;	193:19;194:4,7,11	139:3	103:22;104:1;113:13;	
47:9;53:18;57:14,16;	addicted (2) 27:22;	Admiral (2) 8:3;	145:15;190:5,21;	although (4) 125:4;
119:24;190:11;213:3,	160:1	165:17	208:23	157:2;170:14;214:20
21;214:8	addiction (15) 28:9;	admire (1) 86:3	agree (12) 43:23;	always (11) 20:1;
abuse (1) 135:23	30:18;37:25;48:1;	admitted (1) 172:1	46:3;80:10;99:13;	34:1,9;44:20;64:11,
accept (7) 15:20;	49:16;51:17,25;72:7,	adopt (8) 4:23;229:9,	174:16,21;182:2,24;	11;101:14;129:7;
53:12;69:7;117:15;	17;91:15;130:6,16;	20,23;230:7,11,24,25	192:14,14;214:5;	141:7,8;154:8
164:12;204:23;	131:15;134:3;147:16	adopted (2) 46:5;	216:10	amending (1) 79:13
226:16	addictions (2) 47:16;	104:5	agreed (4) 47:5;	amendments (2)
acceptable (2) 40:12;	134:8	adopting (1) 96:4	172:9;183:15;194:21	93:12,19
172:18	addicts (3) 135:16,21;	adoption (2) 4:21;	agreeing (1) 64:4	America (1) 109:7
accepted (2) 101:20;	147:8	183:8	agreement (5) 67:4;	Americans (2) 30:21;
159:8	addition (3) 7:24;	adults (2) 58:11;	97:8;183:13;194:17;	129:3
access (5) 78:1,1;	17:15;196:5	159:21	214:25	Amir (13) 27:19;
104:15;105:21;	additional (7) 8:17;	advance (1) 200:17	ahead (5) 41:11,15;	31:14,24;32:5;47:23;
209:21	11:4;47:6;79:22;	advantage (1) 148:19	64:20;193:13;215:12	67:9;106:6;109:16;
accommodate (1)	88:12;94:1;182:9	adverse (1) 163:1	AICP (2) 32:8;68:17	121:6;122:2;125:8;
197:21	Additionally (1) 30:19	Advise (1) 194:9	aiding (1) 116:9	156:9;158:20
accommodation (3)	additions (1) 5:15	aerial (1) 40:9	aimed (1) 115:19	amount (4) 16:9;
31:1,2,5	address (52) 10:2,15,	Affairs (3) 42:18;60:2;	ain't (8) 144:25;	17:11;29:3;142:21
accommodations (1)	15;17:3;19:10;28:16;	158:1	146:22;147:21;	analysis (4) 17:8;
83:13	30:5;31:12;32:3;	affected (1) 147:16	148:15;149:19;	81:19;181:11;182:25
According (2) 21:21;	71:9;77:16;80:22;	affects (1) 72:20	150:21;166:24;	Ancora (1) 135:1
106:19	81:7;89:12,20;95:24;	affidavits (1) 173:17	214:13	ANDERSON (14)
100.17				. ,

Regine A. Ervin Reporting

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

zonard zonaz				20000000000000000
168:2,7,7;170:6;	15;9:10;10:21;11:22;	16:10;17:9;18:23;	attaches (1) 62:10	back (82) 20:19;
174:3,10,13,17;175:1,	12:11;27:12;31:13;	19:17,20;20:9,16,17;	attended (1) 93:11	23:20;24:8;29:8;33:2,
6,11,16;176:5;177:1	42:16;44:22;61:12;	23:20;25:6,18;38:4;	attention (4) 8:18;	25;36:2,9;38:13,16;
		48:22;57:13;59:10;		
ANDREW (4) 220:6,	66:18,21;67:21,22;		148:1;166:17;195:10	39:20;40:21;44:12;
12,16,17	70:10,11;81:12,16;	79:13;82:16;115:20;	attitude (2) 176:6,7	51:3;55:23;56:12;
Angel (1) 101:4	93:20,24;95:8;96:4,9;	116:1;173:7;191:12;	attorney (6) 27:9;	59:8,16;63:16,17;
ANGELA (2) 156:19,	105:2;106:19;117:6;	200:9;210:15	128:2;129:3;169:15;	65:9;73:24;76:17;
25	139:16;142:24;	areas (1) 130:19	191:6;214:20	82:13;85:17;87:4;
angry (1) 59:8	152:11;176:4,6,16;	argue (2) 108:9,12	attorneys (2) 93:18;	88:7;96:18;97:23;
Anise (1) 213:23	177:23;179:17;	argument (1) 182:21	192:13	99:3,4,8;105:19,21;
announcement (1)	182:18;183:2;187:23;	arise (1) 176:23	attracted (1) 122:14	113:20,25;114:11;
6:16	188:3,19;189:7;	Arnold (3) 59:16;	Atwood (43) 4:14,15;	121:8,10;123:16;
announcements (1)	190:17;195:24;199:3;	120:22;121:2	5:6,7;26:3,18,19;	124:3;126:4;129:8;
8:17	202:20;204:8;205:22;	around (22) 32:22;	49:7;60:18,22;61:14;	138:20;143:4;144:16;
annually (1) 157:20	210:24;216:17,19;	39:3;45:7;50:14,24;	62:2;63:3,13;67:3,16;	146:3,14;147:2;
answered (2) 55:14;	218:7;220:18;221:3,	82:25;87:24;90:22;	88:14;186:13;189:1,	149:4;150:20,24;
161:4	4;228:3,4,16	101:9;109:23;110:17,	8,13;190:24;194:15;	152:14,18,25;156:1;
anticipation (1) 47:3	applications (6)	20,25;111:21,22;	195:3,4;204:24;	163:18;165:24;
anti-Soboxin (1) 54:8	30:10;184:6,7,11;	112:5,9;138:19;	205:5,6;219:11,17,	166:14;169:20,25;
anymore (8) 14:15,19;	200:22,25	150:14;158:9;185:12;	18;225:3,4,9,21;	170:8;177:5;191:5,
22:2;62:25;88:12;	apply (2) 82:17;207:5	224:15	227:5,9,16,20;230:19,	15,18;192:15,19,24;
128:21;139:1;141:19	appreciate (13) 18:9;	arrangement (1) 29:4	20;231:9,10	194:4,18;196:2;
apartment (5) 17:12;	93:2;117:18;130:3,5;	arrangements (1)	August (1) 68:2	197:12,14;200:24;
43:12;83:6;84:19;	135:14;153:16;	173:23	aunt (1) 225:20	201:15;208:17;
102:17	195:17,18;201:5;	arrive (1) 216:1	aunt's (1) 92:10	210:19;214:2;222:20,
apartments (4) 38:17;	205:11;217:22;	ARS (1) 130:10	AUSTIN (3) 117:23;	20;224:21
56:2;85:2,4	219:23	art (4) 100:20;132:8,	118:4,4	back-and-forth (1)
apologies (3) 11:21;	appreciated (2) 9:3;	17;183:1	Austins (1) 25:4	214:25
108:6;201:14	103:7	articulate (2) 182:16;	Authority (1) 86:14	background (4) 93:13,
apologize (3) 75:22;	appreciation (1)	183:14	avail (1) 81:14	14;110:21;138:18
170:7;196:9	130:21	articulated (1) 183:3	available (6) 34:7;	backlog (1) 190:18
apologized (1) 95:2	appropriate (3) 77:8,	ASLTON (1) 82:21	77:13;122:12,19;	backs (1) 148:3
Apostle (2) 98:23;	9;94:17	aspect (3) 73:9;78:13,	148:18;159:3	back-to-school (1)
170:11	appropriately (1)	14	Avenue (48) 5:17,21;	33:20
App (1) 142:7	77:11	aspects (1) 116:23	6:12;7:12,19,23;8:12,	backwards (3) 102:6,
apparently (1) 172:21	appropriations (1)	assess (1) 157:21	20;9:5;17:6,10,16,16;	7;156:2
appeal (3) 45:11;	138:25	assessment (2) 49:13,	19:13;25:2;27:6,14;	bad (4) 101:6,17;
188:3;201:23	approval (13) 43:24;	15	32:9;40:25,25;47:22;	198:8,10
appear (2) 197:17;	46:5;63:9;76:25;	assignation (1) 166:1	60:24;98:21;103:17;	Baird (6) 6:5;8:6,7;
205:19	78:18;180:12;183:14;	assist (2) 83:20;	106:2;113:12;115:5;	200:4,12;201:2
appearance (1) 9:6	202:20;214:6;218:18;	112:12	121:19;125:4,21;	BAKER (3) 153:18,24,
appeared (1) 204:13	223:7,8;229:16	assistance (3) 62:21;	126:3;127:4;133:25;	24
appearing (1) 205:18	approvals (10) 12:1;	115:24;120:4	134:11;149:12;	balance (1) 76:10
appears (4) 21:22;	28:19;46:13;62:12,	assisted (3) 49:23;	153:25;165:10,19;	balancing (1) 72:2
172:2;173:4;177:24	23;96:11;174:25;	55:4;115:25	168:8;185:7,12;	BALEEIA (2) 153:18,
applicable (2) 176:17;	189:19;203:17;	Assisting (1) 112:13	188:24;199:2;220:2;	24
189:5	204:17	Association (1)	224:21,21;225:1;	ball (1) 90:12
applicant (29) 8:13;	approve (5) 98:10;	113:14	229:17	band-aid (2) 111:11,
9:8,11,13,21;12:10;	187:3;219:8;230:9,13	assuming (2) 68:8;	average (3) 29:21;	12
15:11;27:11;28:4,16;	approved (16) 45:8;	119:14	37:12;49:17	bank (4) 35:24;36:3;
46:2;79:9;87:20;	46:4;71:7;88:5;104:5,	assumption (1)	awards (1) 108:19	110:24;157:10
90:1;97:2;152:13;	12;105:3;106:9;	148:25	aware (6) 13:25;	Baptist (3) 8:11,14;
171:10;176:2;179:7;	107:5;115:9;117:1;	assurance (2) 132:4;	34:20;36:15;191:9;	94:24
195:13,25;201:24;	139:17;142:2;143:9,	133:5	200:12;210:5	bar (1) 161:9
202:1;204:13,16;	15;177:25	Atlantic (7) 68:24;	away (13) 34:6;35:24,	Barbara (1) 8:9
208:11;210:12,12;	approving (3) 15:5;	69:3;72:12,15;73:19;	24;36:1,3;40:16;	barbed (1) 216:12
226:17	18:2;95:5	121:18;125:21	46:15;59:23;127:5;	based (8) 21:24;22:1;
Applicant-2 (1) 40:12	Approximately (3)	atrocious (1) 170:24	141:18;145:22;	42:14;49:15;97:22;
applicants (4) 171:14,	171:10;188:1;215:21	attach (3) 213:1;	149:16;207:13	128:2;169:14;179:23
22;174:12;202:22	April (1) 171:19	214:13,18		basement (1) 127:24
applicant's (4) 11:25;	architect (2) 130:8;	attached (5) 202:19;	В	basic (1) 77:23
182:10;207:25;208:2	131:25	211:16;212:8,20;	-	basically (4) 75:10;
application (57) 8:13,	area (25) 9:12;14:11;	214:7	baby (1) 145:9	82:20;109:20;140:14
	,, _,, _			

Regine A. Ervin Reporting

basis (2) 33:6;72:16 **bathroom (3)** 60:4; 152:9.13 bathrooms (1) 39:13 bear (1) 175:8 beautiful (1) 104:19 became (4) 44:9; 100:1:139:3.4 become (3) 23:23; 34:7:150:6 **becoming (2)** 43:7; 150:6 bedroom (2) 74:8; 226:12 bedrooms (18) 15:17, 17;39:13;40:5,6; 221:10,12,15,16; 222:15,18;223:9,14, 18;225:23,24;226:4, 10 beds (3) 33:2;37:12; 59:21 beg (1) 114:12 begin (3) 124:1; 130:2;155:16 beginning (4) 55:21; 65:14;66:15;155:14 Beginnings (23) 5:21; 27:6,11,18;32:13,15, 22,23;36:16;44:17; 47:21:75:1.1.17; 98:23;99:10;100:2; 101:1;122:2,7,13; 159:4;185:8 begins (1) 47:23 behalf (2) 27:10; 205:18 behavior (2) 170:24; 177:2Behavioral (4) 5:21; 27:6,11,18 behind (3) 108:10; 153:1;158:6 beings (2) 110:1; 185:18 **believing (1)** 85:3 belong (1) 149:19 below (2) 115:20; 116:1 **beneficial (30)** 30:11; 45:9:69:14:70:10.13. 19,24;71:8,11,20,24; 80:8,17;81:18,22; 89:4;105:3;131:21, 24;132:1,7,13,24; 133:3,10;158:12; 181:9,9,14;182:23 benefit (3) 132:18; 140:9;146:21 benefiting (1) 133:2 benefits (3) 81:14; 152:2,3 Bennett (1) 165:15

Benson (6) 59:16; 107:18,24,24;130:1, 24 bent (1) 135:22 Bergen (1) 7:23 Besides (3) 86:12; 207:17;213:1 best (18) 10:12; 29:11;32:21;81:8; 109:17:110:18; 111:22;112:8,9; 134:2:149:4,4,5; 169:18;198:2,8,9,10 Bethany (2) 94:23; 172:7 better (24) 55:16; 56:8,19;75:7;76:24; 77:4;87:18;92:22; 95:1,17;123:2; 143:17;147:14,18,22, 23,23,24;149:5; 150:6,7,8;151:23; 218:14 betterments (1) 47:8 bias (1) 96:13 Bible (3) 42:12; 123:15;147:12 big (13) 17:12;33:25; 34:4;36:5;59:14; 60:3:136:19.19; 163:15,18:171:8; 197:25;210:17 **bigger (4)** 10:23;47:1; 63:4,14 biggest (3) 25:22; 109:6,11 **Bilal (5)** 6:20;198:20; 199:1;201:25;204:10 **bill (1)** 174:6 bind (1) 97:1 birthed (1) 154:16 **bit (21)** 14:14;31:10; 32:12,15;38:23; 65:10;69:11,16; 72:10;76:24;78:17; 82:7;83:12;90:7,17; 108:14;119:16; 121:13;150:18; 182:14;193:15 black (14) 99:7;106:5; 111:6;164:8,10; 165:22;166:5,13,20; 171:5,6;207:5,21; 208:3 bless (1) 110:2 blessing (1) 217:11 block (10) 16:15; 17:16;113:17;114:14; 128:22;149:18; 151:11:166:10; 185:12;205:23 blockers (3) 40:1; 54:8,16

blocking (4) 12:15; 20:9;21:4,13 blocks (2) 36:2;127:5 **blood (1)** 54:8 blow (1) 166:23 Blue (4) 90:11,22,24; 183:20 Blvd (7) 6:5;8:6,7; 157:4;165:17;200:13; 201:2 **Board (77)** 4:2;9:9; 11:4,14;12:9;13:25; 15:4;17:25;27:3,8; 30:9;32:14,17;35:9; 44:7;45:17;51:2; 66:24;67:23;68:25; 69:7,17;72:1,25; 75:24;76:8;78:20; 80:20,24;81:2,23; 87:16;89:11,25;90:3, 6;94:10;96:2,3,8; 115:9;134:17;152:8, 10;164:17;170:5; 174:23;175:5,24; 176:13;177:11; 181:11;183:1,11; 184:3,9,10,15,17,22; 187:20;188:19; 194:19;195:9;196:6, 15,21;197:23;204:20; 206:4:216:11,13; 217:1;218:18;224:13; 228:12;231:17 boarding (14) 61:5; 75:9;87:24;88:3; 104:10;107:7;126:2, 11,15,16;128:9,12; 134:10;183:23 Board's (3) 62:5; 182:13:184:20 body (2) 74:22;125:6 boilers (1) 202:15 **bond (1)** 44:4 bone (1) 44:16 book (1) 186:9 **born (7)** 17:14;109:9; 118:6;121:5;134:2; 154:1;157:3 boss (2) 165:13; 172:15 both (17) 20:2;22:10; 70:5;81:2,10;115:9; 122:14,22;144:12; 176:9;180:23;181:8; 185:1;199:19;200:21; 202:23;203:14 bothered (1) 106:10 **bottom (7)** 13:1,4; 33:9;34:8;39:6; 42:10:91:13 bought (5) 198:11; 202:13,15;203:4,24 **Boulevard (5)** 8:4;

17:9,17;107:25;200:5 bound (2) 180:15; 181:2 Box (2) 89:21;191:10 **boxed (1)** 209:18 **boys (1)** 168:24 **BRADDOCK-LAWRENCE (3)** 103:10,16,17 brand (1) 113:14 break (5) 60:5;152:8, 9,14,23 breakfast (1) 151:5 breaking (1) 208:23 breast (1) 167:9 bridge (1) 91:5 brief (5) 31:12;153:7, 15;178:24;179:3 briefly (2) 179:20; 187:19 Brigantine (1) 68:23 brighter (1) 117:12 bring (15) 19:1;39:11; 45:13;54:25;59:2,23; 73:25;127:2;136:24; 137:2;150:16;151:24; 164:13;176:16; 190:23 bringing (1) 176:1 brings (1) 42:11 Brito (1) 4:20 bro (1) 147:5 Broadway (3) 101:18; 217:12;229:15 broke (1) 216:1 broken (1) 159:15 Brooks (20) 12:4; 16:24;17:5,5,8;18:8, 18;93:6,6;94:9,13; 96:6;97:4,7,11,14; 114:23;115:4,4; 117:17 brother (9) 64:17; 67:3,8;109:18; 121:12;148:7;151:20; 191:23;227:7 brothers (19) 35:20; 41:2;56:5,10;57:5; 84:6;88:7;129:12; 144:23;145:19,24; 146:12,25;147:7,11; 148:10,15,18;167:21 Brother's (1) 121:19 brought (6) 18:25; 46:9;76:3;116:23; 122:14;142:3 brown (1) 106:5 Bueno (1) 4:20 **build (8)** 118:18,19; 119:4;120:8,9,13,13; 149:10 building (25) 8:23; 10:23;19:14,22;37:2; 63:13,14,17;64:15;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

65:4:92:14:113:14; 114:4;118:14,17; 120:16:130:10; 139:14,17,18,18; 148:17;202:5;216:1; 220:24 **buildings (4)** 65:4; 123:11:132:25; 167:17 built (2) 19:20,21 bulk (7) 9:12;12:1; 14:9;200:10;205:24; 229:14,16 bunch (3) 101:10; 137:2;197:24 **burden (5)** 70:15,20; 72:5,12;79:6 Bureau (4) 19:22; 139:17,18,18 BURT (3) 165:3,9,10 bus (3) 166:4;190:6,8 Bush (1) 139:2 Business (15) 5:17, 20;8:20;104:12,14; 113:13;115:12;117:1; 134:14;136:7,25; 160:19;187:14; 213:11;229:1 businesses (2) 127:17;224:17 **buy (4)** 62:11:96:23; 103:24;164:14 bypass (1) 163:14 **By-right (1)** 184:7

С

c1 (1) 205:24 cabinets (1) 225:15 CAD (1) 173:1 Cafe (1) 36:23 Calderon (29) 5:16; 8:20;9:4,8,23;10:4,4, 6,7,19,24;11:2,6,9,12, 16;12:16,21,24;13:6, 9,14,18,21,24;23:8, 11,14;27:4 call (21) 4:7,25;15:23; 21:5,13,14;25:16,16; 39:18;44:16;54:9; 107:10;126:6;173:5; 177:6;179:4;182:4; 191:21;206:5;215:23; 217:8 called (12) 75:3; 100:5;102:21;109:7, 11;114:7;121:18; 126:5;138:25;146:6, 6;148:17 calls (3) 138:15; 157:11;172:25 calm (2) 196:23;197:2

Cambridge (1) 229:13

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

				,,
Camden (124) 7:13,	82:16,22;83:6;86:17;	179:10;185:1	213:4,8,11,15,19,22,	Church (14) 8:11,14;
17;10:17;19:13;21:7;	87:25;89:4,19;90:1,	CASSANDRA (2)	24;214:1;215:4,8,12,	42:13;72:22;86:3;
27:21;33:11,16;34:5;	21;94:3;95:14;97:20;	162:10,16	17;216:22,24;217:4,	94:24;98:24;106:16;
36:6,16;38:3,7;40:16;	99:4,16;103:6;108:3,	catalytic (1) 128:21	7,10,15,22;218:22;	110:15;118:4;128:3;
45:4;52:2;55:15,15;	23;111:23;118:13;	category (1) 74:18	219:13,14;224:3,7;	132:14;172:7;173:18
56:5,16;59:19;66:10;	119:22,25;120:8,13;	caucasian (1) 166:4	226:18,23;229:22;	churches (7) 65:6;
72:13;85:5,20;86:8,	123:9;125:24;129:10;	caught (1) 172:14	230:2,3,10,15,16,25;	71:21;90:23;127:16,
13,14;90:19;93:18;	131:10;133:7;136:16;	cause (20) 20:23;	230.2,5,10,15,10,25, 231:5,6	24;128:1;132:25
94:16;95:23;97:20;	139:6,7;141:21;	76:11;100:7;105:7,	challenge (1) 56:21	circumstance (2)
94.10,95.25,97.20, 98:21,25;99:2;	145:22;146:21;147:6,	16;140:9;144:24;	challenges (1) 160:16	44:21;181:23
100:17,18;102:18;	9,19;149:5;150:15,	145:2,5;148:15;	Chambers (1) 7:11	circumstances (6)
103:17,24,25;106:25;	17;151:3,6,17,17;	149:7;151:2,5;		
	152:1,20;155:20;		chance (4) 58:23; 91:7;92:24;163:10	31:4,5;71:23;160:16, 18;190:25
107:8;108:14,22;		152:25;159:8;167:8;		
109:5,5,10,10;110:15, 21,23;111:15;112:16;	156:6;167:8;169:11, 18;172:21;174:5,8;	171:20;172:13; 191:25;196:13	change (12) 79:14; 98:1;99:6,10,13;	citizen (2) 119:23; 147:24
				citizens (1) 36:8
115:5;116:17;118:6,	175:7,9,12;177:16;	causes (1) 72:17	111:6,7,24;112:3,6,	
8;121:5,6,18,20,22;	178:10,11;180:23;	causing (4) 136:3;	15;180:18	City (76) 17:21;32:9;
125:9,10,11;129:8;	183:13;185:6;186:10;	181:14;208:24;216:1	changed (6) 95:9,11;	33:16;34:5;36:12;
130:1;131:10,18,24;	187:4,9;188:11;	Cedar (2) 48:5;144:9	111:3,4;112:24;	38:7;65:17;68:23;
132:3,5;133:5,8,10,	189:6;190:24;191:1,	celebrate (1) 166:15	134:24	69:3;72:12,15;73:19;
25;134:2;138:18;	4;192:20;194:20;	Center (11) 36:1,10;	changes (4) 93:23;	74:14;77:20;79:7;
144:10,11,17;145:11; 146:14;147:25;	197:6,15,18,22;198:4,	37:3;52:2;65:3;	98:6;141:23;180:17	86:13,13;90:12,24;
· · · · ·	5;199:24;200:3,10;	92:18;95:10,12;	changing (3) 79:14;	91:20;92:5;93:8,18;
149:10,22;150:11;	201:12,22;202:14;	121:23;167:5;190:7	111:22;180:11	96:14;97:24,25;98:2;
151:7;153:25,25;	206:18;210:18;	Centerville (4) 98:24;	character (4) 70:9;	99:11;100:18;101:2,
157:2,12,13;161:12,	212:13;217:5;220:14;	101:4;110:22;166:23	76:21;92:12;178:21	7,10,16,16,17,19;
14,19;162:17;164:8,	224:14;228:10,13,24	cert (4) 200:6;202:7;	charge (9) 38:18;	104:6;106:18,25;
11,13,20;165:12,14;	canceled (1) 66:25	204:9,14	40:21;51:6,7;61:5;	107:8;109:2,3;111:5,
166:10;167:2,2;	cancer (1) 167:9	certain (11) 53:21;	88:15;92:3;108:8;	16;112:16;115:10;
168:8;169:19;174:4;	Cannabista (1) 8:3	74:23;132:9,10,10,12,	206:23	117:1;118:8;120:8,
177:6;178:6;186:6;	capacity (2) 125:5,18	24;148:5;160:17;	charging (1) 40:20	11,13;125:9,10,11;
189:3,22,23;190:3;	Captain (2) 125:22,22	161:24;168:16	Chaseman (1) 110:24	132:5;134:12;146:22;
201:25;205:18;	car (7) 12:18;52:3;	certainly (7) 31:4;	check (1) 193:8	149:17,17;157:2,12;
206:17;208:19;	73:5;83:6;173:9,13,	34:25;76:19;163:15;	checks (1) 35:19	159:19;161:12,13,14,
210:17;211:11	14	188:16;210:10,11	cheer (1) 103:3	19;165:12;166:1,10;
Camdenites (2)	card (2) 35:24;36:3	Certificate (2) 199:11;	cheering (1) 103:6	173:2;189:2;190:6;
149:23;151:7	care (14) 35:17;	201:20	Cheesecake (1) 33:14	191:11;199:2;202:16;
came (24) 35:20;	38:11;46:20;124:3;	Certificates (1) 202:20	Cherry (7) 32:6;	208:19
37:5;44:8,8,9;66:10;	129:5;131:1;147:3;	Certification (3) 32:8;	89:22;110:13;130:10;	City's (2) 104:5;
85:17;93:25;95:23;	148:1,3;160:25;	68:18;83:24	166:5;220:13;222:7	200:18
100:2,14;103:21;	161:1;167:8,21;	certified (2) 6:19;	Child (3) 158:2;	civil (4) 36:22;99:9;
104:13;111:20;	217:20	68:17	163:11,12	109:11,19
119:21;120:12;134:5;	cared (1) 147:5	chain (1) 207:5	children (17) 55:18;	claim (1) 107:6
146:13;158:23;	career (1) 128:5	CHAIRMAN (121) 4:1,	58:11;111:8;121:5;	clarification (2)
159:18;185:15,16;	cares (1) 106:6	8,9,23,25;5:1;13:7,10,	142:17;147:23;	131:20;133:13
206:2;212:19	Caribbean (1) 111:1	22;14:15,18;15:24;	159:22,23,24,25;	clarify (1) 48:11
camera (1) 39:10	caring (1) 108:5 Carpenter (1) 165:14	24:19;25:1,9,11,15;	160:2;163:17;165:12; 209:13,15,25;215:24	clarity (1) 218:11
cameras (7) 39:10,12,		26:8,11,13;27:7;		Clark (1) 8:9
15;90:16;178:2,3,5 Camp (1) 48:4	carries (2) 26:25; 219:22	31:16,18;35:8,9;50:9;	childrens' (1) 209:10	class (3) 30:24;39:5,5
		51:3,15,20;52:5,11,	choice (3) 49:16;	classes (4) 30:20;
can (143) 10:18,20;	cars (16) 12:14,15;	18,23;53:15;54:3,7,	107:10;180:11	39:2,4;82:15
12:18;16:1;18:13;	13:7,11,12;21:20,25;	12,17,21;55:10,13;	choices (1) 75:21	classic (1) 186:17
25:24;29:11;32:13,	23:3,12,19;24:19;	56:12,24;57:7,25;	choose (3) 18:14;	classified (2) 128:12;
19;33:7,9;34:14,25; 35:1:36:1:38:13 23	73:5;91:2;100:12;	65:9,15,21,24;66:5,8,	151:12;155:21	129:2
35:1;36:1;38:13,23,	208:18,20	11,14,25;69:6;	choosing (1) 187:17	classifying (1) 128:19
25;39:11,11;40:3;	case (15) 6:6;30:12;	137:12,21,25;152:20;	chose (2) 45:9;154:2 Christian (1) 10:16	Claus (1) 36:11
41:11,13,13,15;44:3;	62:7;70:21;71:21; 72:1:74:5:77:15:	153:2,16;156:15;	Christian (1) 10:16 Christians (2) 163:22	clean (14) 29:2;44:3;
47:14;49:12;50:15; 54:12,24,25;59:3;	72:1;74:5;77:15; 87:22;152:22;179:15;	173:24;174:9;175:13, 17;179:8,14;183:5;	Christians (2) 163:22, 23	53:24;104:20;116:11;
	87:22;152:22;179:15; 186:17;187:9;192:11;		Christmas (2) 35:16,	135:6,15,20;136:9,13, 13,16,16;148:20
61:13,21;62:2,10,10;	201:10	185:3;192:10;193:3, 15;194:2,7,10,14,22,		cleanliness (1) 116:13
63:7;64:1,19;67:22; 68:8;69:16;72:3;	cases (6) 5:13;83:7;	23;196:15;205:1,2;	18 CHRISTOPHER (2)	clear (5) 70:12;73:13;
75:24;76:3,6;80:24;	152:21;175:15;	210:13;212:13,22,25;	124:22;125:3	95:13;176:17,25
		= 2 1 0 + 1 2 1 2 + 1 2 2 1 2 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	124.22.123.3	1 JJ.1J.1/0.1/.4J

clearly (1) 104:9 clergy (1) 125:10 Clerk's (1) 4:6 client (4) 131:8; 194:21;205:19;206:5 clients (1) 134:9 clinical (1) 39:24 **close (8)** 39:17;56:1; 57:12;107:2;128:8; 179:15:204:11:218:8 closed (7) 8:22;14:24; 16:4;56:23;179:16, 17;185:9 closing (2) 179:18; 218:9 **clothed (1)** 33:4 clothes (2) 92:20; 121:24 clothing (2) 131:11; 154:5 **CO (3)** 139:19;204:3, 4 coached (1) 126:24 coaching (1) 116:6 Coalition (1) 148:16 Coated (1) 141:21 code (6) 74:4;77:15; 90:11,22,24;183:20 codes (1) 61:3 cold (1) 141:14 coldest (1) 157:21 Coley (1) 125:22 collaboration (1) 116:20 collaborative (1) 116:16 colleague (1) 131:7 College (2) 36:6; 105:23 COLLINS (3) 124:22; 125:3,3 combination (1) 183:24 **comfortable (2)** 98:9; 164:5 coming (36) 12:14,17; 18:9;20:19;21:8;22:5, 7,25;23:1,2,3;25:20; 26:2;36:5,11;52:5; 53:1;56:9,10;72:14; 73:16;88:24;106:1; 107:12;112:15;121:8; 131:10;133:15;134:6; 135:25;142:23;166:5; 184:1;198:16;213:16; 222:11 commend (1) 183:17 commendable (1) 168:12 comment (7) 16:2,4; 18:12;176:11;179:24, 25:181:20 comments (4) 153:5;

181:4,19:218:11 Commission (1) 121:17 commitment (2) 104:21;117:11 committed (3) 105:13; 116:18;135:1 **committee (2)** 157:23; 158:23 common (1) 45:15 communities (3) 106:16;120:10; 161:25 community (92) 27:16, 21;32:24;37:22;38:1; 40:24;42:18;60:2; 63:1;70:12,25;72:12, 19;73:22;74:14,15, 20;75:14;76:22;79:7, 22;93:11;100:14,16; 103:21,23;104:7,22; 105:6,8,9,13;106:8, 10;107:14;108:5; 113:20;114:15; 115:14;116:12,22; 117:5;118:12;119:4, 21,23;121:9;125:21; 126:13,13,24;127:12, 13;132:10;135:25; 136:5,8,9,10,22; 141:6;142:4;146:3; 148:21;150:9,10,11, 14,16;151:9,12,14; 152:3;154:2,4,14,15; 158:1,22;163:6,8; 164:11;169:4;170:21; 171:6;181:24,25; 183:18;188:9,13,15; 190:8 company (1) 21:14 compared (1) 46:19 compassion (2) 90:4, 13 **compelled (1)** 99:6 complaint (1) 25:22 complete (3) 47:20; 53:3;119:17 **completed (4)** 50:7; 82:15;104:3,11 complex (2) 17:13; 202:15 compliance (2) 17:21; 97:21 comply (1) 9:15 comprehensive (1) 116:25 computer (3) 147:13; 197:19;198:6 concept (1) 160:25 concern (13) 46:15; 47:7;62:16;93:9; 95:25;113:16;114:4, 9;153:9;155:23;

187:17;189:21;190:4 concerned (8) 19:25; 119:25;142:7;146:24, 25;176:1;193:22; 194:5 concerning (2) 126:9; 173:7 concerns (15) 12:6; 27:13;31:10,12;46:8, 12;93:10;94:15;95:5; 97:13;153:10;156:4, 7;176:15;211:14 conclude (1) 8:16 concluded (2) 41:19; 231:19 conclusion (1) 43:5 concrete (1) 214:15 condition (17) 43:24; 46:4;63:7,9,16;78:18; 183:12,14;194:4,17, 20;214:6;218:19,19, 23;219:4,9 conditions (4) 76:1,6; 91:2;96:10 conduct (1) 152:10 conducted (2) 116:8; 170:20 confident (2) 98:4; 182:5 configuration (1) 12:13 confirm (2) 23:4;48:10 conflict (1) 48:9 conformance (1) 4:4 Congratulations (1) 205:10 connection (5) 27:16; 28:5,20;42:17;43:19 **connotation (1)** 57:22 consensus (1) 174:24 consider (2) 107:11; 124:9 considered (3) 22:5; 70:25;218:18 considering (1) 81:21 consist (1) 98:1 consistently (1) 158:17 consists (1) 94:12 constraint (1) 162:3 construction (10) 17:18;21:9,10;74:4; 95:3;105:25;115:18; 206:21,22;227:17 contacted (2) 61:10; 93:18 contain (1) 180:14 contained (1) 96:11 continue (15) 46:6; 65:1;78:21;82:13; 87:5;90:21;101:21; 105:8;116:7;159:4;

continued (6) 8:2,4, 21;9:5;11:23;64:21 Continuing (1) 11:20 continuous (1) 98:6 contractor (4) 207:2; 212:18;214:17;227:8 contractors (1) 228:8 **contributed (1)** 115:22 control (1) 18:3 controls (1) 183:2 conversation (1) 131:12 conversations (1) 47:3 convert (2) 9:10;225:5 converters (1) 128:21 **cook (6)** 29:13;44:3; 99:5;151:4,5;155:2 cool (2) 136:4,23 **Cooper (73)** 4:10,11; 5:2,3;12:12,19,22; 13:3,11;14:7,16,23; 15:4,19,25;18:11; 20:11,15;22:9;24:12, 16;25:19;26:14,15; 35:10;48:5;59:5,20; 63:20,25;64:5;87:11; 110:22;183:9,16; 184:14;193:1,4,7,10, 20;194:24,25;203:21; 204:2,7,22;205:3,4; 210:22;211:24;212:9, 12,16;218:5;219:2,5, 15,16;223:20,25; 224:10,23;225:2; 227:14;228:9;229:7, 25;230:12,17,18; 231:7,8 coordinator (2) 157:18,20 copies (2) 10:22,23 copy (7) 11:17,18; 35:1;67:22,24;78:19; 154:21 Cordero (1) 101:4 Corinthians (1) 169:23 corner (9) 17:19; 19:15;20:14;25:3; 37:8;39:6;101:25; 149:13;185:13 corners (1) 112:20 Corrections (1) 158:3 correctly (1) 174:15 corridors (1) 116:14 CORSEY (2) 165:3,9 cost (1) 173:12 costs (1) 57:2 couch-surfing (2) 52:3;173:12 Council (3) 115:10; 125:5;159:19 177:4;191:17;196:20; Counsel (17) 5:23;

197:1:228:16

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

9:5.6.16:34:25:40:10; 91:21;175:20;176:10; 179:4,18;182:12,21; 205:20;214:8;218:8; 219:1 counseled (1) 169:5 counseling (4) 42:9; 56:7;116:6;177:20 counselor (1) 157:11 counting (1) 173:13 country (12) 72:8,9; 110:17,20,25;111:21; 112:9,25;130:6,18, 18;166:14 County (12) 7:13,17; 36:6;68:25;94:11; 102:18;116:17,18; 157:13;161:15,20; 186:6 couple (6) 50:9;64:1; 67:1;88:9;162:19; 190:5 Courier (1) 190:19 course (4) 40:2;42:8; 88:2;154:20 courses (2) 82:13,15 **Court (9)** 28:5;45:12; 61:20;66:2;71:25; 103:1,5;176:8;191:7 courts (1) 45:10 cousin (2) 141:16; 145:13 cover (2) 14:5;138:7 coverage (1) 220:24 covering (1) 122:16 COVID (2) 34:8;35:18 cracks (2) 135:16,17 craft (1) 104:13 crafted (1) 115:13 crawling (1) 156:1 CRDA (1) 69:2 create (6) 11:4,10; 15:11,14;105:9;106:4 created (2) 44:15; 104:18 creates (2) 75:6; 104:14 creating (4) 104:8; 106:4;115:19;147:22 credentials (3) 68:12; 177:19;178:4 credit (1) 83:22 crevices (1) 135:17 **crimes (3)** 53:11,11; 135:2 crisis (1) 114:5 Criteria (24) 69:25; 70:2,7,14,16,19,21, 22;71:5;72:1;76:9,18; 77:14:78:14:79:7.10: 80:4,7,10,13,18;81:3, 6:131:22 criterias (1) 82:12

Min-U-Script®

Criterion (2) 76:16; 81:4 critical (3) 74:11; 75:11:115:17 **CROC (2)** 36:1,9 Crooked (1) 32:5 crowd (1) 102:25 Crozer (1) 36:18 crucial (1) 116:9 crying (1) 148:7 CSA (3) 229:14,16,18 cultural (1) 109:6 Cumberland (2) 94:10;161:19 curb (1) 20:13 curb-cut (6) 20:12,16; 21:4;22:24;25:13; 26:7cured (1) 189:23 curfew (5) 58:18,18; 60:16,17;187:15 current (2) 64:8;78:15 currently (6) 27:17; 68:22;69:2;105:24; 203:11,13 curriculum (1) 178:7 cut (4) 26:4;155:1; 170:11;175:9 cutting (1) 214:16 CVS (2) 92:15,16 D d1 (3) 69:20;71:10,18 D-4 (1) 70:23 dad (4) 67:9,11; 145:13;147:23 daddy (1) 167:8 daily (2) 72:16;178:8 Dallas (1) 211:11 damage (3) 208:24; 214:4:216:2 damaged (1) 211:18 dangerous (1) 28:13 Dani (2) 213:23,24 Daniel (1) 169:1

daycares (1) 36:13 days (14) 49:8,9,9,12, 13,13,17;59:12;92:1, 1:99:8:100:10:101:3: 215:22 daytime (1) 209:17 day-to-day (1) 180:4 DCA (12) 28:20; 43:18;53:20;57:19; 60:1:61:8:73:14; 74:5;88:18;106:21; 130:13;157:25 deal (5) 48:23;72:15; 74:21;140:3;143:6 dealing (3) 28:11; 59:1;208:16 dealt (2) 208:18,21 death (2) 37:5;170:13 decades (3) 41:5; 50:16;125:9 **December (1)** 4:3 decency (10) 139:10, 23;143:18;156:14; 158:5;160:9;161:10, 25;170:2,8 decent (2) 190:15,16 decently (1) 169:24 deception (6) 186:15, 16;187:21;189:2,4; 191:19 deceptive (2) 188:20, 21 decide (6) 143:21; 161:21;163:9;164:15; 200:1.14decides (1) 96:8 decision (11) 18:14; 71:24;94:6;97:23; 128:18;161:24; 171:22;177:11; 182:15.16:228:14 decision-making (1) 100:21 decisions (2) 97:22; 111:2 dedicated (2) 27:21; 116:11 deemed (1) 30:20 deep (1) 137:5 deficient (4) 8:7,10; 14:12,14 define (2) 42:22; 132:23 defined (2) 178:15; 182:23 defines (2) 70:24; 173:11 definitely (5) 64:5; 105:7;158:8;214:1; 217:20 definition (5) 98:7; 132:23;169:14; 178:14;182:25

delay (1) 228:17 deliver (1) 131:11 deliverous (1) 42:11 delivery (1) 78:2 **DEMANNA (1)** 133:4 **DEMENNA (7)** 129:19,25,25;132:15, 18,21;133:12 demonstrate (2) 204:18,18 den (1) 169:1 denial (4) 28:9;71:11; 176:23;195:13 denied (4) 28:3; 94:14,15,20 denies (1) 177:22 DENISE (2) 113:4,11 deny (2) 96:3;164:24 departing (1) 196:6 **Department (8)** 42:18; 58:9;60:2;143:7; 157:25;158:1,2,3 depending (1) 50:25 depends (1) 49:13 depth (1) 202:4 descent (1) 177:24 describe (3) 29:11; 32:14;224:14 describes (2) 132:8, 24 deserving (1) 160:4 design (1) 130:8 designated (3) 30:24; 71:19;117:7 designation (1) 106:21 desirable (1) 104:25 despite (1) 103:24 deterence (1) 209:1 deterent (1) 209:1 determination (2) 79:23;88:6 determine (3) 75:24; 80:24;83:2 determined (3) 57:4; 79:8;100:11 determines (1) 159:1 determining (1) 187:3 detox (9) 33:5;38:10; 49:8,11,18,21,22; 50:6:52:15 detriment (6) 70:7; 76:10,12,14;80:21; 181:15 detrimental (3) 73:1; 75:25;80:25 devastating (1) 72:18 develop (1) 160:19 developing (1) 164:21 development (2) 97:19;127:14 DHS (4) 53:20;58:7,9; 88:19

diagram (1) 227:23 Dickerson (2) 191:21, 24 dictate (3) 63:10; 180:13,21 died (1) 166:10 differ (1) 114:12 difference (9) 64:24; 111:4,18,25;112:18, 19:127:23:131:4: 186:5 different (35) 18:20; 21:17,18;35:25; 49:15;50:14;52:11, 13;61:22;62:1;74:8; 81:7;82:4,14;84:14; 85:2;87:24;88:10,19; 114:15;122:5,17; 127:6;135:18;154:24; 175:25;176:1,3,5; 181:22;188:10;191:1; 210:14,15;228:24 differentiation (1) 75:11differently (1) 181:23 difficult (2) 74:21; 190:18 digital (1) 39:5 digressing (1) 129:14 dimensions (1) 21:22 dining (3) 104:23; 222:18;223:10 **DION (2)** 206:10,16 dire (1) 68:9 direction (1) 84:1 directly (4) 67:13; 72:20;154:6;185:11 director (3) 69:2; 110:14;159:20 Disabilities (1) 30:22 **Disability (1)** 129:4 disabled (3) 30:21,24; 129:2 disappointed (1) 154:22 discharge (1) 159:12 discriminate (1) 129:1 discuss (1) 66:6 discussed (1) 79:3 discussion (3) 183:4; 189:11:204:20 discussions (1) 152:10 disheartening (1) 149:2 dishonesty (1) 191:20 disorder (1) 72:20 disorderly (1) 127:8 dispense (1) 205:15 dispute (1) 93:7 disrespect (1) 215:11 disrespectful (1) 25:11 disrespectfully (1)

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

80:16 disruption (1) 148:15 dissect (1) 102:12 dissecting (1) 102:13 disturbances (1) 9:1 Dixon (26) 6:20,22; 198:20;199:1,1,5,9, 13,15;201:19,20,25; 202:10,13,22;203:3,6, 9,12,15,19,23;204:1, 4,10;205:11 **DOC (3)** 53:20;88:19; 106:21 doctor (10) 40:16; 55:7;92:10,11,11; 99:2;126:21,23; 139:22;166:11 doctors (1) 54:24 document (5) 78:4,13, 15;96:1,14 documentation (8) 83:7;93:15;94:1; 95:13;187:22;202:16; 203:17;204:16 documented (2) 93:24;94:3 documents (1) 77:18 dogs (1) 210:15 doin' (1) 167:7 dollars (2) 35:24,25 donate (1) 33:13 donation (1) 35:23 done (46) 15:2;21:7; 29:1;33:6;34:15; 40:19;42:13;53:3; 54:3;57:8;68:25; 72:4;86:5;91:11; 97:20;99:14;118:23; 125:13,13,14;136:6, 20;137:21;138:17,17; 139:24;141:12; 143:12;150:13,21; 154:20;156:6;159:15; 169:6,23;172:2; 174:14;175:7;176:3; 177:3,8,16;188:14; 190:16;197:20; 215:10 door (11) 43:3;57:3; 60:4;105:14,20; 107:5;119:6;126:4; 134:15,19;148:22 doors (3) 138:13; 140:22;209:16 door-to-door-to-door (1) 140:21 doubt (1) 122:21 down (48) 19:16; 22:20;25:4;41:5;56:1, 23;62:16;74:6;82:18; 94:14,20;95:20;98:5; 100:14:101:18:103:2, 6;111:9,19,20;

228:24

data (2) 93:16,17

187:24;198:4

daughter (6) 12:25;

Day (23) 36:7;39:16,

185:11;214:19;

229:11;230:7,9,14,24

22;40:7;59:18;118:9,

124:6;140:4;151:3,4; 157:4;163:11;165:12;

169:17;174:18;178:4;

10;121:22;122:8,9;

13:2,5;24:13,15,17

date (3) 183:6;

dated (1) 68:1 dates (6) 190:19;

Davis (1) 27:9

113:17;120:3;123:14; 129:9.10:139:14: 152:25;156:1;165:17; 170:16,18;171:16; 173:2;175:9;176:9; 180:18;185:9,12,25; 191:3,8;196:23; 197:2;201:22;216:24; 224:11,21;227:4 downstairs (6) 222:18;225:13,14; 226:20,21:227:12 downtown (5) 33:11; 52:2;135:16,18; 149:22 downward (1) 44:8 dozen (1) 52:13 Dr (11) 36:17;48:2,6, 7,21,23;61:10; 126:21;127:2;166:11, 12 draw (1) 176:18 drawn (1) 122:6 dressed (1) 36:11 drive (1) 191:2 driveway (4) 21:13; 22:19;23:9;26:4 driving (1) 83:24 drop-off (2) 190:10,12 dropped (1) 90:12 dropping (1) 190:8 droves (1) 102:5 drug (11) 28:8;49:16; 51:25;54:8,21,23; 71:20;95:7,10;147:9; 155:24 drugs (7) 27:23;40:1; 100:12;101:17,25; 102:3;135:6 drug-test (1) 53:16 dry (1) 155:1 dryer (3) 33:3,9; 222:19 DuBois (1) 205:17 due (4) 44:20;113:22; 143:5;196:5 duly (28) 9:23;16:24; 19:6;31:25;89:15; 98:15;99:18;103:11; 107:18;110:6;113:4; 114:23:117:23; 120:22;124:23; 129:19;133:18;144:3; 153:18;156:19; 162:10;165:4;168:2; 198:20;206:10;211:4; 220:6;221:24 dumping (2) 208:21; 210:16 duplex (15) 9:11; 12:20;15:12;17:17; 26:1;200:8;201:21; 202:7,8,12,14;

203:25:204:9.15; 220:24 duplexes (6) 12:7; 15:5;16:9,13;17:10; 25:23 during (9) 34:8;35:18, 21;58:16;61:8;101:7; 183:20;192:7;209:17 dwelling (1) 74:2 dwellings (1) 183:24 dying (1) 101:19 Ε ear (1) 170:12 earlier (2) 125:25; 193:24 early (2) 141:4; 170:17 easier (2) 172:15; 178:19 easiest (1) 156:12 East (1) 165:14 easy (7) 86:4,4; 140:18,20;184:25; 185:25;188:21 eat (2) 92:4;167:14 economy (1) 164:11 education (1) 104:15 educator (2) 115:12; 117:2Edward (1) 9:7 effect (1) 75:25 effects (4) 72:18;73:1; 80:21,25 effort (1) 73:25 efforts (4) 90:22; 105:8;115:18;116:16 egregious (1) 101:23 eight (42) 28:23;29:9; 33:15,21;42:2;46:24; 53:25;57:5;58:16; 59:2;63:6,8;73:23; 76:4;95:23;97:15,16; 101:21:118:22; 119:19;123:8;132:2; 133:5;134:22;137:19; 155:5;158:9;159:8; 161:17;162:21,22; 163:9:164:3,12,12, 24;171:23;177:6,6, 13;180:6;185:20 Eighteen (1) 58:10 EINGORN (325) 4:8, 10,12,14,16,18,20,25; 5:2,4,6,8,10,12,19,23; 6:1,4,7,11,23;7:3,7, 21;9:9,20;10:2,6,8,14, 18;11:17,19;13:25; 14:9,19,25;15:9,22, 25;16:4,11,17,21; 17:3,7;18:4,9,13,18, 24;19:3,10;20:25;

21:3,12,16,21;22:1, 12,16,19,23;23:4,9, 12,15,24;24:9,11; 26:2,6,10,14,16,18, 20,22,24;27:5;31:20; 32:3;34:13,17,20; 35:3,12;40:11;47:15, 19;48:4;49:4;64:7; 65:23;66:1,7;67:25; 68:7:69:7:79:3.17; 80:9,12;81:23;82:2; 87:8,20;88:12;89:7, 19,23;93:3;94:8; 95:24;96:7;97:6,9,13; 98:11,18;99:15,21; 102:24;103:14; 107:15,22;110:3,10; 113:1,8;114:20; 115:2;117:15,18,20; 118:2;120:19,25; 124:19;125:1;129:16, 23;132:7,16,20,22; 133:7,14,22;134:16; 138:1,4,8;143:25; 144:7;152:5;153:14, 22;156:16,23;162:7, 14;164:25;165:7; 167:24;168:5;170:3; 174:11,16,20;175:2,9, 19:176:8.20:178:25; 179:4,16:182:12; 183:11;184:16; 186:12;188:2;189:9; 194:3,13,16,21,24; 195:1,3,5,7,11,18,23; 196:19;197:9,14; 198:14,17,24;199:3,7, 10,14,17,22;200:2,16; 201:9,17,19;202:11, 19;203:1,4,7,10,13, 16;204:6,8,25;205:3, 5,7,9,12;206:7,14,18, 22;207:1,4,8,10,13, 16,19,24;208:3,7,10, 14;209:4;210:7,11, 20,23;211:1,8,12,20; 212:5;214:5,24; 215:3;216:7;218:3,6; 219:1,3,7,12,15,17, 19,21,25;220:3,10,14, 17,22;221:2,6,9,12, 15,17,21;222:3,8,10, 15,23;223:4,11,14,17, 22;224:12,14,25; 225:3,16,22,25;226:3, 6,13,16;227:4; 228:12,15,22;229:3,9, 24;230:1,4,6,13,17, 19,21,23;231:2,4,7,9, 11,13,16 either (6) 85:3;96:17; 130:23;186:8;213:6; 218:20

Elaine (1) 109:8 elder (1) 108:16 election (1) 166:2 electronic (2) 197:18; 198:5 electronically (2) 199:21,25 elements (1) 151:14 eliminating (1) 140:15 else (22) 44:15: 50:11;57:2;59:3,18, 19;85:5;103:2,20; 113:19;124:5;142:6; 143:23;157:6;160:4, 13;179:12;185:6; 193:24;207:16; 208:10;218:6 else's (1) 136:17 elsewhere (1) 96:23 emails (1) 138:14 emergency (3) 116:3; 157:8;173:6 Empire (4) 17:5,15; 19:12;133:25 employ (1) 48:6 employed (1) 116:13 Empowerment (1) 116:5 empty (1) 185:15 EMT's (1) 143:7 Encourage (3) 77:19; 105:10;157:9 end (11) 17:12;30:5; 41:22;62:22,23;63:2; 65:13,13;122:9; 130:23;135:19 endeavors (1) 125:12 **enforceable (2)** 96:1, 14 enforcement (5) 21:1, 2.5.14:90:18 engage (1) 214:24 engaged (1) 85:18 enhancing (1) 116:20 enough (11) 20:4; 46:19;49:8;98:3; 149:3;163:13;173:16; 177:13;196:21; 210:14;228:13 ensure (1) 187:5 enter (1) 23:12 entire (2) 95:4;171:7 entitled (1) 96:18 entrance (1) 223:4 entry (2) 82:3;223:1 environment (2) 104:20;116:15 environments (1) 116:4 Ephraim (1) 6:12 epidemic (2) 37:25; 130.6equal (1) 188:22

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

equates (1) 195:12 equipment (1) 215:25 equity (3) 105:19,20; 132:4especially (4) 50:19; 86:16;111:6;119:7 Essex (1) 38:4 establish (2) 28:2; 197:1 established (1) 175:3 establishment (1) 27:16 estate (1) 37:9 eternity (1) 124:7 eval (2) 49:14;53:7 evaluate (1) 123:3 evaluated (1) 88:23 evaluations (1) 82:4 even (42) 24:20; 35:13;42:8;46:25; 48:25;49:13;51:25; 53:2,4,5,8,13;56:9; 57:2,19;58:23;61:6; 83:21;90:25;91:4; 103:3;106:17;114:1; 118:15;121:10; 131:18;136:24; 144:15;148:22;149:7; 164:22;167:11,12; 192:14,19;193:22; 194:5;210:16;216:12, 13,18;218:19 evening (14) 4:1;5:19, 23;6:7,23;7:3,21;9:7; 27:8;73:16;99:15; 205:14,18,21 evenings (1) 73:20 event (1) 87:21 eventually (1) 217:18 everybody (32) 7:7; 32:20;33:24;49:15; 51:24;52:7;72:21; 84:23;89:10;94:3; 96:22,24;103:2,20; 113:19;120:17; 122:22;134:15,19; 135:3;137:5;140:1; 147:1;151:16;168:10; 189:22;191:1,9; 197:17,21,24;215:20 everyday (3) 120:1; 128:15;178:8 everyone (6) 53:22; 57:12;179:21;186:21; 196:23;197:15 everytime (1) 101:13 evict (1) 84:24 eviction (1) 157:14 evidence (3) 10:19; 12:1:203:20 evidentiary (1) 175:20 Evita (2) 198:4;229:1 exact (2) 180:14;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

ZUNING BUARD	
227:10	extension (6)
exactly (11) 41:14;	19;192:15,1
55:9;64:22;77:25;	194:18
85:16;119:18;132:9,	extent (2) 96:
11;162:25;180:22;	196:11
193:7	extra (2) 10:2
examined (28) 9:24;	extremely (2)
16:25;19:7;31:25;	73:13
89:16;98:15;99:19;	eyes (1) 22:2
103:11;107:19;110:7;	
113:5;114:24;117:24;	F
120:23;124:23;	-
129:20;133:19;144:4;	face (1) 00.9
	face (1) 99:8
153:19;156:20;	faces (2) 8:24
162:11;165:4;168:3;	facets (1) 115
198:21;206:11;211:5;	facilities (7) 5
220:7;221:25	71:21;77:12
example (5) 118:25;	111:17;181
119:1;120:7,15;	facility (26) 2
170:11	29:10,20;30
excellent (2) 104:24;	5;46:21;49:
118:18	54:6;73:6,2
exception (1) 119:10	86:23;87:2,
excited (1) 102:25	126:20,21;1
excludes (1) 179:9	128:24;180
Excuse (2) 16:1;174:3	189:15,17;1
Executive (2) 84:22;	fact (20) 18:2
110:23	54:19;56:4;
executors (1) 67:10	88:22,23;89
exhaulted (1) 178:16	100:13;127
exhausting (1) 172:25	139:10;151
Exhibit (3) 35:1,4;	174:23;178
40:10	192:17,17;2
exist (2) 30:2;145:21	211:15
existing (3) 11:8;	factor (1) 187
30:12;78:1	Factory (1) 33
exists (2) 104:25;	facts (4) 16:8
149:11	149:1;151:3
exit (3) 13:20;82:6;	faded (1) 12:5
86:21	fades (1) 108
expand (2) 27:25;	Fair (3) 30:22
63:3	198:12
expansion (1) 63:17	Fairview (1)
expansions (1) 76:4	faith (4) 123:5
expecting (1) 123:23	17;169:22
expediate (1) 205:15	faith-base (1)
expenses (1) 85:5	faith-based (
experience (2) 51:24;	12,15;77:1;
113:18	fall (1) 77:15
expert (1) 69:5	falls (2) 80:6,
expertise (1) 68:19	familiar (8) 24
experts (1) 175:25	25:1,5;55:1
explain (7) 28:25;	125:16;131
32:21;38:23;44:4;	families (13)
62:2;108:13;109:4	25;51:25;55
explained (2) 228:7,	72:18;104:2
10	106:5;115:2
expungement (1) 36:9	157:17;159
expungements (1)	162:20
36:5	family (29) 12
expunging (1) 36:7	15:13;24:4;
expungments (1) 36:5	44:16,17,17
extended (1) 29:2	64:19;72:22
Extended (1) 29:2	04.19;72:22

alam (C) 0(.10	00.2.111.0.115.20.
sion (6) 96:18,	99:2;111:8;115:20;
192:15,19,25;	118:8,9;140:1;
:18	144:14;147:17;
t (2) 96:16;	154:13;158:2;159:14,
5:11	17;163:6;164:18;
(2) 10:22;35:19	165:16;183:19
mely (2) 57:5;	family's (1) 103:25
13	
	famous (1) 108:19
(1) 22:2	far (5) 92:12;99:5;
	156:4;215:10,20
\mathbf{F}	fast-track (1) 188:17
	father (15) 40:15,17;
1) 99:8	41:1,4;50:21;64:16,
(2) 8:24;114:16	21;92:10;99:1;109:3;
(1) 115:17	126:21;139:22;166:9,
ies (7) 52:14,14;	11;172:3
21;77:12;87:21;	favor (6) 26:24;
:17;181:22	195:11;196:21;205:9;
y (26) 28:2;	219:21;231:16
10,20;30:15;45:5,	fear (3) 122:25;
6:21;49:19;50:15;	126:18;128:19
6;73:6,25;76:20;	fear-based (1) 148:24
23;87:2,15,17;	February (20) 7:4,6,9,
5:20,21;127:5,19;	15,18;82:25;83:1;
3:24;180:22;	85:7,9;155:15,16,16,
9:15,17;193:21	18;196:1,3,4;197:7;
20) 18:22;21:19;	199:19;200:20,22
19;56:4;75:18;	fed (4) 37:10;112:21;
22,23;89:1;99:1;	166:22,22
):13;127:9;135:14;	Federal (9) 7:13;28:5;
):10;151:18;	30:20,22,23;45:11;
:23;178:18;	61:20;66:2;191:13
2:17,17;206:2;	feed (4) 33:4;39:21;
:15	165:17,19
r (1) 187:2	feeding (4) 33:17;
o ry (1) 33:14	92:18;127:25;146:20
(4) 16:8;128:6;	feel (13) 45:22;46:7,
):1;151:3	16;70:1,2;94:4;124:9,
(1) 12:5	13;137:14;153:12;
(1) 108:18	163:23;186:4;209:14
3) 30:22;196:12;	feeling (2) 182:2;
3:12	189:10
	feelings (1) 179:25
	feels (3) 172:21,22;
(4) 123:5;154:17,	
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13;
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5,	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5;
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6
iew (1) 149:22 (4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4;
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17,	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24;
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17, 51:25;55:17;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21,
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17, 51:25;55:17; 18;104:20;105:9;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21, 22,24;208:4,4,12,12,
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17, 51:25;55:17; 18;104:20;105:9; 5:5;115:25;116:9;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21, 22,24;208:4,4,12,12, 25;209:2,18,21;
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17, 51:25;55:17; 18;104:20;105:9; 5:5;115:25;116:9; 7:17;159:24;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21, 22,24;208:4,4,12,12, 25;209:2,18,21; 210:12;211:15,16,25,
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17, 51:25;55:17; 18;104:20;105:9; 5:5;115:25;116:9; 7:17;159:24; 2:20	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21, 22,24;208:4,4,12,12, 25;209:2,18,21; 210:12;211:15,16,25, 25;212:1,1,5,8,15;
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17, 51:25;55:17; 18;104:20;105:9; 5:5;115:25;116:9; 7:17;159:24; 2:20 y (29) 12:17,23;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21, 22,24;208:4,4,12,12, 25;209:2,18,21; 210:12;211:15,16,25, 25;212:1,1,5,8,15; 213:2,16,18,20;
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17, 51:25;55:17; 18;104:20;105:9; 5:5;115:25;116:9; 7:17;159:24; 2:20 y (29) 12:17,23; 13;24:4;25:3,4;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21, 22,24;208:4,4,12,12, 25;209:2,18,21; 210:12;211:15,16,25, 25;212:1,1,5,8,15; 213:2,16,18,20; 215:13,14,22;216:2,8,
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16; 5:16;131:2;183:1 es (13) 35:17, 51:25;55:17; 18;104:20;105:9; 5:5;115:25;116:9; 7:17;159:24; 2:20 y (29) 12:17,23; 13;24:4;25:3,4;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21, 22,24;208:4,4,12,12, 25;209:2,18,21; 210:12;211:15,16,25, 25;212:1,1,5,8,15; 213:2,16,18,20; 215:13,14,22;216:2,8,
(4) 123:5;154:17, 169:22 base (1) 77:5 based (5) 42:5, 15;77:1;139:4) 77:15 2) 80:6,18 ar (8) 24:24; 1,5;55:10;114:16;	feels (3) 172:21,22; 185:5 feet (7) 14:11,13; 40:22;74:7;202:4,5; 207:10 Felix (1) 203:1 fellow (1) 154:15 fellows (1) 102:2 felt (1) 185:6 fence (45) 126:4; 144:12;205:24; 206:24;207:2,5,6,21, 22,24;208:4,4,12,12, 25;209:2,18,21; 210:12;211:15,16,25, 25;212:1,1,5,8,15; 213:2,16,18,20;

fences (1) 216:11 Fenwick (3) 5:24; 201:12;205:23 few (4) 111:17;127:2; 179:22;185:18 field (1) 68:16 fight (1) 109:13 fighting (1) 124:16 figure (3) 58:7;100:9; 125:23 file (2) 8:13;24:18 filed (2) 171:19; 172:12 filing (1) 192:5 fill (1) 61:11 filled (1) 190:16 final (3) 52:17;94:5; 177:23 finally (2) 36:14; 121:21 finances (3) 43:13; 84:8;119:5 financial (7) 39:4; 89:3;116:5,7,10; 173:22;178:9 find (9) 46:25;69:23; 84:19,19;87:14,17; 134:13;170:24; 192:12 finding (1) 100:3 finds (1) 46:2 fine (4) 35:3;47:19; 97:9:201:17 finely (1) 119:5 fine-tune (1) 73:23 finish (6) 106:23; 124:11;143:3;171:11; 176:10,10 finished (5) 39:4;41:6; 48:21;56:3;171:14 fire (3) 61:3;143:7; 168:24 firm (5) 27:9;75:15; 94:23;205:17;206:2 first (71) 4:21;5:16,20; 8:19;9:23;15:13,17; 16:24;19:2,6;31:25; 36:22;50:10;52:9,15; 55:24;64:7;65:16; 68:9;70:16;71:5,10; 72:6:89:15:98:14: 99:18;103:10,18; 107:18;109:13;110:6; 113:4;114:23;117:23; 119:9;120:22;121:4; 124:22;125:7;129:19; 133:18;138:16;141:5; 142:2;144:3;153:18; 155:1;156:19;162:10; 165:3,13;167:6; 168:2,9;169:22; 174:22,25;180:1; 182:4;198:20;206:10;

208:15;211:4;220:6, 15;221:24;223:15; 227:21;229:1,3,12 fit (6) 70:1,5;72:4; 75:8;183:12;184:5 fits (1) 70:2 five (22) 26:24;33:21; 48:17;49:7,9,9,17; 55:25;78:4;122:9; 152:15:175:11; 195:13;198:1;210:1; 221:11,12,16;222:12, 15;225:23,24 fix (1) 191:17 fixed (1) 151:15 fleet (1) 86:13 flip (1) 94:21 float (1) 107:10 flooding (1) 190:6 floor (11) 12:24; 15:13,14,17,18; 177:17;223:15; 227:10;228:18,22; 229:4 flyers (1) 114:14 focus (1) 93:9 focuses (2) 71:25; 116:20 folks (2) 75:14;126:7 follow (6) 130:5,13; 143:10;148:4;186:16, 18 followed (1) 143:11 following (2) 7:25; 187:17 follows (28) 9:25; 17:1;19:8;32:1; 89:17;98:16;99:19; 103:12;107:20;110:8; 113:6;114:25;117:25; 120:23;124:24; 129:21:133:20:144:5; 153:20;156:21; 162:12;165:5;168:3; 198:22;206:12;211:6; 220:8;222:1 food (12) 33:11,12,13, 14;92:4;104:15; 121:23;131:11;154:3; 165:18,19;227:1 foods (1) 34:10 foot (4) 37:2;205:25; 210:14;215:16 footage (2) 158:18; 159:10 forbid (1) 87:8 force (1) 143:7 forced (1) 87:14 Fordham (1) 35:16 foreclosure (1) 105:18 foremost (1) 208:16 Forest (1) 157:4 forever (5) 45:20,22;

57:9:62:12.15 forgive (4) 163:1,4,7, 19 forgiven (1) 163:2 forgiveness (3) 163:12;172:16; 178:19 forgot (1) 105:4 forklift (1) 83:24 formal (2) 64:13; 76:25 former (2) 139:13,22 forms (1) 166:25 forth (6) 52:4;138:20; 160:7;170:10;192:5; 209:7forward (7) 16:18; 89:5;119:2,13; 178:12;210:25; 218:16 foster (2) 115:14; 160:2 fostering (2) 116:21; 117:11 found (8) 29:22;30:6; 78:2;83:13;134:21; 171:18;188:6;212:20 Four (28) 11:12; 13:13;14:4;15:7,14; 16:15:19:16.19; 21:20;40:5;48:17; 55:25;72:3;76:15; 80:19:84:20:108:22: 114:7;122:9;123:18; 195:11,14;196:8; 197:25;219:21; 223:17;226:1;229:10 four-prong (1) 81:20 fragile (1) 173:7 frame (2) 60:5;62:20 frankly (2) 45:17; 218:14free (8) 38:18;40:21; 51:5,6;127:3;134:23; 135:8;167:2 friend (2) 72:22; 108:25 friendly (1) 151:6 friends (1) 144:14 front (17) 24:5,7; 33:22,24:37:6:66:23; 135:11;183:18;202:4; 215:14;216:2;217:3, 6;221:6;224:5,8; 228:23 frontage (3) 202:3; 207:14,17 Frontline (1) 98:25 frontlines (1) 37:21 fruit (1) 99:11 frustrating (1) 197:22 fulfilling (1) 106:3 full (29) 7:4;41:11;

43:7:94:18:95:18; 98:18:99:21:103:14: 107:22;110:10;113:8; 115:2;118:2;120:25; 125:1;129:23;133:22; 122:11 144:7;153:22;156:23; 162:14;165:7;168:5; 197:4;198:24;206:14; 211:8;220:10;222:3 full-out (1) 216:9 full-time (3) 39:14; 44:14;59:17 fully (1) 127:14 function (1) 209:9 functionally (1) 180:10 fundamentally (1) 219:22 71:1 funded (3) 53:20; 88:14,19 funding (4) 60:7; 78:24;102:19;115:21 funeral (1) 166:19 furnish (1) 217:18 further (16) 6:15,18; 7:9,15;8:2,5;9:18; 56:15;68:3;89:7; 146:10;182:14; 189:11;201:9;210:7; 228:17 furthers (1) 30:13 154:25 future (5) 117:13; 142:22;177:3,25; 188:24 180:17 G Gabay (14) 6:24;7:1, 217:82,3,6,11,12;199:17, 18,20,24;200:20; 201:5.7 game (1) 127:16 gang-banging (1) 102:3 garage (14) 11:8; 19:16.21:20:7.17.18; 22:20;23:7;24:1,2,20, 23;25:13;26:8 Garcia (3) 6:8;200:6; 201:2 Gardens (1) 17:11 gate (8) 207:8,10; 212:11;222:20,21,24, 25;223:2 gates (1) 209:17 gave (10) 35:24;36:3; 91:25;102:19;163:25; 166:24;169:15;223:3; 224:7;228:20 general (8) 71:2,6,7, 14;76:19;77:20,22; 174:24 generally (3) 31:20; 37:20;45:1 76:12,14;83:25;91:2,

generational (1) 106:5 generations (1) 37:9 generous (1) 35:23 Genisis (2) 121:20; gentleman (9) 15:6; 85:17;109:1;168:11; 169:25:170:8,20; 215:15;220:1 gentlemen (17) 27:1; 44:7;73:23;74:1; 75:18;76:2;85:13; 86:24;87:10;88:23; 96:21;122:17;158:10; 169:20;178:7,20; gets (4) 18:2;132:18; 161:20;211:18 Gibbsboro (1) 99:24 gift (1) 225:22 gifted (1) 225:20 girl (2) 147:24;227:19 girlfriends (1) 142:18 give-away (4) 34:4; 35:16,18;36:3 given (11) 29:24; 31:3;34:6;36:1; 37:14;96:2;108:21; 124:13;153:4,8; gives (3) 37:4;57:21; giving (7) 34:9;36:12; 91:7;111:12;114:14; 121:25;154:14 glad (3) 53:23;149:3; globally (1) 132:14 glory (1) 168:17 goal (4) 75:17;77:23, 23;87:16 goals (2) 78:9,14 God (31) 42:15;84:6; 86:18;87:4,8;110:1; 122:25;123:1;124:13; 137:6,6,7;149:24,25; 163:20,23;164:16; 167:15;168:14,15,20, 20,22,23,24,25;169:2, 9,22;170:9;177:25 God's (1) 137:7 goes (9) 20:19;22:7, 8;33:12;37:13,13; 59:6;157:20;207:13 gold (2) 108:18,19 Goldstein (1) 27:10 gong (1) 192:22 Good (54) 4:1;5:19, 23;6:7,23;7:3,21;9:7; 22:2;27:8;30:13,15; 38:25;41:21;48:11; 54:16;55:20;71:1;

123:24;131:12;134:1; 151:5;152:2;153:12; 156:5,5;169:8;172:8; 176:21;177:13; 181:10,20;187:4,14; 199:16,25;205:14; 217:7;220:22;221:2, 9;224:18;229:7 governed (1) 142:14 governing (3) 74:21; 95:25;125:6 governist (1) 74:25 Government (7) 96:15;100:18,22; 102:9;117:1;139:3; 160:20 Governor (2) 84:22; 111:19 grab (1) 146:12 grace (2) 137:7; 167:15 graciously (2) 96:23; 200:21 graduate (4) 82:11, 16;84:13;159:7 graduated (7) 48:15, 17;82:16;83:5;84:17; 91:8:108:14 graduates (2) 41:22; 159:8 graduating (1) 43:10 graduation (5) 39:6; 41:7,8,13;51:10 Grammy (1) 108:19 grandchildren (1) 111:9 grandfathering (1) 143:1 grandkids (2) 126:14; 135:22 grandmom (2) 144:18;225:20 grant (11) 15:8;36:25; 73:14;80:22;96:3,9; 106:21;116:2;135:9; 182:17;204:21 granting (4) 73:2; 76:11;229:12,18 grants (5) 46:20; 57:17;62:5;88:17; 146:19 grateful (1) 109:23 **GRAVES (3)** 162:10, 16,16 great (23) 8:23;9:20; 11:19;34:1;36:20; 44:10,16;51:18; 54:18;56:4;75:16; 84:7;96:20;103:4; 104:23;106:3;119:1; 121:9;154:14;156:9;

19:93:1.7:99:15;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

205:10;206:23;217:8 108:11:109:1:117:17: greater (2) 145:6; 147:20 greatest (2) 114:9; 147:18 greatly (1) 103:7 **GREENE (29)** 19:6, 12,12;20:13,17;21:2, 6,15,18,24;22:4,10, 14,18,22,25;23:17; 24:3,10,15,24;25:7, 10,14;138:3,3,5,9; 156:13 Greenwood (3) 108:3; 153:24;168:8 greeting (3) 33:20,24; 34:1 Greetings (1) 47:23 GREGORY (2) 211:4, grew (5) 25:5;40:24; 110:21;126:20; 149:21 ground (1) 113:15 Group (17) 32:23; 53:23;70:12;72:22; 74:14;75:3;76:22; 82:13,17,19,19,24; 114:2;116:7;130:23; 132:24;162:18 grow (3) 99:12;105:9; 141:13 growing (6) 98:2; 99:2;126:6,11; 138:19;149:18 grown (2) 142:16; 164:20 Growth (4) 7:13,17; 115:14;117:11 quarantee (6) 133:4, 9;145:23;146:8; 197:20;198:8 guaranteed (1) 96:19 guess (15) 12:17; 45:10;55:21;60:19; 66:15;79:18;86:20; 95:25;124:4;150:13; 160:21;168:13,15; 190:21;217:18 guessing (1) 225:4 guidelines (4) 128:4; 130:11,14,16 guy (5) 83:21;101:9; 126:24;185:21; 201:15 guys (28) 24:24; 36:15;38:15;53:16; 59:2,21,23;63:21; 69:18;84:3;87:5; 123:13:135:13; 137:19;143:21; 161:22;168:12;177:6;

185:21,21,24;190:17;

ZUNING BUARD	L
192:14;195:16;	168:16
	hands (1)
212:22;214:20;	
223:11;226:18	hang (1)
guys' (1) 184:25	Hansen (2
gym (1) 56:17	happen (*
	40:23;4
H	86:21;9
	141:9;1
habit (1) 155:24	193:25;
Haddon (5) 7:19;	227:11;
17:9;220:2;224:20;	happened
225:1	58:24;6
hair (1) 169:7	95:18;1
half (5) 14:6;52:13;	137:8;1
175:10;216:5,5	13,16;1
half-stories (1) 192:3	happenin
half-truths (1) 192:3	77:9;11
hall (3) 102:1;139:14;	happens
202:17	82:8;87
HANCE (116) 4:1,8,9,	177:21;
23,25;5:1;13:7,10,22;	192:12;
14:15,18;15:24;	211:18;
24:19;25:1,9,11,15;	happy (8)
26:8,12,13;31:18;	176:14;
35:8;50:9;51:3,15,20;	217:24,
52:5,11,18,23;53:15;	hard (4) 1
54:3,7,12,17,21;	147:12;
55:10,13;56:12,24;	harder (1)
57:7,25;65:9,15,21,	hardship
24;66:5,8,11,14,25;	Harlem (2
69:6;137:12,21,25;	harm (4)
152:20;153:16;	136:3;1
156:15;174:9;175:13,	Hartford
17;179:8,14;183:5;	hashed (1
185:3;192:10;193:3,	hat (1) 74
15;194:2,7,10,14,22,	Hatch (1)
23;196:15;205:1,2;	hate (8) 5
210:13;212:13,22,25;	135:15;
	7,13;17
213:4,8,11,15,19,22,	
24;214:1;215:4,8,12,	head (4)
17;216:22,24;217:4,	150:20;
7,10,15,22;218:22;	healing (1
219:13,14;224:3,7;	Health (10
226:18,23;229:22;	11;58:1
230:2,3,10,15,16,25;	77:21;1
231:5,6	135:2;1
hand (35) 10:9;14:22;	healthcar
16:22;19:4;84:18;	hear (25)
89:13;98:12;99:16;	24;29:1
102:8,10;103:8;	31:2,6,9
107:16;110:4;113:2;	71:17;1
114:21;117:21;	137:15;
120:20;124:20;	176:24;
129:17;133:16;144:1;	196:20;
145:20;153:15;	199:14,
156:11,11,17;162:8;	208:14
165:1;167:25;198:18;	heard (45
201:22;206:8;211:2;	7:9,18;
220:4;221:22	11:24;1
handed (1) 40:9	58:7;69
handicap (1) 129:2	72:10;7
handle (1) 196:8	82:3,5;
handpicked (1)	118:15;

1) 25:19 186:8 (2) 75:3,13 (14) 23:22; 45:18;65:16; ;96:25;110:15; :174:7:187:5: 5;200:19; 1:228:16 ed (13) 50:13; 218:7 ;65:15,22; ;105:17;129:9; 138:11;143:12, 155:6 ing (3) 76:23; 11:5 s (12) 46:14; 37:10;120:16; 1;178:1;187:6; 2;193:23,24; 8:214:3 **8)** 47:7;79:1; 4;182:11;215:9; hell (1) 172:8 4,24;218:4 103:5; 2;149:8;186:1 **1)** 146:10 p (1) 71:12 (2) 109:7,18) 105:5.7; :146:1 **d (1)** 32:9 (1) 156:7 4:13) 157:4 57:21;65:19; 5;152:6;153:3, 73:24 109:6; 0;151:2;187:25 (1) 42:11 10) 5:21;27:6, :10;76:20; ;134:9,10; ;177:19 are (1) 78:1 **5)** 7:4;28:21, :12,25;30:14; ,9;45:23;70:4; 118:12:132:20; 5;175:15; 4;194:15; 0;197:15; 4,18;200:10,22; 114:18 **5)** 6:13,17; ;8:8,10,16; 12:3;32:12; 59:11;71:2; ;73:10;77:1; ;109:8,12; 118:15;121:8;122:17;

131:20:137:16; higher (1) 37:11 138:10;154:12; highest (2) 44:13;72:9 155:14;162:23; highlight (1) 116:24 168:18;169:25; Hill (8) 32:6;89:22; 178:13;180:6;182:20; 110:13;130:10;157:4; 185:3,4,22,23,23; 166:5;220:13;222:7 190:13;200:23;201:3; himself (4) 90:9; 91:22;170:20;178:16 204:10;214:10;218:7 hearing (5) 15:11; hire (1) 136:8 88:21;168:10;204:11; historial (1) 37:9 historically (1) 17:13 hearsay (1) 151:1 history (5) 36:21; heart (9) 83:16; 105:11;109:7;125:7; 108:13;110:12;117:7; 177:2 122:21,22;123:4; hit (1) 71:6 148:11;169:9 hold (8) 17:23;21:20; hearts (1) 124:1 87:25;94:3;95:14; heaters (3) 202:14; 143:21;197:23; 203:22,22 200:21 heavily (1) 60:1 holding (1) 221:2 Hebrew (1) 168:24 holds (2) 140:24; 142:22 heinous (1) 135:2 held (1) 140:25 hole (1) 91:15 home (34) 9:11; help (60) 32:18; 15:12;33:1,1;61:5; 43:13;54:16;56:11; 74:8;76:22;82:5; 65:6,7;74:1;75:18; 83:13;86:25;87:1; 83:20;86:10,17; 88:24;89:1;91:25; 100:9,23;101:11,20; 100:2,10;105:14; 102:5,8,11,12,20,20, 109:11:113:12:116:3; 122:15,15;124:6; 22;108:21;109:21; 111:3;112:12;119:2; 126:7;127:6;133:8; 134:10;158:11; 123:6:124:2.8; 125:20,24;134:25; 160:18,19;169:7,17; 135:9;136:20;144:24; 197:19;212:19 145:12,25;146:1; homeless (24) 27:23; 147:1,1,6;148:6,9,21; 65:7;78:11;91:3; 149:13,14;151:22,23; 92:19;95:11;112:21; 155:2;157:7;164:20, 121:15,23;125:20; 127:25;129:7;131:11, 23;166:7,8,25;169:6; 177:8;185:17;186:7 16;141:16;146:20; helping (24) 40:20; 157:15,17,19,19; 50:20;84:18,18,19; 159:20;165:18; 101:23;108:17; 169:15,16 109:17;110:1;118:11; homelessness (9) 137:10,19,23;145:19; 51:16;52:1,1;72:7; 147:21;150:11;154:7, 91:16;157:15,22; 15;156:4,5;158:7; 159:21;173:10 159:20;185:20,24 Homeowner (1) 115:24 helps (2) 92:8;162:2 Henderson (1) 166:11 homeowners (1) here's (5) 22:2,15,16; 105:17 228:15,18 homeownership (7) hesitant (2) 66:6; 38:21;83:8;85:19; 103:23;104:16; hey (4) 148:8;158:15; 105:10,12 185:16;216:10 homes (26) 56:9; hide (2) 102:3;164:1 70:12;74:14,22; high (11) 101:18; 87:24;88:4;104:10, 102:3;108:15;121:7; 11;105:16,22,25; 205:24;207:11; 106:2,4;107:7,7; 208:25;209:2;210:12, 113:14,17;115:18,21; 14;219:8 124:4;130:23;159:15;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

160:2;163:19;164:5; 167:18 honest (1) 193:9 honestly (1) 60:3 honor (5) 109:2,3,22, 22;117:5 hooked (2) 54:12; 121:10 hope (5) 28:1;31:11; 92:5;98:10:120:8 hopefully (5) 96:20; 120:6;150:15;198:4; 211:22 hoping (2) 86:23; 188:10 hospital (3) 69:1; 110:22;135:1 hospitals (1) 132:25 host (3) 108:4;141:2; 157:23 hot (1) 203:22 hour (1) 205:14 hours (11) 37:14; 39:14;114:3;127:6; 130:14,14;152:9,22; 175:14;186:4;200:17 House (82) 7:25;20:6, 6;36:15,21;37:6,7,16, 17;38:9,23,24;39:7,9; 40:3,4,14;41:3,14; 42:3;43:10;46:19,22; 51:9;53:24;57:8,22, 23;58:21;59:2,5,9; 61:2,4;63:23;67:11; 75:3,6,9,10,13;84:19, 20;92:25;93:1;96:24; 109:15;114:6;120:5; 121:18,18,21;122:11; 125:23;126:2,11,15, 16;128:9,12;129:13; 134:9,10,22;135:8; 141:16:142:19; 145:25;151:3;155:15; 161:6,6;164:14; 177:9;189:22,24; 202:6;221:7;224:6,8; 225:17,18 house' (1) 57:10 housekeeping (1) 29:19 houses (14) 56:2; 74:16,18;85:4;88:9, 10;102:4;119:3,6; 139:7;140:22;183:23, 23,24 Housing (24) 7:19; 17:23;30:22;37:15; 38:12;71:22;73:22; 78:9,10;86:14;96:20; 104:16;115:17;117:3; 157:10;158:16;159:2, 2;160:3;178:9;180:8; 200:8;220:1,20

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

ZOMING BOARD	
human (6) 77:23;	205:19;206:19
78:2;108:8;110:1;	incarcerated (4)
158:1;185:22	140:2,2,8;159:24
humanity (1) 151:25	incarceration (2)
humble (2) 90:9;	51:25;140:5
178:14	incidents (1) 126:12
humility (2) 178:14,18	include (3) 78:10;
hundred (3) 37:11;	115:18;187:18
162:21,22	included (1) 95:11
hundreds (1) 130:14	including (1) 204:16
hungry (3) 148:9;	inclusive (1) 115:11
149:15,20	income (2) 115:21;
hurt (2) 154:22;166:8	116:1
husband (6) 24:15;	inconsiderate (1)
98:23;147:24;154:1,	170:25
3;167:13	inconsistent (2) 98:9;
hypothetical (1) 96:8	180:25
	Incorporated (1) 136:8
Ι	increase (2) 73:3,7
	incredibly (1) 103:1
idea (6) 37:4;142:22;	independent (2)
151:1,10;169:9;	159:2;180:8
218:13	independently (1)
ideas (1) 148:23	158:16
identification (1) 23:6	Indians (1) 166:16
Identified (2) 78:8;	indicated (1) 11:3
98:3	indictive (1) 130:17
identify (3) 72:6,25;	individual (4) 29:10;
80:20	62:9;85:4;89:12
identifying (2) 80:19;	individuals (41) 28:11
94:13	18,23,25;29:9;30:21
ignore (1) 151:12	31:3;33:4,17;38:6;
ignored (3) 145:18,20,	42:2,11;43:1,4;48:12
20	16;49:24;53:1,10;
ill (1) 189:10	55:1,3,22,25;56:3;
illegal (1) 208:21	61:1;83:21;84:16;
illness (1) 91:16	87:18;97:15,16;
imagine (1) 84:3	116:12;119:19;120:5
immediately (2) 57:3;	7;128:10;129:1;
61:10	157:8,21;159:23;
immigrant (1) 35:20	161:17,18
imminent (1) 157:15	infant (1) 113:19
impact (4) 73:4,9;	influx (1) 208:22
95:19,19	information (8) 88:22;
impacted (2) 105:14;	93:19;94:1;95:8;
	00.4.176.12.102.15.
161:17	98:4;176:12;182:15;
impacts (1) 131:21	228:13
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11;
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7;	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12;	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22;
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23;
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10 imposing (1) 75:25	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14;
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10 imposing (1) 75:25 improve (2) 77:25;	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14; 182:23
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10 imposing (1) 75:25 improve (2) 77:25; 78:1	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14; 182:23 initial (1) 183:6
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10 imposing (1) 75:25 improve (2) 77:25; 78:1 improvements (1)	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14; 182:23 initial (1) 183:6 initiative (2) 115:22;
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10 imposing (1) 75:25 improve (2) 77:25; 78:1 improvements (1) 171:25	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14; 182:23 initial (1) 183:6 initiative (2) 115:22; 118:16
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10 imposing (1) 75:25 improve (2) 77:25; 78:1 improvements (1)	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14; 182:23 initial (1) 183:6 initiative (2) 115:22; 118:16 Initiatives (4) 77:25;
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10 imposing (1) 75:25 improve (2) 77:25; 78:1 improvements (1) 171:25 inappropriate (1) 171:2	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14; 182:23 initial (1) 183:6 initiative (2) 115:22; 118:16 Initiatives (4) 77:25; 117:8,10;139:4
impacts (1) 131:21 impairing (1) 79:19 impairment (1) 80:13 implore (1) 107:10 importance (2) 37:7; 178:15 important (3) 106:12; 109:6;181:10 imposing (1) 75:25 improve (2) 77:25; 78:1 improvements (1) 171:25 inappropriate (1)	228:13 Ingraham (1) 166:20 Ingram (1) 165:15 inherently (24) 30:11; 45:8;69:14;70:10,13 18,24;71:8,10,19,23 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14; 182:23 initial (1) 183:6 initiative (2) 115:22; 118:16 Initiatives (4) 77:25;

205:19:206:19 carcerated (4) 140:2,2,8;159:24 carceration (2) 51:25;140:5 cidents (1) 126:12 clude (3) 78:10; 115:18:187:18 11 cluded (1) 95:11 cluding (1) 204:16 clusive (1) 115:11 come (2) 115:21; 116:1 considerate (1) 170:25 consistent (2) 98:9; 180:25 corporated (1) 136:8 crease (2) 73:3,7 credibly (1) 103:1 dependent (2) 159:2;180:8 dependently (1) 158:16 dians (1) 166:16 dicated (1) 11:3 dictive (1) 130:17 dividual (4) 29:10; 62:9;85:4;89:12 dividuals (41) 28:11, 18,23,25;29:9;30:21; 31:3;33:4,17;38:6; 42:2,11:43:1,4:48:12, 16;49:24;53:1,10; 55:1,3,22,25;56:3; 61:1;83:21;84:16; 87:18;97:15,16; 116:12;119:19;120:5, 7;128:10;129:1; 13 157:8,21:159:23; 161:17,18 ant (1) 113:19 flux (1) 208:22 ormation (8) 88:22; 93:19;94:1;95:8; 98:4;176:12;182:15; 228:13 graham (1) 166:20 gram (1) 165:15 nerently (24) 30:11; 45:8:69:14:70:10.13. 18,24;71:8,10,19,23; 80:8,17;81:18,22; 105:3;132:7,13,23; 133:2,10;181:8,14; 182:23 tial (1) 183:6 tiative (2) 115:22; 118:16 tiatives (4) 77:25; 117:8,10;139:4 ustice (1) 109:14

8;39:12;41:14;55:17; 100:18;119:5;121:7; 111:12;145:6;209:15 insights (1) 115:11 insisted (4) 214:12,13, 16,18 inspect (2) 60:8,9 inspections (2) 60:10, inspects (1) 139:18 inspire (1) 151:21 install (2) 214:6;219:9 installed (1) 207:2 installing (1) 206:23 instance (1) 102:15 instill (1) 146:2 institute (3) 99:11; 130:12;194:20 institutional (2) 115:13;117:2 institutionalizing (1) 158:14 instructed (1) 61:11 instruction (2) 153:5,9 insurance (3) 123:19; 211:21;212:23 insuring (2) 116:3,14 intake (2) 53:8,13 integrate (1) 77:23 intend (1) 204:18 intended (1) 100:15 intensified (1) 72:11 intensity (1) 130:16 intensive (1) 48:16 intent (1) 79:19 intention (6) 11:25; 144:25;145:1;146:11; 148:6,12 intentions (2) 172:8, inter-city (1) 110:14 interest (5) 30:14; 72:7;76:9;80:20; 102:15 **interesting (4)** 48:24; 100:15;101:7,15 interfere (1) 127:19 interim (1) 61:8 interior (1) 43:20 Internal (1) 93:13 interpretation (1) 10:11 Interpreter (1) 10:8 interrupt (1) 190:14 intimately (1) 181:18 into (60) 9:11;10:19, 21;13:16;18:1;19:18; 24:14,17;29:8,18; 33:5,5;37:1,17;38:8, 10,13,16;43:7;55:23; 59:22;60:24;70:1,2,5, 20;72:4,14;73:24; 75:8;76:3;85:19;87:1, 2;92:22;97:23;

122:10;124:1;135:25; 139:6:146:3.10: 156:1;161:8;163:18; 164:10;166:5;174:12; 187:9;190:6,25; 191:4,16;208:23; 216:1;225:6;226:12 intro (1) 32:13 introduce (1) 145:5 intrude (1) 144:22 invest (2) 97:23,25 investors (1) 107:6 involved (10) 28:4; 111:15,16,20;112:10; 121:14;130:7;135:10; 181:18,25 **IOP (2)** 48:15;50:6 lpad (1) 39:11 Iphone (1) 39:11 Issac (1) 168:23 issue (30) 12:7;16:9, 12;18:5;21:4;23:19, 23;24:22;25:12;38:5; 48:5;61:7;63:18; 66:23;72:14,23,24; 73:6;135:4,4;155:11; 159:5;169:21;171:5; 174:11;182:3;209:6; 210:17;216:4;226:8 issues (10) 45:6; 46:25;61:21;65:17; 94:16;118:25;126:17; 155:25;217:14; 226:10 item (6) 4:21;78:8; 172:8,23;173:21; 180:1 items (2) 80:19; 179:23 IV (3) 229:14,16,19 **IZZO (3)** 6:6,7,10 J Jacob (1) 168:23 jam (1) 59:22 January (17) 6:14,17; 7:4;8:2,4;157:21; 183:10;191:25; 196:22;197:3,4,5; 201:4,10;228:17; 229:3,5 **JEANETTE (2)** 221:24;222:5 **JEFFERSON (6)** 133:18,24,24; 134:18;137:18,22 Jenkins (1) 25:5 JEREZ (3) 10:13,16, 16 Jersey (40) 4:5;10:17; 19:13;32:6,8,10;38:3;

59:25:65:1:68:15.21; 71:25;72:9;86:8; 88:18;89:22;90:21; 94:11;99:25;102:18, 19,22;106:4;109:10; 110:13,15;115:5,11; 121:3;130:13;132:11; 133:25;144:10;157:1; 162:17;199:2,2; 201:25;206:17;222:7 Jerusalem (1) 170:17 Jesus (3) 42:10; 170:12,15 **job (19)** 40:2,2;41:21; 72:16;75:16;86:3; 103:4,5;123:16; 141:21;143:11; 158:21;163:9;164:13; 166:23;168:16; 169:17;216:5;218:3 jobs (5) 83:25;112:4, 13;141:20;143:20 John (1) 37:5 joint (1) 161:9 Jonathan (2) 6:24; 7:11 Jose (5) 5:16;8:20; 9:4,23;10:4 Joseph (6) 57:22; 98:23;121:17;125:23; 141:15:142:19 journey (2) 103:22; 116:10 Jr (1) 32:7 judge (3) 131:23; 145:6;150:25 judicial (2) 175:4,5 July (3) 37:12;113:25; 114:12 jump (2) 40:8;145:25 June (7) 36:23;65:14; 66:16;113:25;114:11; 165:3,9 Justice (2) 37:3; 121:17 justification (2) 69:17; 185:1 Juvenile (1) 121:16 juveniles (1) 121:17 Κ Kahn (3) 47:11; 110:16;139:21 Kaighn (3) 8:12; 165:10,18 keep (9) 18:2;103:6; 106:14,23;141:10; 148:19;153:14;186:1;

229:7 Keeper (1) 121:19 KEITH (2) 107:18,24 **KEN (2)** 110:6,12

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

	1			December 4, 2023
Kenwood (4) 25:5;	kinds (1) 142:19	LARIO (76) 5:22;27:7,	72:20;123:18;210:5	link (2) 102:9;207:5
103:17;126:6;134:11	King (4) 36:15,17;	8;31:22;32:11;34:25;	leave (5) 91:9;	linked (2) 102:07:07 100:18,22
kept (1) 40:19	109:13;150:7	37:17,20,24;38:22;	144:17;164:14;	lion (1) 169:1
Kersey (1) 125:23	kitchen (9) 40:6;	40:8,13;41:21;42:1,5,	178:21;195:21	lion's (1) 169:1
key (1) 59:1	222:19;223:10;225:6,	16,21,25;43:15,18,23;	leaving (2) 12:14;	list (1) 5:13
Khan (180) 27:19,25;	8,10;226:12;227:2,12	44:2,19,24;45:13;	196:16	listed (1) 90:24
28:15,21,22,25;30:1;	knew (3) 60:18;95:1;	46:12;47:2,10;48:10;	led (1) 48:1	listen (1) 137:13
31:9,14,24;32:5,5,11,	214:19	49:3,18,22;50:2;	left (6) 41:2;67:11;	listened (3) 162:18,
17;34:14,19,22;35:5,	knock (2) 22:20;	51:12;52:22;53:10;	120:11;152:7;155:21;	23;186:20
14;37:19,23;38:2,25;	148:21	55:6;59:25;60:11;	156:11	listening (2) 91:18;
40:14;41:24;42:4,7,	knocked (1) 138:13	61:17;62:5;63:6,15;	lefthand (3) 33:10;	137:14
20,24;43:9,17,22;	knocking (2) 140:22;	64:3,10;65:19;66:6,	34:4;37:8	literacy (5) 39:5,5;
44:1,6,23;45:3;46:11,	169:20	17,21;67:20;68:3,10;	legal (6) 25:12;48:6;	89:2;116:7;147:13
18;47:9,14,18,23;	Knoll (1) 48:5	69:4,9,11;78:5,16,25;	58:20;132:8;182:21;	literally (1) 157:5
48:3,15,20;49:3,5,11,	knowing (1) 65:6	81:9;85:12;87:14;	193:9	litigating (1) 61:19
20,25;50:5,12;51:6,	knowledge (4) 94:18;	153:2;173:24;175:22;	length (1) 29:21	litigation (5) 28:4,9;
13,18,21;52:7,13,20,	95:16,18;215:23	176:11;179:20;183:7;	less (2) 64:12;120:6	44:25;61:20;87:9
25;53:2,12,18;54:5,	known (11) 70:21;	184:21;187:19;188:5,	letter (8) 47:21;67:6;	little (33) 12:5;14:14;
10,14,18,23;55:9,12,	74:15;98:25;100:25;	7;189:6,18;192:23;	134:5,14,20;158:24;	31:10;32:12,15,19;
20;56:20,25;57:14;	121:6;125:11;127:10;	194:19;195:9	159:19;170:23	38:23;41:7;56:15;
		,		
58:1,4,9,15;59:12,24;	154:12;170:15;	last (43) 9:14;10:24;	letters (6) 117:16;	64:12;65:10;68:9;
60:10,17,21,25;62:8;	174:22;186:13	11:21,24;14:2;15:1,2,	127:9;157:25;158:5;	69:11,16;72:10; 75:22:76:24:78:17:
63:24;64:16;65:13,	knows (6) 72:21,23;	9;16:2,5;17:8;18:25;	188:14,15	75:22;76:24;78:17;
18;66:3,10,13,15,20;	95:19;105:8;141:6,7	44:7;52:19,20,21,22,	letting (1) 90:25	82:7;83:12;90:7,16;
67:2,8,18,24;68:4;	T	23;55:11;57:7;66:22;	level (4) 46:17;60:12;	92:6;108:14;119:16;
72:10;73:11,14;	L	73:11;84:22,25;92:9;	209:1,19	121:13;126:24;
75:17;77:2;82:9,23;		93:11,21;106:7,9;	Lewis (1) 37:5	150:18;174:1;189:10;
83:4,15,20;84:11,16;	labor (1) 99:12	113:13;124:11;	liability (2) 211:16,17	191:12;193:15;
85:7,11,16,23;86:1,6,	ladies (2) 76:2;178:20	136:24;140:25;146:5;	liable (2) 213:5,6	209:10
11,18;87:3,12,19,23;	lady (3) 14:21;185:5;	168:16;182:14;183:3;	liberty (1) 108:2	live (46) 13:4,5;15:13;
88:17;89:6;93:8,12;	192:1	190:20;192:1;196:3;	Library (2) 167:2;	18:22,23;25:2,2;
96:23;98:22;99:1,10;	Lance (4) 31:15,24;	197:25;219:25;230:2	169:18	29:16;74:7;83:14;
100:2;106:6;112:19;	32:7;68:13	late (1) 138:8	license (19) 42:22,23;	85:3;87:5;96:21;
118:11;121:6;122:2,	Land (25) 45:16,19;	lateness (1) 196:5	49:1;57:21;60:6,7;	103:20;104:7,20;
23;123:7;125:8,11,	46:13;62:6,7,10,13;	later (4) 57:11,12;	61:9;63:1;73:15;	113:12;114:17;118:7;
19;126:21;127:2;	64:2;65:5;69:23;	123:22;212:20	75:8;78:19,21;180:2,	120:11;124:6,7;
130:4;131:3,17;	70:11,13;71:4;74:17;	Laurel (1) 121:3	2;187:23;189:15,16,	126:2;127:4;128:8,
133:7;137:2;141:4;	79:16;80:1;93:10;	Law (29) 4:4;29:19;	19,20	15;130:22,23;131:15;
146:18;154:12;156:9;	94:10;128:3;129:4;	30:11,12,20,25;	licensed (6) 32:8;	134:2;157:2;161:12;
158:20;166:9;167:22;	160:7;161:25;167:18;	45:16;62:7,7;69:23;	33:15;68:15;88:1;	162:17;164:4,8;
169:15,21;172:17;	181:7;188:11	70:11,14;71:4,21,24;	189:16;228:8	165:10;172:19;174:4;
173:18;174:14,21;	Landgraf (28) 31:16,	74:17;75:14;90:18;	licensing (5) 28:20;	189:23;192:6;206:16;
181:17;182:1,10;	24;32:7,7;68:6,11,13,	128:3,5,6;132:16;	42:17;62:24;78:18;	213:14;217:12;
183:16;186:17;	14;69:4,8,10,18;78:7,	143:23;160:20;	180:4	226:19,19,20
187:21,25;188:4,6,	16,23;79:1,11,25;	174:24;181:7;182:24;	lied (1) 123:20	lived (6) 109:14;
14;189:2,25;190:11;	80:11,15;81:17,20,	188:11;206:2	Life (16) 48:1;53:3,	126:7;154:8;189:3;
192:13;193:5,8,11;	24;182:10;183:3;	Lawrence (1) 12:4	14;92:8,23;101:22;	202:17,24
195:16	184:2,19,24	laws (2) 143:19;181:3	134:2;136:14;140:4;	lives (26) 87:6;
kicked (2) 58:14;	landlocked (1) 14:17	lawsuit (3) 106:22,23;	144:12;146:24;149:5;	101:21,24;102:9;
73:20	landlords (1) 88:25	191:13	170:22;186:6;196:7;	108:2;109:23;110:1;
kidding (1) 96:24	landscaping (2) 47:4,	lawyer (2) 57:15;	210:18	111:22;112:6;118:8;
kids (12) 34:7;105:22;	6	131:25	life-long (1) 136:15	123:10;128:15;
108:22;126:14,16,25;	Lane (2) 32:6;157:1	lawyers (2) 93:22;	life-skills (1) 101:5	144:20;147:14;150:5,
127:2;135:5;167:13;	Lang (1) 229:13	135:11	light (1) 205:14	6,22;151:23;161:17;
169:5,11;209:20	Langham (4) 25:2,2,7;	lays (1) 188:11	liked (1) 122:6	162:23;164:4;168:19,
kids' (1) 169:6	115:5	leader (1) 127:12	limit (5) 58:6,8;76:4;	20;172:17;185:7,11
kind (18) 32:15;	language (3) 71:3;	League (1) 126:24	97:2;142:25	living (23) 24:4,21;
36:20;37:3,4;39:15;	97:1;180:14	leaned (1) 156:1	limitation (1) 73:3	28:10;29:4,24;43:12;
43:12;55:10;102:6;	laptop (1) 34:4	learn (1) 34:8	limited (1) 176:12	44:4;50:20;57:24;
108:17;114:12;137:9;	laptops (2) 34:6,7	learning (1) 147:25	Lindenwold (1) 99:24	77:10;82:20;85:5;
143:2;149:2;150:4;	Larchmont (1) 121:3	lease (2) 67:13,25	line (4) 42:10;91:13;	115:20;116:4;126:18;
151:25;179:9;228:18,	large (3) 45:5;87:24;	leasing (2) 67:16,18	153:1;183:18	128:20;134:23;
24	154:8	least (5) 17:14;68:1;	lines (1) 36:2	138:18;159:10;169:8;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

ZONING BOARD				December 4, 2023
203:11;222:18;223:9	105:16;198:11	makes (10) 30:25;	Mary's (1) 36:23	143:6
LLC (15) 6:13;7:13,	lost (1) 165:13	60:13;81:18;102:13;	Master (11) 68:20;	measure (2) 74:6;
17,19,22;8:1,3,6;	lot (60) 8:22;9:12,12;	107:25;108:15;	77:17,22,78:3,6,9,12,	216:15
27:11;195:24;220:1,	14:10,12,13;18:6,6;	146:10;151:25;	14;79:3;104:5;181:7	measures (1) 116:20
20;229:14,16,19	35:18;37:1;38:5;	167:10;177:11		
			MAT (3) 39:23;42:9;	Medford (2) 131:9,13
load (3) 74:4,9;92:14	39:19;40:5;46:23;	making (23) 75:21;	55:3	median (2) 115:20;
loads (1) 190:7	64:24;71:5;72:13,14;	76:6;92:6,7,9;97:11,	Match (2) 157:8;180:5	116:1
local (3) 27:21,23;	73:7;74:15;88:21;	23;105:19;108:6;	matching (1) 116:2	medical (7) 47:15;
37:25	91:14;94:2;100:6;	111:7,17,22;112:3,	matter (31) 5:16,20;	48:1;49:23,23;53:6;
located (2) 95:21;	112:8;125:13;134:7,	19;119:15;141:24;	6:12,13,15,17,20,25;	55:7:123:19
224:4	12;138:5,6,7,9;139:5;	143:17;161:24;	7:5,8,11,14;8:8,19,21;	Medical-Assisted (1)
				.,
locating (1) 87:21	142:19,20;147:6;	164:22,22;186:5;	9:5;11:23;27:5;48:7;	39:24
location (11) 27:18;	152:2;161:13,14,15,	193:18;206:4	56:4;91:1;142:14;	Medication (1) 55:4
49:2;50:14;51:11;	16,22;179:24;181:4,	Malcolm (1) 165:25	160:9;175:24;196:1,	meet (14) 30:10;
73:22;77:8;79:24;	19;187:4,16;190:13;	male (1) 58:5	2;201:13;206:21;	43:21;45:23,24;
82:10;98:6;202:2;	197:25;200:9,9,13,	male-gender-based (1)	216:21;218:21;	54:25;57:17;76:15;
210:4	13;202:3,6;205:23;	58:3	219:25	78:14;79:9;80:9;
locations (2) 50:14,23	214:10;220:24;	males (1) 158:18	matters (1) 51:24	81:5;82:12;112:11;
Locke (1) 109:8	223:24;224:17	man (17) 99:7;	Maurice (16) 94:6,10,	222:10
locked (1) 24:5	loud (2) 176:24;	108:10;118:13;	14,20;123:16;154:22;	meeting (47) 4:2,5;
lodging (1) 183:23	193:18	121:10;122:24;	155:4,11;171:3,16;	9:14;15:1,6;16:5;
logistics (2) 145:10;	louder (1) 193:16	123:16,24;126:19;	172:10,11,24;176:3;	31:9,10;46:9;47:4;
150:24	Lourdes (1) 192:2	128:4,25;149:10;	177:22;191:10	93:11;106:8;116:6;
long (16) 54:13;	love (25) 56:20;	154:16;167:7;169:22,	maxed (1) 74:24	124:11;136:25;137:1;
64:14;76:6;88:2;	108:4;122:25;123:1;	22;170:22;178:14	maximum (1) 74:10	141:2;143:14,16;
95:15;97:21;105:11;	137:7;144:16;145:10;	managed (1) 181:22	may (30) 48:12;51:8;	146:5;154:11;155:9,
145:14;150:2;173:25;	146:2,3;147:6,17,25;	management (5) 75:2,	65:13,14;82:1,19;	21;165:21;176:13;
179:22;181:25;	148:14,14;149:9,10,	19;131:1;181:19,21	83:12;98:6,7;106:14;	191:23;195:21;196:4,
197:22;202:11;210:3;	17,17;151:7,7,7;	manager (1) 86:14	109:8;115:10;119:4;	6,7,22,24;197:2,16,
222:11	154:2;156:8;163:13;	Manahath (1) 110:15	127:14,18;128:11;	17;198:3,3;199:21,
	170:1		129:1,2;130:25;	
longer (4) 46:14;82:7,		mandated (1) 53:20		25;200:14,17;207:21;
22;83:13	loved (1) 64:20	mansion (1) 126:5	159:22;163:15;	229:10;230:7,9,14,24
longterm (2) 38:11;	loving (2) 135:3,5	many (38) 11:11;	182:15;184:2;187:9,	meetings (11) 48:13;
39:23	low (2) 164:12;178:15	13:7;16:12;27:20;	19;188:4,5;192:11;	125:22;127:24,25;
long-term (1) 29:20	L'TANYA (3) 16:24;	30:16;38:20;63:10;	209:3;210:6	140:25,25;141:3;
look (27) 17:20;18:1;	17:5;93:6	90:19,22,22;91:13;	Maybe (16) 17:25;	157:23;158:24;
20:5;22:6;30:9;39:9;	luck (1) 167:22	99:1,4;101:20;	39:22;55:3,24;83:7;	188:13;200:22
	Luther (4) 36:14,17;	110:18,19;118:11;	84:19;86:2;87:25;	
42:22;50:25;51:1;				Melany (2) 6:8;201:2
91:6;95:7;100:16;	37:3;109:13	121:16,16;125:9,11,	113:19;119:1;145:15;	member (10) 43:7;
111:9;112:1,22,22;		12;131:6;134:22;	153:4,10;155:10,10;	125:6,10;130:11;
118:23;127:11,22;	Μ	163:1,4,6,8,17;173:2;	186:22	179:6;180:9;181:20,
143:10;146:15;147:8;		189:21,23;209:12;	mayor (4) 50:24;	24;182:9;184:10
149:23;150:25;184:6,	ma'am (7) 16:5;98:12;	217:9;221:9,15;	74:13;101:5;189:2	members (10) 16:20;
11;185:1	134:16;170:3;174:11,	222:12;225:23	Mayor's (1) 161:14	27:2,7;183:19;188:9,
looked (10) 27:25;		marginalized (2)	meal (1) 36:23	25;195:9;196:6,8,21
	21;222:23			
50:10,14,22;91:17;	Macedonia (2) 8:11,	32:24;33:3	meals (2) 29:13;37:11	memory (1) 12:5
142:9;149:18;165:23;	14	marijuana (1) 58:20	mean (23) 42:6;	men (57) 29:15;
177:14,16	Machigal (3) 6:4;	Marine (1) 165:16	46:19;49:9,10;50:4;	33:22,23,25;37:16;
looking (20) 28:23;	200:4;201:1	mark (4) 11:19;35:1,	56:13;59:17;60:7;	38:13;39:3;41:8,9;
42:17,25;56:21;85:2,	mad (1) 167:10	3;205:16	61:23;65:24;80:16;	101:21;109:22;111:6,
2,19;87:24;88:4;	Magnolia (12) 17:11,	marked (1) 23:5	83:21;87:17;90:10;	6,9,13,18,22;112:2,5,
90:13;97:17;119:4;	16,18;19:15,18;22:5,	marks (1) 28:12	142:10;144:18;145:2,	6,6,10,11,14,18,22;
124:14;142:10,11;	6,8,12;23:13;24:25;	Mariton (1) 8:9	21;149:9;151:6,13;	114:2,13;119:5;
145:18;178:22;182:6;	25:10	married (1) 85:18	180:24;186:9	121:21;122:19;123:8;
207:19;220:18	mail (2) 6:19;35:20	Martin (4) 36:14,17;	meaning (2) 44:11;	124:8,10;128:14;
looks (9) 12:14;22:12,	main (4) 108:11,12;	37:3;109:13	57:10	133:5,8;135:6,14;
17,19;29:19;47:21;	144:21,24	Martinez (28) 4:12,13,	means (10) 8:25;	141:13;142:16;
63:25;119:1,3	maintain (2) 78:21;	24;5:4,5;13:12,15,19;	28:22,24;30:12;62:6;	145:17,24;149:14;
Lord (1) 121:9	116:13	14:21;26:16,17;84:9,	84:13;88:9;132:2;	151:15;154:3,6,7,25;
lose (6) 60:6,6,7;	major (5) 72:8;78:8;	12;85:6,9,21,24;86:2,	142:8;155:17	155:4,23;159:9;
105:20;120:18;	95:5;113:16;116:14	7,12;153:12;186:10;	meant (2) 56:14;	164:3;165:22;177:5;
201:14	majority (3) 130:19;	189:9;194:1,12;	140:19	180:6;182:7
losing (3) 51:8;	131:17,17	195:1,2,21	meantime (2) 57:18;	men's (5) 117:3,6;

Min-U-Script®

154:5,9,10 mental (6) 91:16; 111:13:134:8.10; 135:2;177:19 mention (2) 74:12; 214:21 **mentioned (7)** 31:7; 44:25:45:14:57:15: 131:17;154:17;187:8 mentoring (2) 110:19; 112:5 mercy (1) 137:8 Merricks (24) 4:16,17; 5:8,9;26:20,21;58:2, 6,12;189:14,20; 190:4;195:5,6;205:7, 8;219:19,20;230:21, 22;231:3,11,12,15 messages (1) 138:14 messed (2) 59:3; 150:1 messes (1) 59:6 messin' (1) 151:10 met (4) 15:7;58:22; 170:22;188:14 metal (2) 208:4;212:5 metal-colored (2) 207:22,24 meters (1) 203:22 Methadone (3) 39:25, 25:54:10 meticulously (1) 115:13 Michael (1) 27:8 micro-individuals (1) 38:14microphone (1) 108:10might (10) 39:19,25, 25:40:1:52:16; 109:12;114:11; 128:12,23;193:5 Mike (1) 57:15 military (3) 121:7; 138:21,21 million (2) 35:23,25 Millville (19) 60:19; 61:15,22;65:18;87:9; 94:14;106:22,23,24; 111:19;143:5;164:7, 8:172:11:176:3; 190:23;191:3,10; 193:1 mind (2) 75:18; 148:24 minds (1) 112:23 mindset (1) 147:10 mindsets (1) 120:12 mine (5) 96:12;131:8; 144:14;211:18;212:7 minister (1) 85:22 ministers (2) 110:17; 168:13

Ministry (16) 27:19, 20;28:7;30:6;40:19; 51:12,13:64:11,14, 19;65:2;98:25;107:6; 131:9;165:18;168:14 minute (3) 175:10,10; 211:24 minutes (3) 4:22;94:5; 175:12 MIOSHA (2) 103:10, 16 misgivings (1) 103:25 Mission (4) 73:19; 100:16;118:14; 126:23 mission-driven (3) 130:3,7;131:7 mistake (8) 101:6; 119:2;163:15,16; 168:21;169:2,5; 172:10 mistakes (4) 163:2,18, 24;186:2 misunderstanding (1) 218:15 mitigating (2) 226:7,9 MLK (1) 36:7 MLUL (1) 181:6 model (4) 75:7,9; 187:14,20 modeled (1) 109:21 modest (1) 178:15 modification (1) 97:4 mom (2) 222:8; 226:20 moment (4) 17:19; 119:20;174:6;218:15 Monday (6) 93:11; 106:7;143:14,16; 154:11:165:21 money (24) 29:5; 38:19:51:10:82:24; 83:6;84:5;86:25; 102:14;107:1;126:25; 135:10;138:23,24,24; 139:5,7;148:12; 154:9;169:10;178:11; 185:23;198:11; 214:14;217:16 monies (1) 88:18 monitor (2) 75:5; 178:5 monitored (3) 39:14, 15;178:3 monitoring (1) 81:2 monitors (1) 178:2 Monte's (1) 52:4 month (20) 10:24; 11:21,24;15:2,9;17:8; 66:22;92:1;93:21; 106:9;113:13;136:24; 140:25;183:8;190:20, 20;191:23,23;196:14;

230:2 mouth (2) 168:25; monthly (1) 157:23 months (59) 29:21; 30:2,4;46:5;48:17; 51:9;54:1;55:25; 58:17;82:6,22;83:23; 86:22;87:11;90:7,14; 92:21,22,25;93:2,23; 95:15,15;97:3,8; 107:12:119:13,15; 120:6,16;127:1; 136:1,14;142:13,13, 13;155:10,13,13,13, 16,17;158:13,13; 180:19;183:7,13; 187:7;188:18;190:21; 192:11,11;193:3,14, 19,23;194:17;198:1; 210:1 morals (1) 77:22 more (45) 8:25;9:1; 14:5;17:14;28:21; 29:23,23;37:20; 46:18,23;49:22,23; 57:23;58:12;61:1; 63:4,8,11;64:1,24; 77:2;83:21;88:25; 95:21;112:14;117:13; 119:15;128:22; 132:12:134:13; 135:20:138:2,6; 146:17;150:16; 151:18;152:21,21; 155:3;162:2;175:14; 179:10;210:6;214:14; 216:2 morning (4) 39:21; 73:21;113:23;114:7 Morse (4) 6:20;199:5; 201:25:204:11 most (16) 32:24; 44:10;48:16;56:5,9; 74:20;77:18;78:5; 104:11;105:13; 108:25;109:6;122:7; 127:10;131:14;147:8 mostly (2) 68:24; 184:8 mother's (1) 92:10 motion (29) 4:22,23; 15:19,22;18:15; 26:10,25;182:17; 183:4;186:11;193:12, 18;194:15,16;195:12; 204:20,22;219:8,22; 229:20,22;230:6,9,10, 13,23,25;231:13,15 motivated (1) 85:13 motivation (1) 85:14 motivations (1) 85:14 motive (1) 144:25 motor (2) 32:25;33:1 motto (1) 172:18

214:11 move (19) 24:14,17; 46:15;57:12;60:19; 77:1;87:1,1;89:5; 97:22,25;107:7; 119:5,13;150:3; 171:22;178:11;219:2, 3 moved (10) 5:12; 60:23;66:9;126:2; 159:7:166:3:171:23; 202:22;230:4,23 move-in (1) 105:16 movement (6) 99:9; 109:6,11,12,19; 185:10 moves (2) 105:14,20 moving (8) 38:20; 73:6;83:25;95:15; 103:1;138:20;189:10; 218:16 Mt (2) 6:12;121:3 much (21) 28:7; 45:17;56:18;57:25; 61:19,24;74:12; 86:18;91:7;107:3; 141:19;150:17;156:8; 182:8;192:24;195:16; 201:18:212:16; 219:24;224:16;228:6 MUHAMMAD (3) 196:23;197:8;228:2 Mullica (1) 68:23 multi-cultural (1) 104:19 **multi-family (1)** 183:24 multiple (3) 106:20; 216:11;224:17 multiplied (1) 16:10 Municipal (12) 4:6; 45:16;62:7;69:23; 70:11,13;71:4;74:16, 21;128:3;181:7; 188:11 municipalities (1) 132:6 municipality (8) 28:2, 3;30:25;132:2,12,21; 176:16;180:24 murder (2) 164:2; 165:25 murderers (1) 163:24 murdering (1) 164:3 Murphy (1) 84:23 museum (1) 37:1 **must (10)** 7:25;37:9; 70:22;72:25;77:2; 80:20;99:12,12; 105:10:130:24 myself (13) 41:1;50:3; 90:21;108:14;114:5; 121:5;145:2;146:18;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

167:8,14,14,15;191:4

Ν NA (1) 127:25 NAD (1) 48:12 name (52) 10:2,15; 17:3;19:10;27:8; 32:3:47:23:57:21; 67:11:68:13:89:11. 19;93:5,6;98:18,20; 99:21,23;103:14,16; 107:22,24;110:10; 113:8,11;115:2; 118:2;120:25;125:1; 129:23,25;133:22; 138:2;144:7;153:22; 156:23;162:14,16; 165:7,9;168:5; 198:24;199:1;201:24; 205:16;206:14,16; 211:8;220:10,15; 222:3,5 named (2) 40:25; 167:3 Nancy (1) 126:5 Nancy's (1) 134:9 Nate (7) 59:13,13,14, 15;144:3,9;151:20 nation (2) 109:21; 110:18 national (2) 68:18; 90:20 native (1) 139:21 nature (2) 133:1; 211:17 naught (1) 120:14 nay (1) 101:14 near (1) 61:25 nearby (1) 28:1 nearly (2) 104:12; 107:11 necessarily (4) 38:9; 54:15;127:15;218:1 necessary (1) 43:14 necessitated (1) 180:3 **need (77)** 14:3,11,13; 15:15;26:1;29:17; 45:21;46:1;50:25; 51:8;56:10;59:22; 61:9;62:14,15,21; 65:7;77:16;81:16,21; 86:10,16;106:3,20; 111:6,23;112:6,18; 117:3;119:2;120:4; 124:16;134:16;135:9; 143:9;144:23;145:19; 146:25;147:4,4,5; 148:9,15,18,20; 149:13,14,16;156:7; 157:13,14;160:3; 161:5,19;164:23; 167:7;169:12;176:22;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

177:8;182:6,15; 185:17;186:16; 187:18:189:10; 196:24;199:7,9,10; 201:20;204:2,4; 223:20;228:18,18; 230:6;231:13 needed (13) 29:22; 51:9;57:3;64:12; 67:13:105:22:111:14; 141:4;147:1;155:2; 187:22;200:9;217:19 needs (14) 78:11; 106:17;107:1;115:14; 116:3;117:5,11; 138:23;140:8;142:24; 151:14;187:11; 193:24;208:11 Negative (17) 70:6, 22;71:25;76:9;77:14; 78:13;79:7,9;80:4,13, 17;81:3,6;91:21; 101:12;131:21; 140:17 negatively (1) 101:14 negatives (1) 90:15 negotiate (1) 175:12 Nehemiah (1) 32:23 Nehmad (1) 27:9 neighbor (2) 217:8,11 neighborhood (26) 18:22,23;55:17;70:9; 72:5,23;76:21;77:24; 104:4,9,19;105:1; 107:13;114:3;115:8, 16;116:24;117:9; 126:19;127:13,20; 134:5;138:10;140:20; 181:15;224:15 neighborhoods (1) 129:9 neighbors (13) 31:7,8, 9;46:9;47:3;62:17; 72:5;104:12,21; 131:14;170:21; 180:24;182:3 neighbor's (2) 208:7,8 nephew (1) 185:6 nephews (1) 129:12 network (4) 78:2; 90:20;157:19,20 New (75) 4:5;5:20,20; 10:5,17;16:15;17:17; 19:13;27:5,11,18; 32:6,8,9,13,15,22,22; 36:16;38:3;40:2; 44:16;47:21;48:1; 53:3,13;59:25;65:1; 68:15,20;71:25;72:9; 75:1,1,17;87:1,2; 88:18;89:22;92:12; 94:11;96:20;98:22; 99:10,25;100:1,25;

77:2

81:15

102:18,18;105:24; noted (3) 7:25; 162:19;176:20 106:3;109:10;110:13, 15;113:14;115:5,10, notes (2) 12:8;171:9 nothin' (1) 167:7 18;121:3;122:1,7,13; notice (25) 4:5;6:15, 130:13;132:11; 133:25;144:10;157:1; 15,16,18;7:9,10,15, 16,16;8:2,5,7,10,12, 159:4,7;162:17; 185:7;199:2;201:25; 15:42:23:67:3:175:4; 206:17;222:7 196:3;198:4;200:16; Newark (3) 38:4; 201:4,8,9 102:18,18 noticed (1) 113:24 next (28) 6:12,20; notification (1) 215:23 7:11;27:5;29:5,17; notified (2) 94:25; 37:1;43:7;47:12; 200:13 53:15;62:14;85:13; noting (1) 181:16 89:5;93:4;105:14,20; notions (1) 145:7 113:17;126:2,8,11; November (4) 4:6,22; 152:7;153:14;164:14; 106:8;143:15 183:8;191:25;201:13, NS (2) 6:8;201:2 16;223:22 number (15) 5:15; **nice (5)** 27:1,2;178:2; 74:23;77:11;171:9, 220:1;222:10 20,24;172:5,9,23,24; nieces (1) 129:12 173:8,21;211:14; night (13) 27:1,2; 226:4.10 39:20;114:3;117:17; numbers (2) 123:11; 127:7;152:25;157:21; 171:9 173:25;179:22; numerous (3) 157:11; 185:10;188:21; 161:18;185:8 205:10 nurse's (1) 56:17 nine (4) 53:25;58:16; NWWAP (1) 90:19 162:20,21 0 Ninety (1) 44:13 NJ (1) 220:12 NJSA (2) 70:23; oath (1) 171:13 204:14 objection (3) 175:21; **nobody (9)** 59:18; 176:19,20 101:9;109:1;136:12, **Objectives (2)** 78:8,10 17;145:18;147:2; obtain (1) 195:13 167:6;178:22 obtained (2) 195:14; nobody's (1) 215:22 202:18 nonconforming (9) obvious (2) 50:18; 199:11,11:200:7; 152:1 201:21;202:8;204:9, obviously (24) 28:6, 15,19;229:18 13;30:9,16;37:21; Non-Conforming (1) 39:12;44:24;46:13; 229:12 61:12;66:22;69:12; none (9) 141:15; 78:19;81:10;87:16; 146:7,8;157:5;178:6; 175:23;176:4;179:24; 201:10;204:11;218:7; 181:17,22;182:5; 219:21 183:14;188:23; nonfaith-based (1) 194:19;226:6 occasions (1) 216:11 nonprofit (1) 42:7 occupancy (3) 74:3,4, 9 normal (2) 69:14; occupy (1) 62:17 normally (3) 69:21; o'clock (3) 113:23; 71:17;205:16 114:7;122:9 North (5) 86:8; odd (1) 160:19 102:22;121:20,22; OEO (1) 186:6 149:22 off (20) 22:25;23:12; Northfield (1) 68:24 33:4;38:8;43:4; **note (4)** 5:15;6:13; 54:24;55:5;56:10; 170:23;181:5 75:22;152:17;170:11;

174:1;187:25;190:7, 8;197:9,11;200:5; 212:14;217:23 offer (9) 28:17;69:4; 125:15;158:11,15,24; 194:3,6,10 offered (4) 96:23; 158:9;169:6;177:19 offering (1) 131:23 office (8) 4:6:18:1; 56:1,17;91:12; 161:15;174:22; 191:10 officers (1) 173:3 offices (1) 56:18 official (6) 74:5,5; 125:5,18;206:21,22 offline (1) 108:24 off-street (9) 9:13,15; 12:2;25:21,23; 220:25;223:21,23; 224:4 often (3) 8:25;45:18; 69:20 OGLESBY (4) 89:15, 21,21;90:3 **Old (10)** 5:17;8:19; 126:6,22;137:9; 138:19;172:14;210:2; 226:22:228:25 oldest (1) 67:10 once (5) 44:7;49:14; 50:12;172:7;188:6 one (111) 12:5,17,17, 18,23;13:22,23;22:7, 8,10,11,11;23:4; 26:25;29:17;32:4,24; 33:10,15,15;36:6; 46:12;53:19;54:1; 57:7:58:12,15,17; 62:13;67:8;72:6,9; 73:5;74:11,22;82:23; 83:1,12,21;84:3,7; 85:16;88:7;89:12; 90:10,13,14;91:14, 23;92:9;93:10;96:12; 102:8;103:23;108:9; 110:17;111:18,21; 112:9;116:2;122:25; 123:16;124:6;138:2; 143:22;145:3,24,24; 147:16;150:17;151:8; 153:3;155:1,7; 158:24;159:6;161:5; 162:20,24;163:10,11; 166:24;168:16; 169:20;172:15; 173:10;175:19;179:5; 182:4;185:4,5,5,10, 21;186:22,23;187:8; 188:20;190:1,3; 192:1;198:14;200:20; 201:16;208:15; opposed (3) 26:25;

211:15:216:14; 225:13,13;226:11; 230:5 one-family (1) 24:21 one-on-one (1) 116:6 one-period (1) 83:4 ones (7) 16:15;41:24; 74:21:82:14:128:11; 130:12;151:8 one's (1) 178:15 ongoing (3) 44:25; 61:21;115:18 on-line (1) 73:25 only (44) 14:9;22:11; 30:2;38:4;45:3; 56:21;57:18;58:4,10; 63:8;64:24,25;92:2; 101:8;103:23;111:11; 116:23;119:8;120:6; 137:7;141:25;152:7, 20;153:9;157:12; 160:15;161:19,23; 164:9;171:14;172:12; 184:22;190:1,3; 195:14;196:7;216:5, 5,7,16;217:3;218:19, 22;230:4 on-site (6) 29:10; 48:13;60:10,11; 77:12;180:9 on-street (1) 224:15 OP (2) 48:15;50:7 open (11) 43:3;57:3; 89:8,9;107:5;136:11; 137:1,16;179:8; 209:17;210:20 opened (3) 14:25; 91:25;94:17 opening (2) 193:5; 205:16 openly (1) 137:3 openness (1) 137:19 opens (4) 134:14,18; 193:2,21 operate (1) 62:24 operated (2) 64:14; 180:23 operating (2) 65:3,8 operation (3) 28:1; 39:2;180:5 operational (3) 47:11, 14;82:1 operationally (1) 69:12 operations (4) 38:24; 78:21;94:23;172:6 opinion (6) 96:13; 126:18;128:20; 129:15;164:8;187:2 opportunities (2) 104:14;115:19 opportunity (1) 153:8

208:12:219:22 opposition (1) 146:22 OPRA (1) 93:19 options (1) 159:4 order (35) 28:16;30:5; 78:20;84:22;92:8; 105:2;119:17;139:10, 23,24;140:14;142:1, 24;143:3,18;144:19, 19,20,24;149:25; 150:24;156:14;158:6; 160:9;161:10,25; 169:24;170:9;171:20; 172:13;182:7;190:15, 16;223:12;227:23 orderly (1) 170:2 **Ordinance (5)** 14:1; 70:8;80:14;163:1; 183:21 ordinances (2) 162:24;184:5 organization (5) 106:15;130:25; 131:2;136:10;148:16 organizations (9) 33:13;88:20;130:3,8, 9,25;131:4,6,7 organizer (1) 138:12 original (3) 93:20,21; 190:2 originally (6) 33:23; 95:10;110:23;190:3; 212:17;227:21 others (3) 17:24; 108:7;141:11 OTTO (13) 5:25; 201:14,18;205:13,16; 209:3,5,24;210:3,9; 218:10,24;219:24 ought (1) 164:17 ourselves (3) 81:14; 123:2;206:1 out (126) 12:14,17,18; 13:16,23;18:2,9; 20:10,10,20,23; 22:11;23:21;24:6; 26:2;33:2,12;34:9; 36:12;39:17,20;40:9; 42:23;44:8,12;47:5; 50:17;52:1,5,10;54:2, 5;56:9;57:6;58:8,14; 59:7;61:11;70:14; 73:6,20;74:24;83:17; 84:14;89:1;90:11; 92:20;100:10;102:5, 22;106:24;109:5; 112:20,20,21,21; 113:22;114:1,6,14; 119:6;120:2;121:16; 123:23,25;125:23; 126:4,20;127:8,9; 130:10;131:4;134:14, 21;135:21;137:16;

138:13,14,20,21; 139:9,24;140:4,14; 141:14;142:1;143:5; 146:16,19;149:19,23; 150:9,22;151:15,20, 21;156:7;157:20; 159:7;164:3,13,24; 165:19;167:11,12; 169:10;171:18; 175:17:176:25; 183:18;185:4,18,19; 188:6,11,15;190:17; 191:7,15;192:20; 202:5,23;214:11,19; 215:16;228:23 outlined (2) 69:22; 119:18 outpatient (1) 48:16 outreach (2) 145:4; 147:12 Outside (14) 18:21; 20:19;38:6,10;39:12; 40:4;48:22;49:2; 55:15;74:25;85:5; 113:24;126:23; 147:19 outstanding (1) 53:25 over (46) 13:20; 19:23;34:12;35:25; 37:10:53:25:58:16; 62:23;75:20;86:8; 91:5;92:13,15;94:21; 95:4;103:3,25; 105:15;107:8;109:17, 21;110:1,25;115:11, 21,25;120:10;134:24; 135:21,22;136:16; 145:25;149:8;153:6; 156:10;163:10,20; 164:21;167:6;169:4, 18;180:19;186:4; 188:1,18;191:20 overall (2) 55:7; 142:11 overcome (2) 79:6; 160:17 overcrowded (1) 74:2 overload (1) 197:5 Overseeing (1) 206:25 overseen (1) 142:15 oversight (1) 60:12 overstay (1) 96:16 overview (1) 31:13 owed (1) 166:10 own (17) 29:6;32:14; 46:14;91:10;100:11; 109:24;129:6;140:17; 169:10;180:8;212:14; 213:1:214:6.11.11; 215:5;219:9 owned (3) 50:17; 128:13;172:3

owner (12) 62:9,13; 67:4;97:2;115:12; 117:2;202:1,25; 203:2;204:17;208:20; 135:4 220:20 owners (2) 104:13; 105:12 ownership (1) 83:14 **Oxford (3)** 74:15,18; 75:9 Р packet (4) 47:24;68:1; 221:3;230:8 page (3) 78:4;94:21; 213:10 pages (2) 94:12; 230:8 171:8 paid (3) 169:10,13,16 24;200:15 paint (1) 176:2 Pandemic (1) 72:11 142:23 panel (1) 91:11 panther (1) 166:20 69:24;71:15 paper (1) 12:13 paperwork (1) 192:5 parents (2) 126:25; 209:14 205:17 Park (15) 17:9,17; 20:4,5;24:22;107:25; 135:15,18;141:7; 157:4;167:2;224:5, 20,21,22 195:12,15 parked (1) 23:19 parking (39) 9:13,15, 191:24 18,19;10:25;11:4,5; 12:2,7,10;15:3,7,15, passes (1) 139:19 15;19:17,19;20:1,18; 21:21:22:3:23:23; 25:21,23;26:5;40:5; 77:13;220:25;223:21, past (22) 32:23; 24;224:4,15,18,19,24; 225:1;226:7,8,9; 228:25 parks (1) 20:10 Parkside (76) 12:8; 16:10,12,13;17:9,22; 40:24;56:2;79:5; 85:19;97:18;103:19, 21;104:3,7,18,22; 105:5,7,11,15,25; 106:7;108:1,3,4,5,16; 110:21;113:13,18; 115:6,15,23;116:12, 19;117:4,7,8,12; 118:17,17;119:3,14; 126:1,3,10;127:12,15, 16,19;128:18;134:6, 14,15,18,19;136:7,7; 137:4,23;138:11,16; 139:21,25;144:22; 145:22;148:16; 149:22;155:25;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

141:4;146:18;154:12; 162:20:163:6,19; 164:22;173:7;191:21 158:20:166:9:167:22: Parkside's (2) 115:7; 169:14,21;172:17; 173:18;174:14,21; part (43) 19:25;20:18, 181:17;182:1,10; 19,23;21:10;25:17; 186:17;187:21,25; 35:22;36:6;39:2; 188:14;189:2,25 47:24,25:51:12,13; pastors (1) 56:8 55:7;67:21,21;68:1; Path (5) 85:25; 104:5:105:4:130:9; 121:22;122:8;186:24; 131:9;139:3;141:1,9; 187:17 143:8;144:13;145:3; **PATIENCE (3)** 98:14, 20;179:21 146:15;151:9,14; 168:11;178:25;180:7; pattern (3) 186:14,15; 181:12;198:9,10; 189:1 207:25;208:4,4; paved (2) 115:15; 221:4;227:19;228:3; 172:8 pay (7) 84:4,4,5; participate (3) 140:19, 148:1;166:17;174:5,5 paying (1) 160:8 particular (5) 18:23; payments (1) 173:22 19:14;70:2;82:12; **PBCIP (3)** 85:19; 127:13;140:24 particularly (3) 28:12; PBICP (1) 224:25 PBUM (2) 166:21; particulars (1) 102:10 167:18 PCA (1) 43:21 partner (3) 48:4,21; peak (1) 102:4 partnership (1) 116:18 penny (1) 92:3 pass (9) 84:13:124:9; people (202) 8:22; 165:19:192:10; 17:24:20:22:24:4,4,5, 193:13.18:194:16: 6;25:22;29:7;30:16, 24;34:2,16;39:19,21, passed (6) 40:16,18; 21;40:20,21;41:4; 50:21;64:16;167:13; 44:11;46:24;48:22, 25;50:20;51:4,7,8,9, 22;54:16,19,25;56:9; passing (1) 126:23 59:4;60:24;61:4;63:4, passion (2) 170:1,19 7,8,10,23;65:7;72:20; 74:7,24:77:10,11; passionate (1) 170:15 84:24:86:10.16: 34:15;35:6;41:5; 90:12,25;91:3,7,8,9,9, 47:11;50:13,21; 10;92:7,9,21,22; 53:13,25;58:16; 95:21,23;98:1; 64:22;69:1;85:7; 100:19,23;101:8,11, 93:7;115:25;119:13; 12,17;102:6,8,11,14; 130:17;150:23;173:8; 105:18;107:3;108:4, 177:2,2;197:21 17,20,20,22,22; Pastor (75) 27:19,25; 109:21;110:20;111:3, 28:15,21,22,25;30:1; 25;112:1;114:17; 31:9,14:32:5,11; 118:19,22;119:22,24; 34:22;41:15;42:8; 120:2,3,9,11,14; 47:23;48:17,19;49:5; 123:1,1,6,9,13;124:1, 59:15,15;62:8;68:4; 7;125:19;127:10; 72:10;73:11,14; 128:22,23;129:8,11; 75:16;77:1;93:12; 132:3,12;134:22,25; 94:22;96:23;98:14, 135:1,8,11,19;136:8, 20,22,24;99:1,10; 13,20,21,25;137:2; 100:2;110:16;112:19; 138:15;140:4,18; 118:11;121:6;122:2, 142:14;145:1,5,6,11; 2,23;123:7;125:8,11, 146:1,14;147:16,25; 19;130:4;131:3,17; 148:2;149:6,13,13, 133:7;137:2;139:21; 15;150:6,7,12,15;

151:6,17,18,23,25; 152:2,12,21,23;153:3, 7;162:4,19,22,25; 163:2,5,7,9,11,21; 164:10,12,12,19,20, 23;166:4,5,12,13,22, 22;167:1,3,4,16; 168:18:170:4,7,25; 171:6;177:14;178:13; 185:18:186:5,7,23; 189:21,23;190:6,13; 192:3;203:10;208:23; 210:15 **PEOPLES (4)** 144:3, 9,9;164:1 peoples' (1) 140:22 people's (1) 101:24 percent (15) 29:1; 44:11,12,13;67:9; 77:3;84:7;115:20; 116:1;171:10,12,12, 14,14;210:18 Perfect (1) 31:22 perhaps (1) 164:14 perimeter (1) 209:15 period (7) 35:21;43:2; 58:16;61:9;78:22; 123:14;192:8 permanent (3) 29:23, 24;209:1 permission (8) 60:23; 106:17;123:7;171:1, 18:172:16:178:20; 217:1permit (1) 95:20 permits (3) 95:3; 172:2,4permitted (9) 18:5; 25:18;74:19;79:15; 183:25;184:12,13,21; 226:8 perpetuity (1) 45:20 person (26) 37:13; 54:1;58:13,15,17; 59:8;72:19;82:11; 90:8,9;91:15;102:13; 103:3;118:16;125:5; 126:14;139:13;140:8; 148:7;150:17;159:2; 160:25;161:1;185:5; 187:8:223:1 personal (6) 6:19; 75:19;84:1;168:15; 188:14,15 personally (2) 30:17; 182:24 persons (2) 76:4; 172:10 pertains (1) 206:20 Pete (1) 59:16 Peter (2) 170:11,14 petitions (2) 117:14, 15

phenomenal (1) 112:7 Philadelphia (2) 91:5; 161:20 philanthropic (1) 27:22 phoentic (1) 109:9 **phone (4)** 9:1;138:15; 226:15.16 phones (1) 8:25 **photograph (3)** 40:9; 207:20,20 photographs (4) 34:22,24;204:17; 207:4 photos (1) 37:21 phrase (1) 31:1 physical (1) 127:1 physicals (1) 126:25 pick (4) 33:12;90:11; 154:6;157:18 picking (1) 90:23 picture (7) 33:10; 39:1;41:2;222:25; 224:6,7;227:12 pictures (14) 33:10; 37:16;39:7;40:3; 203:19;224:1,3,11; 225:17;226:14,17; 227:15;228:23;229:4 piece (1) 37:8 piggyback (2) 94:23; 172:6 Pike (1) 8:9 pilot (1) 112:17 place (40) 20:3;29:6; 41:14;44:6;45:1; 47:16;50:18;52:10; 55:16;60:20;66:19; 79:4;83:14;91:24; 96:21:100:3,12; 104:23;111:10,17; 112:17,24;119:12; 120:10,11;121:3; 135:22;148:20; 158:16;163:25; 164:19;170:9;172:20; 183:22;185:15; 187:14;191:16,17; 192:12;210:16 placed (2) 37:15; 134:9 placement (1) 29:23 places (5) 71:22;85:2; 95:22;102:19;123:19 plan (78) 9:19,19; 17:21,22;21:22;22:3; 27:15;28:18;44:19; 55:8;63:3;70:8;77:17, 21,22;78:3,6,9,12,15; 79:4,4,5,9,10,12,13, 20;80:3,6;81:11,13, 15;82:3,6;86:21;88:5, 5;97:19,22,23;98:1;

101:16,16,17,19; 103:20;104:4,6,11, 13:107:13:115:8.9. 16;116:24;119:14,18; 127:14,17,21;138:11; 140:20;159:16; 177:17;178:8;181:5, 6,7,15;182:19; 227:10,10,19,22; 228:1,19:229:4 planned (1) 36:22 planner (13) 31:15; 32:8;47:12;49:6;68:4, 14,22;69:8;97:15; 131:20;181:12; 182:22,22 planning (16) 45:24; 47:13;57:1;68:5,16, 20;69:2,5;77:24; 115:9;157:19;174:22; 178:9;184:9,14,17 plans (11) 11:13,14; 63:15,19;64:25; 104:4,9;115:11; 117:9;227:16;228:22 plate (1) 161:22 platform (1) 197:18 play (4) 30:23;96:7; 116:8;187:2 played (1) 126:13 please (59) 5:14; 6:13;9:2;10:15; 16:22;19:4;80:15; 93:4,5;98:12,18; 99:21;103:8,14; 107:16,22;110:3,10; 113:2,8;114:21; 115:2;117:21;118:2; 120:20,25;124:20; 125:1;129:17,23; 133:22;144:1,7; 153:14,15,22;156:17, 23;161:23;162:8,14, 15;165:1,7;167:25; 168:5;176:9;198:18, 24;206:8,14;209:4; 210:24;211:2,8; 220:4,10;221:22; 222:3 pleasure (1) 8:25 **pm (6)** 60:17;152:17, 18;197:11,12;201:11 pm* (1) 231:19 PO (1) 89:21 pocket (1) 169:10 point (14) 17:20; 48:23,24;50:23; 55:20;64:17;79:17; 83:16;92:5;121:14; 154:4;175:14;176:24; 218:16 pointing (1) 215:16 points (1) 83:23

pole (9) 212:14; 213:1,2;214:2,3,6; 215:6;217:21,23 **Police (6)** 116:17,18; 143:7;173:2;208:17; 215:25 policies (3) 110:24; 111:3.23 policy (1) 177:17 political (1) 109:11 pools (1) 139:6 poor (1) 164:10 **Poppy (1)** 165:12 **population (3)** 27:24; 114:4;121:15 populations (1) 158:8 Port (1) 68:24 portion (6) 8:21; 18:17;46:25;176:21; 204:12;218:8 posing (1) 160:13 position (6) 29:5; 151:24;157:7;160:14, 21,23 positive (16) 58:19; 70:16,19;76:8,25; 80:10;81:3;86:17; 88:22,24;101:2,13; 140:16;147:10;186:1; 187:16 possible (3) 82:16; 86:19;197:19 possibly (4) 127:9; 141:18;142:20; 209:20 **Post (8)** 190:19,19; 191:10;214:12; 218:13,17;219:6,9 posted (1) 4:5 post-graduating (1) 158:13 postponed (1) 93:22 potential (2) 28:14; 87:21 **potentially (3)** 60:6; 87:15;153:11 pour (1) 124:1 poured (1) 139:6 Power (2) 111:13; 112:24 **PP (1)** 31:24 practicing (1) 68:16 prayer (1) 42:14 precedence (1) 107:4 predictor (1) 177:3 preexisting (7) 23:6; 24:20;145:7,23; 203:18;204:15,19 prejudged (1) 148:22 pre-judged (1) 146:9 prepping (1) 83:8 presences (1) 128:22 present (14) 5:14,18,

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

22,25;6:3;7:1,20,21; 9:6:10:19:16:2: 32:18;137:6;158:10 presentation (4) 32:19;35:2,4;206:5 presented (5) 16:8; 45:8;61:23;154:24; 155:9 presently (1) 202:6 president (1) 139:4 presume (1) 226:21 prettier (1) 96:13 pretty (6) 85:13,14; 129:10;212:16; 224:16;228:6 prevent (1) 170:12 prevention (1) 157:14 previous (3) 110:20; 202:13,24 previously (1) 205:20 prices (1) 105:18 Primose (2) 165:15; 166:21 Princess (15) 5:21; 27:6,13;40:24,25; 47:22;60:24;106:1; 113:12;125:4;126:3; 127:4;149:12;185:7, 12 prior (5) 61:2;88:24; 175:23;203:2;204:17 priority (3) 144:21,24; 209:13 prison (8) 51:16;52:6, 10;56:9;100:3,5; 101:6;155:20 private (1) 213:13 privately (1) 128:13 privilege (1) 164:16 probably (11) 32:20; 43:11;56:8,25;71:2; 74:5;88:25;119:15; 138:6;169:7;192:20 probation (1) 166:6 problem (35) 20:24; 21:1;23:25;24:11; 28:6;34:12;35:14; 61:14;62:20;63:24; 64:3;72:8;124:14,17; 134:4;136:23;139:8; 141:5,25:144:13: 145:21,21,23;146:16; 148:4;153:11;170:20; 186:14,15;187:14; 190:19;191:15; 192:16,21;212:21 problems (2) 75:6; 149:11 procedures (2) 110:25:111:24 proceed (1) 68:8 proceeded (1) 95:3 process (23) 29:1,8;

Min-U-Script®

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

ZUNING BUARD		Г	Γ	December 4, 2023
45:11;50:4;53:8,13;	109:25;113:24;124:4;	public (52) 6:18;8:12,	104:15	ready (4) 6:6,10;
45.11,50.4,55.8,15, 75:19;80:1;82:11;	126:8;139:19,19;	21;12:3;14:23,25;	quasi (1) 175:5	123:22;159:2
87:21;88:1,3;94:19;	171:25;172:3;177:14;	16:2,4;18:16;30:13,	queen (1) 175.5	real (9) 37:9;40:8;
95:10;112:2;116:25;	171.25,172.5,177.14, 182:19;185:23;	13;34:17;66:1;71:1,7;	questionable (1)	68:4;78:17;123:9;
			157:5	
136:15,15;140:11,12;	198:11;202:1,2,18;	72:6;76:9,10,12,14,		147:7;191:15,18;
188:7,8;197:22	203:5,8,25;207:25;	20;80:20;89:8,9,24;	quick (4) 40:9;68:5;	193:6
processes (1) 100:21	208:2,6,8,8,22,23;	105:6;132:25;152:13;	78:17;123:9	realize (1) 119:20
produce (1) 104:25	209:9,23;214:4;	169:13,13,16;170:4;	quickly (1) 109:4	realized (3) 66:18;
productive (3) 87:6;	216:21,22	175:3;176:11;179:6,	quiet (2) 102:16;	148:25;187:21
119:23;123:24	proposal (2) 30:4;	9,15,17,17,23,24;	185:9	really (30) 9:2;15:1,5;
professional (15)	131:22	181:21;186:20;	QUINN (2) 129:19,25	29:15;30:5,23;43:19;
31:15;45:23;47:13;	propose (1) 182:17	188:25;200:12,15;	quite (6) 43:8;48:20;	46:1,22;73:4,24;77:3,
49:5;68:14,16;69:5,8;	proposed (4) 9:19;	204:10,12;210:21,23;	69:1,19;76:23;212:22	15;80:4;86:10;92:5;
91:22;121:14;122:3,	71:14,16;159:16	218:6,8	quorum (6) 61:13;	103:5;109:4;111:10,
4,20;128:5;182:22	proposes (1) 200:8	publically (1) 106:20	66:23;67:1;106:9;	24;118:13;130:2;
professions (1) 91:14	proposing (10) 11:8;	publication (2) 6:18;	159:8;190:22	151:22;155:22;156:6;
proffer (1) 210:8	28:15,16;30:1;49:18;	201:10	quote (5) 37:7;57:20;	157:5;179:5;180:3;
program (59) 37:13;	64:13;69:15;71:23;	public-interest (1)	61:9;133:2;175:4	182:25;209:8
41:23,25;42:1,5;43:5,	180:17;183:7	71:22	quotes (1) 95:1	realm (1) 77:4
9;49:8;50:1,11;52:8,	prosecutor's (1) 91:12	published (1) 200:17		realtor (1) 87:23
9,24;53:5,16,17;	prospective (1) 62:25	pulled (1) 33:3	R	Realty (3) 6:1;200:4;
55:22;58:3,25;84:14,	prosperity (1) 115:23	punched (1) 150:19		201:1
15;90:8;91:6,22;92:7,	protect (2) 30:24;	punish (1) 150:2	R-2 (1) 202:3	rear (1) 207:20
21,23;102:5,11,12,20;	91:20	purchase (2) 113:16;	RAINER (3) 113:4,11,	reason (18) 45:3;
106:14,24;109:16;	protected (4) 30:20;	160:19	11	73:12,13;74:22;
111:10,20;112:7,15,	74:16,17;84:24	purchased (5) 36:16;	raise (27) 10:9;16:21;	85:21;94:4;102:17;
17;116:7;125:17,20;	protection (1) 46:17	103:25;113:12;161:6;	19:3;98:12;99:16;	139:25;149:8;160:20;
127:22;136:7;140:7,	protest (1) 101:25	225:17	103:8;107:15;110:3;	170:10;172:20;
7;147:13;154:4;	proud (6) 40:15;50:8;	purpose (14) 38:15;	113:1;114:20;117:20;	208:11,24;209:5,11;
155:20;157:8;159:7;	108:25;146:13,17,17	50:20;71:3;76:18;	120:20;124:19;	215:19;216:4
168:11;171:11,15,17;	prove (2) 105:5;	77:7,21;79:19,25;	129:16;133:16;135:5;	reasonable (5) 31:1,2,
173:19;177:15;180:7;	203:20	93:9;95:6;96:1;	144:1;153:15;156:16;	5;75:25;76:5
187:13	proven (1) 172:17	147:19,20;205:23	162:8;165:1;167:24;	reasonably (1) 72:4
programs (18) 33:5;	provide (22) 10:11;	purposes (4) 35:7;	198:17;206:7;211:1;	Reasons (8) 69:22;
38:9,10,16;39:22;	12:2;16:7;25:24;	71:4;100:16;216:20	220:3;221:21	76:13;173:10;186:24;
51:10;52:12;82:10;	29:16,22;32:12,16;	pursuant (1) 81:13	raised (14) 16:12;	208:13,15;209:6,7
84:17;100:24;110:18;	35:1;68:11;70:3;	push (1) 56:14	28:9;31:11;47:7;	rebuttal (1) 101:22
111:21;122:5;126:20;	77:7;78:10,19;	pushed (1) 160:10	62:16;89:13;109:9;	recall (2) 7:23;9:10
135:24;136:20;	100:23,24;101:11;	put (47) 19:16;26:5;	117:2;118:6;121:5,5;	receive (2) 35:21;
145:14;159:3	122:8;159:4;178:10;	30:3;33:21;50:11;	134:2;154:1;157:3	227:25
progress (2) 115:21;	182:7;228:5	54:2,5;55:13;56:13,	raising (1) 14:22	received (6) 8:15;
151:19	provided (19) 9:14;	17;57:5;59:7;63:21;	Ralph (1) 167:3	35:19;73:15;94:9;
promise (1) 179:2	29:14;64:11;79:21;	80:2;83:16;91:2;	ramifications (3) 60:8;	154:21;230:8
promote (5) 71:14;	93:8,17;96:12;	93:18;114:1;119:12;	97:16,18	receiving (2) 48:13;
76:18;77:20,21;	122:11;159:12,13,14;	138:15;140:16;146:3;	ran (3) 126:14;154:3;	98:5
181:10	176:13,18;181:13;	147:3;169:9;185:14;	189:2	recent (4) 41:13;
promotes (3) 30:13;	196:4;202:16;203:20;	147.3,109.9,183.14, 190:20;200:5;201:22;	RANDALL (3) 156:19,	77:19;78:5;104:11
71:2;76:20	204:16;206:4	211:15,25;212:1,14;	25.25	
	provides (2) 106:16;		-) -	recently (2) 27:25; 122:1
prong (3) 70:6,16; 75:23	159:10	213:1;214:2,2;215:5, 13,22;216:10,19,25;	ranges (1) 49:11	
			rape (1) 114:5	recidivism (1) 44:11 record (66) 5:16;7:25;
pronounce (1) 48:2	providing (8) 25:25;	217:1,5,17;219:5;	rapists (1) 146:6	
proof (2) 25:20;150:4	48:7;71:6;89:2;	227:23;229:1	rate (6) 44:10,13;	10:3;13:4;17:4;18:4,
proper (2) 6:16;7:15	116:2;121:23;122:15,	putting (7) 111:11,12;	77:3;159:11;171:12,	19;19:11;24:13;
properly (1) 114:1	16 Dravision (10) 20:2:	136:22;191:15;	12	34:14,19,21;35:7;
Properties (8) 8:6;	Provision (10) 30:3;	214:11;215:14;216:2	rates (2) 72:9;102:15	47:25;54:14;55:14;
17:10;51:1,1;67:11;	45:15;46:3,16;57:16;	0	rather (2) 199:21;	66:1,4;67:25;68:7;
73:9;106:1;177:15	62:22;87:13;90:15;	Q	206:4	77:3;89:12,20;94:9;
property (51) 11:5;	96:10;107:9		Re (1) 47:22	98:19;99:22;103:15;
24:14,17;27:13;	Provisions (6) 62:4;	qualifications (2)	reach (1) 123:25	107:23;110:11;113:9;
40:18;45:4;47:17,18;	119:12;163:24,25;	46:22;53:21	read (8) 5:13;110:24;	115:3;118:3;121:1;
48:8;62:8,9,13;63:4,	164:22,23	qualify (1) 132:13	171:7,8;176:21;	125:2;129:24;133:23;
23;64:8;67:4,5;77:13;	psyche (2) 49:14;53:7	quality (2) 104:14,23	177:23;201:23;202:4	144:8;152:11,14,17,
87:10;94:7;97:2;	Psychiatric (1) 135:1	quality-affordable (1)	reads (2) 48:1;104:17	18;153:23;156:24;
	1	1	1	1

162:15:165:8:168:6; 172:1:182:16:189:12: 194:22;195:23;197:9, 11,12,14;198:25; 206:15;211:9;214:17; 217:2,4,17,25; 218:10;220:11;222:4 recorded (1) 158:23 recording (3) 34:12; 35:11,12 recordings (1) 34:18 records (3) 53:6; 108:18.19 recover (2) 164:19,20 recovering (1) 28:8 recovery (10) 28:11; 29:1;30:19;76:20; 77:5;136:5,12,18,19; 137:18 **Redevelopment (17)** 17:22;79:4,5,10,12, 19;80:3,6;81:11,13, 15;104:3;115:8; 117:9;127:20;181:5,6 rediness (1) 40:2 reduce (3) 75:24; 80:25;226:7 reducing (2) 226:3,10 re-emphasize (1) 190:13 re-entry (3) 91:12; 100:6.6 refer (1) 48:22 reference (1) 175:23 references (1) 130:12 referencing (2) 34:22, 24 **Referred (3)** 54:5; 58:24;125:19 reflect (2) 34:21:94:9 refrigerator (1) 225:15 refuge (1) 164:1 refused (1) 36:23 regard (3) 187:12; 205:22;209:7 regarding (3) 11:25; 12:10,10 regardless (1) 149:11 regards (5) 157:6; 158:21;160:14;162:6; 173:11 regular (3) 4:2; 114:16;116:5 regulate (1) 76:24 regulated (1) 60:1 regulates (1) 59:20 regulations (12) 43:18,21,25;58:21; 60:3,5,14;63:10; 79:16;172:19,22; 180:21 rehab (2) 95:7,10 rehabilitated (1)

155:24 rehabilitation (1) 71:20 rehash (1) 15:1 reintegrate (1) 29:18 reintegration (1) 29:8 reiterate (1) 115:7 reject (1) 123:22 rejected (1) 123:21 rejecting (1) 117:6 rejection (1) 123:17 relapse (1) 28:14 relapsed (1) 58:17 relapses (1) 58:13 related (7) 18:6,6; 93:16;132:11;152:11; 182:19;220:23 relates (3) 79:10; 161:25;183:2 relating (1) 99:9 relationship (1) 206:19 relay (1) 90:1 release (1) 122:10 released (1) 100:5 relevant (2) 176:24; 182:25 relief (6) 27:13,15; 68:6;79:15;204:14,21 **Religious (5)** 65:5; 77:5;106:15;111:13; 129:4 relocate (1) 172:9 relocated (1) 95:22 rely (1) 125:19 remarks (2) 179:19; 218:9 **remember (7)** 11:1; 101:4;121:7;139:15, 23:157:3:190:5 reminded (1) 99:3 reminder (2) 89:10,23 remotely (1) 49:2 remove (1) 11:8 removed (1) 70:19 Renaissance (2) 109:8,19 renew (1) 162:22 renovations (2) 57:2; 191:16 rent (6) 40:20;61:5; 84:4;88:15;89:1; 160:18rental (4) 104:16; 202:20;203:16; 204:17 rented (1) 202:23 renter (1) 38:20 renting (4) 56:2; 84:20;88:9;158:11 Repair (1) 115:24 repairs (2) 105:22; 116:3

repeat (1) 153:10 repeating (1) 50:2 repetitious (1) 153:5 report (3) 95:5; 154:21:155:4 reporter (3) 103:1,5; 176:8 **reports (3)** 9:18; 173:2;208:17 represent (1) 75:15 represented (3) 68:23;154:23;157:24 representing (3) 9:8; 75:15;158:6 Republic (1) 68:24 request (8) 11:25; 28:3;93:19,21,25; 94:18;119:11;216:9 requested (2) 195:25; 204:21 requesting (5) 9:12; 14:10;69:12;171:7; 184:17 requests (1) 216:12 require (6) 45:2; 81:11;188:12,13; 196:19;200:25 required (5) 42:18; 78:23;172:2;205:20; 209.8requirements (6) 9:16; 15:6;28:20;46:23; 53:21:57:17 requires (6) 14:1; 57:20;69:22;73:15; 196:9,10 rescinded (2) 84:23, 25 Rescue (1) 73:19 reside (2) 31:3;178:6 **residence (6)** 27:17; 63:1;73:22;76:22; 118:23;213:14 residences (1) 70:12 resident (10) 103:19; 108:1;115:7;117:1; 125:9;126:1;127:15; 128:18;144:11; 153:25 residential (6) 33:5; 39:19,23:59:10; 74:19;130:11 residents (22) 44:2; 59:11;78:12;97:18; 104:3,6,18;107:12; 115:12;116:15;126:9; 128:13;131:14,15,25; 157:13;159:6;160:15; 161:13;173:17;190:2; 202:17 resilience (1) 147:11 resilient (1) 147:7

94:11:96:2,5,11,25; 97:5:171:3.7.21: 172:9,23:175:23; 176:22;180:12,20,23; 181:1;183:8;187:5, 10,18;193:19;229:12; 230:24;231:1 Resolutions (2) 229:10,21 resort (2) 52:19,20 resources (5) 38:7; 72:18;100:4;172:25; 173:3 respect (5) 104:22; 143:19,19,20;214:7 Respond (6) 5:24; 200:3;201:12;205:12, 19;206:19 responsibility (2) 129:5;184:20 **responsible (2)** 146:7; 211:19 responsive (1) 100:19 rest (4) 209:18; 216:20;217:14; 218:24 Restoration (1) 8:1 result (3) 71:12;73:1; 80:21 resulting (1) 41:22 results (1) 118:20 resume (1) 90:17 retired (1) 90:18 retro-fitted (1) 33:7 return (2) 87:15; 102:21 returned (1) 102:21 returning (1) 36:8 reunification (1) 159:14 reunite (1) 159:17 Revenue (1) 93:14 Reverend (30) 4:12, 13,24;5:4,5;13:12,15, 19;14:21;26:16,17; 84:9,12;85:6,9,21,24; 86:2,7,12;153:12; 166:19;186:10;189:9; 194:1,11,12;195:1,2, 20 reverse (1) 147:10 review (4) 9:18;27:15; 184:6;185:1 revitalization (1) 115:15 revitalizing (1) 117:12 rewriting (1) 36:20 rich (1) 164:9 rid (1) 208:20 ride (1) 127:7 ridiculed (1) 165:23 right (149) 10:9; resolution (26) 46:5; 13:20,20;14:9,10,18;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

16:11,13,21;18:25; 19:3:20:20:21:11.12. 14,15;22:9,17;23:2, 25;24:9;25:3,14;26:8; 28:4;33:1;36:1; 37:22;38:21;39:4,7, 10;40:3,15;41:10; 42:2;50:17;52:10,10, 23;53:24;54:17;55:9, 18:56:15,16,24; 59:23;61:22;64:20; 75:21;78:12;80:11; 82:21;83:10;84:1,10; 85:1,10;86:21;92:15, 17;98:12;99:16; 103:8;105:15;107:15; 109:1;110:3;113:1; 114:20;117:7,20; 118:24;119:6;120:17, 20;124:19;126:7; 128:10;129:16; 132:23;133:8,16; 136:2,11;137:6,13, 22;140:2,17;141:17, 24;142:3;144:1; 145:19;146:23,23; 148:9;149:20;150:1, 19;153:15;154:18,20; 156:11,13,16;161:1, 21,21,24;162:8; 164:15:165:1:167:9, 24;172:14;174:5,19, 25;183:12;185:4,7, 13;186:7;191:7; 192:5,19;193:7; 197:2;198:17;199:16; 206:7;211:1;212:6, 12;213:11;216:6; 217:10,12;219:7; 220:3;221:21;223:23; 225:5;226:13;227:2; 228:25 **righthand (3)** 34:9,11; 39:6 rights (5) 36:22;99:9; 109:12,19;161:11 ripple (1) 72:18 rise (1) 150:18 risk (2) 28:7,13 River (10) 7:22,22; 94:10;154:22;155:5; 176:3;177:22;191:10; 195:24;229:17 RIVERS (4) 98:14,20, 21,23 Road (14) 5:24;7:22, 22;62:16;82:19; 99:24;110:13;118:5; 172:8;180:18;195:24; 205:23;211:11; 216:24 roaming (1) 114:3 Roberson (1) 122:3

Min-U-Script®

ROBIN (2) 133:18,24 **Rocky (1)** 229:13 rode (1) 92:17 **Roger (3)** 6:4;191:21; 201:1 **role (9)** 116:9;162:1; 184:3,3,5,10,10,25,25 **Roll (4)** 4:7,25;15:23; 212:10 roll-call (7) 26:11; 194:13;204:25; 219:12:230:2,14; 231:5 Roman (1) 203:1 Roman's (1) 170:11 roof (2) 64:11;215:24 room (16) 30:17; 43:15,17,19;59:22; 60:4;108:16;122:22; 128:8;152:12;191:2; 196:25;222:18,18; 223:10;227:13 rooming (1) 183:23 rooms (3) 29:13;74:6; 221:14 Roosevelt (1) 199:2 rose (1) 34:1 Route (3) 36:23; 57:19;222:6 rule (7) 119:10; 143:10,11:148:5; 160:15;167:20; 174:24 rules (10) 58:21;75:4; 143:19;161:10; 167:20;172:19,21; 186:17,18;187:17 run (14) 27:19;44:10, 11,12;45:22;46:13, 20:62:15:85:24; 101:5,18;106:24; 126:19:192:7 running (10) 63:11; 75:5;101:9;106:13, 14,24;109:16;174:12; 176:25;186:1 runs (4) 45:19,19; 62:6,8 Rutgers (2) 36:8; 91:12 RV (2) 33:8;92:14 S

sacrifices (1) 92:9 sad (1) 25:17 Safe (5) 85:24; 102:21,21;209:14,16 safeguards (1) 183:22 safely (1) 104:20 safety (6) 77:22; 116:16,20;209:12; 215:21;216:14

SCHAEFER (2)

214:22;217:13

Sam (1) 99:5 same (39) 15:10; 23:25;24:22;31:21; 41:4;43:1;45:8; 50:19;51:2;58:23; 61:14;74:9;75:17; 92:1,4,4,13,21;94:16; 118:25:119:23; 120:12;128:13; 147:11:153:6.10; 158:6;168:22,23,25; 170:16;171:16;172:3; 176:6,6,9;200:23; 213:10;225:14 Santa (1) 36:11 sat (2) 123:14;158:23 satisfy (1) 43:24 Saturday (4) 33:18; 92:16;154:25;155:22 Saturdays (1) 165:19 save (22) 29:5;38:19; 43:13;51:10;82:24; 83:6;84:5;106:25; 110:1;144:20,22; 145:1,12;146:11,12, 24;151:16,17,17; 168:20,21;170:14 saved (4) 37:9;121:8; 168:25;210:19 saves (2) 168:20,21 saving (9) 145:2,2; 148:18;150:5,5,22; 168:19;178:9,11 savings (2) 84:2; 157:8 Savon (5) 48:2,6,7,21, 23 saw (7) 7:12;39:7; 99:7;125:17;170:7; 185:10:214:15 saying (44) 23:2;30:3; 34:14:45:21,22; 54:15;59:21;60:13; 62:14,19;63:7,18; 65:12;66:8;83:11; 101:10,14;107:2; 114:10;123:21;130:2; 132:20;136:12;137:9, 15;139:25;140:1; 145:18;158:11; 163:19,22;167:21; 171:11;184:24; 185:19;186:3,21,21; 187:6;189:1,3; 213:15;215:19; 228:12 scan (1) 52:25 scared (3) 146:6; 166:4,6 scary (2) 135:21,21 scenarios (1) 148:23

SCHAEFFER (17) 213:6,9,13,17,21,23, 25;215:1,10,13,19; 216:18,23;217:2,6,9; 218:1 Schaeffer's (1) 212:6 schedule (3) 4:3; 196:24:198:2 scheduled (2) 191:22, 25 school (14) 38:19; 41:9;56:14,16,18; 57:11;82:18;121:7; 209:10,10,12,20,25; 210:3 schools (12) 33:22, 24;36:13;56:15,21, 22,22;65:11;90:23; 104:24;167:17; 210:16 score (1) 83:22 scourge (1) 72:17 screen (2) 32:20; 41:11 screening (1) 53:4 scribbled (1) 202:5 SEAN (2) 99:18,23 searches (1) 123:16 Second (31) 4:24; 15:14,18,21,23; 18:15:23:5:26:11; 38:3.4:51:15:70:6: 71:11:103:18:105:4: 108:1;140:3;175:19; 194:1,12;197:8; 198:14;200:2;204:24; 219:10,11;229:24,25; 230:12;231:2,3 Secondly (1) 72:25 secret (1) 136:10 section (3) 17:12; 79:16:98:24 secure (2) 29:5;59:10 secured (1) 115:22 securing (2) 116:3; 216:20 security (14) 59:7; 76:5;81:1;116:21; 178:1,2,5;209:6,19; 215:21;216:3,9,19; 217:14 seeing (1) 135:15 seek (1) 102:22 seeking (5) 27:14; 172:1,4;204:14; 209:19 seeks (1) 210:12 seems (3) 102:6; 119:7;178:16 sees (1) 183:12 selected (1) 208:25 selfishly (1) 173:14 sell (2) 62:10;100:12

selling (4) 101:17,24; 102:3;105:15 Seminary (1) 36:18 Senate (2) 138:22,23 send (3) 105:22; 127:9;209:20 sending (1) 52:14 sends (1) 146:9 senior (1) 114:4 sense (3) 102:7,13; 116:21 sensitivities (1) 130:22 sent (4) 138:13,14; 170:9;188:15 separate (3) 49:1; 184:9;218:13 separated (1) 217:23 separation (1) 149:21 septic (2) 177:13; 187:8 serious (3) 60:7; 97:16;156:6 seriously (1) 107:11 serous (1) 97:17 servant (4) 150:8; 169:13,13,16 serve (8) 46:23; 51:22;87:18;141:16; 145:4;150:9,15;169:2 served (3) 138:21; 154:4:168:23 serves (1) 71:1 service (9) 6:19; 48:25;93:7,11,14; 100:19;165:11; 166:21;169:3 services (26) 27:22; 32:16;42:13;47:16; 48:1,7:58:10:72:13; 77:24;78:11;100:6, 23,24;101:11;118:11; 121:25;122:8,12,17, 18;158:2,2;159:5,12, 20;173:6 servicing (1) 118:11 serving (8) 27:21; 28:7;32:24;100:13; 121:8;150:10,11,14 sessions (2) 116:6,8 set (5) 24:4;107:4; 149:3;174:18;197:16 setbacks (1) 14:8 sets (1) 177:21 settle (1) 191:7 seven (12) 33:21; 44:12;49:12;59:2; 126:22;146:20; 158:18;163:5;174:12; 175:15:179:10:190:1 Seventy-seven (1) 163:5 several (9) 36:2;

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

77:18;106:1;116:23; 118:7:160:12:208:13. 15,22 sex (1) 53:11 SHAEFFER (7) 211:4, 10,22;212:3,7,10,17 Shaffer (3) 211:10,12, 14 share (3) 29:13; 104:2;106:11 shared (5) 43:12; 50:20;57:23;82:20; 85:4 sharing (1) 148:14 Sharp (1) 165:13 Sheehan (1) 205:17 SHELIAH (3) 19:6,12; 138:3 SHELLEAN (2) 114:23;115:4 shelter (39) 42:22; 57:20;61:9;63:1; 73:14,18,18;75:8; 93:20;94:16;95:7,11; 98:8,8;105:14,19; 113:17;117:3,7; 121:23;122:11,16; 126:10,10;128:4,19; 134:6,24;142:8,8,10, 11:154:9,10,25: 164:19:180:2.2.3 shelters (4) 39:20; 91:4;104:10;107:8 **shelter-type (1)** 73:15 Sherman (2) 6:8; 201:2 shine (1) 201:20 shirt (1) 59:14 shocked (1) 154:22 shoot (1) 59:9 shooting (1) 210:16 shootings (1) 173:9 shops (1) 104:23 **short (4)** 41:7,8; 123:14;142:21 shortage (1) 85:1 **short-term (2)** 28:17; 187:15 **shot (4)** 55:2;77:16; 165:24;166:18 **show (18)** 15:2;34:23; 124:2;137:4,4;149:9; 150:4;151:6;171:20; 172:13;178:10; 197:18;198:5;203:18; 207:5;224:1,1;227:10 shower (1) 92:19 **showers (3)** 33:2,8; 121:24 showing (5) 13:16; 23:5;41:22;140:13; 167:7 shown (1) 41:18

shows (3) 68:19; 159:11;207:21 shunning (1) 149:7 shut (2) 168:25; 170:18 shutters (1) 102:4 shuttle (1) 166:3 Sica (10) 70:21;72:1, 1,3;76:15;77:15,15; 80:5.18:81:6 sick (1) 196:16 Sicklerville (2) 118:5; 157:1 side (22) 20:6;34:4,9, 11;51:23,23;82:1; 122:3,4,20;160:10; 186:3,3;212:4; 215:15;217:3;222:21, 21;223:4;224:17,22, 22 sides (3) 20:2;144:12; 185:2 sign (1) 26:4 significance (1) 115:7 significant (1) 17:11 silence (1) 9:2 similar (4) 75:4;96:4, 12;131:13 similarly (1) 130:9 simple (3) 92:6,7; 139:20 simpler (1) 92:6 simply (2) 107:2; 180:19 simulate (1) 55:23 sin (2) 154:19,20 single (9) 29:18; 32:25;53:18,22;84:7; 114:5;118:9,10;140:3 single-family (6) 9:11; 15:12;17:23;29:12; 158:11;225:18 **sister (3)** 41:1;190:24; 192:6 sisters (3) 35:20; 109:18;129:12 sit (6) 68:22;69:2; 143:21;164:16; 167:10;169:18 site (30) 27:15,17,17, 20;28:22;40:10;46:7, 14;47:5,6,8;60:9; 62:17;69:24;70:3; 71:14,14;73:10; 74:10;75:2;76:3,5,23; 77:9;81:1;180:4,5,13; 182:3,18 sit-in (1) 36:22 sitting (6) 89:2;91:18; 123:22;142:5,9; 152:24 situation (15) 28:10; 29:15,24,25;30:6;

46:1:50:13:92:2; 125:15;128:16;134:4; 142:14:144:23; 155:11:181:17 situations (1) 125:24 six (18) 29:21;33:15, 21;41:5;48:17;50:16; 51:9;55:25;59:23; 82:6,22;142:13; 155:10,13,17;158:10, 13;188:18 six-month (1) 43:2 sixth (1) 75:23 size (6) 14:14;18:6; 21:24;60:4,4,4 sized (1) 77:11 sizes (1) 43:19 skills (1) 131:1 slaughtered (1) 166:15 slaves (1) 166:16 sleep (1) 167:14 sleeping (3) 167:1,4,4 slide (1) 34:23 slide-show (2) 35:2,4 small (8) 19:17;46:19, 22,24;98:24;104:14; 158:18;191:12 snatching (1) 151:15 snow (2) 23:21,21 **Soboxin (2)** 40:1; 54:10 Social (4) 37:3;72:13; 77:24;78:2 society (9) 29:8,18; 38:13,16;43:7;55:23; 73:24;123:24;172:19 soft (1) 57:1 sold (1) 40:18 sole (1) 220:20 solely (2) 43:10; 184:19 solution (1) 28:17 solve (4) 124:14,15, 16,17 **somebody (13)** 21:12; 35:6;59:2;91:23; 101:14;108:9;124:5; 140:10;145:12,13; 148:25;173:14;177:4 someone (16) 21:3; 43:3;59:6;64:12; 72:21,23;75:4,20,20; 95:14;111:8;163:13; 172:7;179:12;226:19, 19 **sometimes (7)** 114:6; 123:2;147:4,4,5; 169:18;217:15 somewhat (5) 28:10; 45:14;50:3;81:19; 176:23 somewhere (4) 84:3,

20;85:5;158:15 son (4) 108:2;165:13, 24:166:18 song (3) 99:3,5,6 son's (1) 166:19 soon (5) 66:18;191:8, 15,18;193:6 sorry (16) 11:20;16:5; 22:1;102:24;108:18; 134:16:170:3.6; 182:21;215:11; 220:17;222:11,16; 227:20;228:17,22 sort (1) 216:14 sorts (1) 216:12 so-to-speak (1) 96:17 sought (2) 28:19; 81:15 Soul (1) 227:1 souls (2) 123:10; 145:12 sounds (2) 214:25; 228:19 South (3) 32:9;90:20; 129:10 **space (7)** 13:13;20:4; 21:19;22:21;77:8; 147:3;161:13 spaces (7) 11:11; 14:1,4:15:15,16; 19:17,19 speak (11) 18:17; 45:12;61:13,19,24; 69:16;103:19;127:15; 153:8;182:1;189:6 Speakeasy (2) 161:9; 166:22 SPEAKER (20) 16:1, 7,14,19;18:16,21; 19:1;134:1;152:7,24; 178:23;179:2,12; 196:12,17;197:6; 198:7,15;200:11; 221:20 speaking (5) 89:24; 108:2;162:4,19; 166:19 speaks (2) 158:14; 161:16 Special (11) 69:22; 78:11:196:24:197:2. 16,16;198:3;199:20, 24;200:14,16 specific (7) 45:1; 62:20,20;79:12;80:7, 7;187:22 specifically (10) 28:19;37:18,25; 42:21;50:22;72:8; 74:17;79:21;80:3; 115:19 **specimens (1)** 56:7 spelling (2) 109:9;

166:12 spend (1) 214:14 spent (2) 107:12; 130:14 **spiral (1)** 44:8 spirit (4) 41:4;64:21; 67:9;109:13 **spirits (1)** 109:24 **spiritual (1)** 111:13 split (1) 13:1 spoke (9) 37:6; 103:20;118:16;128:2; 129:3;148:22;166:20; 179:13;181:21 spot (1) 127:8 spots (1) 15:7 spring (1) 36:10 Spruce (2) 227:2,3 square (5) 14:11; 37:2;74:7;158:18; 159:10 SS (1) 7:22 St (1) 10:5 stability (1) 116:10 stabilize (1) 105:8 stack (1) 60:2 stacked (1) 24:9 staff (14) 39:14;44:14, 17;45:8;59:12,14,15, 15,16,16,17;173:4; 177:18:180:9 stage (3) 52:17,21; 55:21 stair (1) 223:8 stairs (1) 223:7 stake (2) 72:7;80:20 stakeholder (2) 115:13;117:2 stakeholders (2) 104:13:157:24 Stand (14) 59:13; 102:1;103:19;108:10; 115:6;117:8,10; 123:8;156:14;158:6, 8;160:4;161:18; 196:13 standard (10) 30:9; 43:16;45:23,24;80:5, 18;81:4,5,6;183:3 standing (6) 33:24; 41:2;101:9;152:25; 157:13.14 standpoint (1) 47:12 start (13) 41:15; 57:10;65:11,25;92:6; 143:2;150:17;154:9; 157:9;163:20;164:4; 218:5;224:23

started (11) 29:7; 55:3;64:8;82:25; 89:10;103:22;121:16; 139:5,5;155:17; 171:17

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

starting (2) 69:13; 183:6 starts (1) 151:19 State (60) 10:2,14; 32:3;44:14;59:25; 60:12;61:7;62:24; 63:10;65:1;67:22; 68:14,20;70:18; 88:18;89:11,19;93:5; 98:18;99:21;100:20; 103:14;104:9;106:3; 107:22;109:17,17; 110:10;113:8;115:2, 10;118:2;120:25; 125:1,4;129:23; 130:13;132:11,16; 133:22;144:7;153:22; 156:23;157:12; 158:25;162:14;165:7; 168:5;180:4,21; 182:23;187:23;193:9; 198:24;206:14,17; 211:8;220:10,14; 222:3 stated (13) 27:14; 29:9;42:2;43:1,6; 76:13;81:17;101:13; 106:13,20,22;161:5; 172:5 statement (3) 97:12; 100:17:104:17 statements (2) 141:24;178:10 states (4) 68:19; 138:22,23;157:7 statesman (1) 108:16 stating (2) 24:13; 208:18 station (2) 190:10,12 statistics (2) 123:12; 159:9 statutes (1) 30:23 stay (15) 29:21;38:17; 40:20,21;51:9;54:20; 63:5;84:21;88:9; 91:24;136:13,16; 154:2;158:17;192:18 stayed (6) 36:17,19; 101:3,3,3;105:12 staying (5) 51:4;52:3, 3:61:2:114:2 steadfast (1) 104:21 steal (1) 174:7 stealing (1) 128:21 Steeet (1) 130:1 step (11) 29:6,17; 43:7;52:22,23;85:13; 89:5;128:9;141:18; 146:1;167:5 steps (1) 223:6 Stevens (55) 7:19,20; 109:10;200:8;220:1, 6,12,12,14,16,19,20,

21;221:1,5,8,11,13,	
16,19,24;222:5,6,9,	st
14,17,24;223:5,13,16,	st
19,23;224:5,16,20;	
	- 1
225:7,11,12,19,24;	st
226:2,5,11,14,22,25;	
226:2,5,11,14,22,25; 227:1,7,8,18,21;	st
228:6,20;229:2,6	
Stevens' (2) 222:8;	st
227:1	st
stewards (1) 84:8	st
STEWART (3)	
120:22;121:2,2	st
stick (1) 55:23	
still (33) 24:21,22;	
35:22;45:9;48:21;	
51:2;53:2;93:8;97:7;	
118:8;120:4,9,12;	รเ
127:4;140:2;142:13;	
149:6,11,12,13,14,14,	sι
15;150:14;151:9,11,	
14,20;155:24;173:13;	รเ
175:18;186:8;191:17	
stimulus (1) 35:19	
stipulation (3) 63:21;	sι
64:6;193:13	
stole (1) 173:14	
stolen (1) 173:10	
(1) 175.10	
stood (2) 37:6;168:24	รเ
stool (1) 39:18	
stools (1) 39:23	sι
stop (3) 148:8;215:5;	
223:11	
stopped (2) 66:9;	รเ
94:25	sι
stops (1) 177:5	
strange (2) 114:13;	
192:16	รเ
	31
Strategic (1) 115:9	
Street (43) 6:2,9,21,	sι
24;7:8,14;8:1;10:5,	
17;13:17;20:2;23:20;	รเ
40:25;43:4;108:23;	
109:10,14;113:15;	C 1
	SL
129:14;130:22,23,24;	รเ
131:14,16;144:10;	
146:7;147:2;148:8;	รเ
162:17;185:11;199:6;	รเ
201:3,25;204:11;	
201.5,25,204.11,	รเ
206:17;224:8,11;	รเ
227:2,3;228:23;	sι
229:4,13,19	รเ
streets (11) 33:4;38:8;	รเ
56:10;57:6;87:5;	50
	_
88:7;116:11;120:3;	รเ
122:10;138:13;	รเ
146:10	Sı
strength (1) 147:18	Sı
strengthened (1)	Sı
116:17	
stress (1) 106:2	
strip (2) 161:8,9	

165:22;179:25 rongest (1) 104:8 ructure (2) 43:20; 160:6 ructured (3) 64:25; 88:23;187:15 ruggles (2) 99:7; 100:3 udied (1) 16:15 udies (1) 42:12 udy (3) 18:1;123:15; 147:12 uff (13) 65:11;103:6; 134:12;135:22;137:3; 138:7;141:8;142:19; 143:2;151:21;183:20; 214:18;223:6 ubject (2) 27:17; 40:10 ubmission (3) 47:20, 24;187:24 ubmit (8) 10:24; 44:21;67:14,22;94:5, 7;117:13;227:24 ubmitted (10) 9:18; 11:13,14;66:17,21; 67:20,21;221:3; 227:18,22 ubstance (2) 72:19; 135:23 ubstantial (6) 11:24; 76:11,14;105:5,7; 181:15 uburbs (1) 84:20 uccess (7) 44:10,13; 54:18;77:3;159:11; 171:12,12 uccessful (3) 76:7; 77:2;87:6 uccessfully (2) 50:7; 132:5178:11 udden (2) 134:23; 136:2 ued (1) 45:11 ufficient (2) 14:8; 77:8 ugar (1) 141:21 20 uggest (1) 111:7 uggestions (1) 76:2 uited (1) 71:15 um (1) 154:8 ummary (1) 16:8 ummer (4) 50:13; 113:25;173:8;188:1 ummers (1) 36:20 un **(1)** 177:21 undays (1) 165:20 unrise (1) 90:15 unset (10) 30:3; 45:14;46:16;57:16; 62:4,22;87:12;96:9; 107:9;143:1 Sunshine (1) 4:4

supersede (1) 181:6 supervision (3) 114:10,11;126:12 support (30) 29:16; 31:6;43:14;44:15; 56:6,8;68:5;98:22; 100:14;115:22;117:8; 125:15;127:13; 128:24;136:9;154:10; 155:2,7,22:156:8; 157:25;158:4,7,24; 159:19;161:4;177:7, 9;205:21;208:17 supported (3) 119:22; 125:14;154:3 supporters (1) 178:6 supporting (1) 116:9 supportive (1) 78:10 suppose (15) 58:19; 139:12;140:16; 142:25;149:24; 151:11;156:11;160:6; 163:4;164:18;170:5, 13;174:24;187:11; 227:9 supposedly (1) 171:23 Supreme (1) 71:25 sure (24) 30:16; 49:21:60:13:68:13: 69:18;72:21;73:12; 75:21:76:4:78:20: 82:2;91:23;99:13; 119:13;143:18;154:5; 161:20;187:10;190:9; 192:25;193:18; 200:12;212:22;213:9 Surrender (1) 85:25 surrounding (2) 73:9; surveillance (4) 39:8, 8:56:6:90:16 survivor (1) 167:9 sustainable (1) 104:25 swear (3) 9:20;31:16, swear/affirm (1) 10:10 swirling (1) 55:18 sworn (6) 32:12;68:8; 89:11;93:4;138:1; 201:21 sworn/affirmed (25) 9:24;16:25;19:7; 31:25;89:16;98:15; 103:11;107:19;110:7; 113:5;114:24;117:24; 124:23;129:20; 133:19;144:4;153:19; 156:20;162:11;165:4; 198:21;206:11;211:5; 220:7;221:25 Sycamore (1) 224:22

sympathize (1) 97:17 system (2) 187:8; 216:9 systems (2) 77:6; 100:19 Т table (2) 33:17:39:3 tailend (1) 50:3 tail-end (1) 28:23 take-away (3) 90:5,6, 14 talk (26) 31:9;37:20; 38:22;42:1;65:20; 72:10;74:12;92:24; 100:15;101:15;105:3; 111:23;112:11,22; 123:17;131:20;136:7; 137:3;151:6;153:4; 168:22;181:8;188:25; 190:13;191:13; 209:12 talked (8) 70:17;76:2; 78:17;81:1;97:15; 144:18;190:14; 191:21 talking (33) 38:3,14; 46:6;50:24;56:25; 63:13:80:12:90:4,4, 14;92:11;93:22; 101:23,24;103:3; 112:14;113:25;119:8, 18;123:10,10,11,12, 12;131:9;142:12; 160:6;168:22;170:1; 188:2;193:17;209:13; 221:13 talks (2) 17:22;173:21 tangent (1) 75:22 tank (1) 177:13 task (1) 91:20 taught (2) 141:11; 142:19 tax (1) 81:14 taxes (3) 160:7,8; 174:5 teach (2) 145:3; 151:16 teacher (1) 101:5 teaches (1) 177:2 team (4) 116:11; 130:9;138:15;182:10 tear (2) 19:16;185:25 technicalities (1) 108:13 technicality (1) 61:1 technically (3) 65:23; 67:18;189:25 technology (1) 100:20 teenager (1) 186:14 teenagers (1) 215:24 televised (1) 41:17 98:9;171:21;183:25

television (1) 34:23 telling (4) 164:17; 166:13;169:19; 171:19 tells (1) 163:21 temporarily (1) 128:16 temporary (8) 57:8,15, 16.18:107:9:119:11: 155:11;187:7 ten (12) 44:12;54:1; 72:20;86:2;105:24, 25;138:19;145:25; 147:16;152:21; 185:21;202:24 tenants (3) 60:15; 73:4;74:9 tend (1) 203:18 term (5) 132:8,8,17; 180:3;183:1 terms (3) 62:3; 187:12;209:8 test (6) 53:19;72:2; 75:23;76:15;81:20; 159:18 testament (1) 117:10 tested (2) 53:23;58:19 testified (32) 9:24; 16:25;19:7;32:1; 89:16;94:22;98:15; 99:19:103:11:107:19: 110:7;113:5;114:24; 117:24;120:23; 124:23;129:20; 133:19;144:4;153:19; 156:20;162:11;165:4; 168:3;171:13;173:18; 175:3;198:21;206:11; 211:5;220:7;221:25 testify (2) 68:18;206:6 testimonies (1) 137:17 testimony (35) 9:14; 11:24;12:3;14:2; 15:10,10;16:13; 18:24;19:2,2;24:12, 18;26:6;29:12;30:1, 14;31:6,17;45:24; 47:13;68:5;70:3; 71:17;80:2,19; 122:18;174:2;176:1, 12,18;180:6;181:13; 182:20,21;210:7 Thankfully (1) 101:1 Thanksgiving (2) 34:10;166:15 that'll (1) 63:7 theirs (3) 17:19; 127:18;211:18 **Theological (1)** 36:18 theory-based (1) 151:1 therapy (1) 37:14 therefore (4) 46:2;

strong (3) 149:3;

therein (1) 79:21 Theresa (1) 192:6 thieves (1) 146:6 thinking (2) 150:18; 193:23 third (2) 71:13;75:23 Thirty-seven (1) 37:11 though (10) 14:24; 21:1;30:8;42:8; 45:25;53:5;124:9,13; 135:24;216:18 thought (5) 50:18; 94:22;172:6;185:9; 193:17 thoughts (2) 141:10; 218:12 thousand (2) 67:8; 224:12 three (27) 9:12;14:5; 17:18;33:2,8;49:12; 51:19;55:25;57:1; 71:9;83:22;104:9; 113:23;114:6;123:18; 127:1;128:23;147:12; 152:7,9,22,23; 168:24;175:14;186:4; 200:25;210:1 three-and-a-half (1) 15:16 three-and-a-half-spaces (1) 14:4three-legged (2) 39:18,22 three-minute (1) 41:12 thrive (1) 141:13 throughout (8) 36:12; 53:16,17;68:20;72:8; 95:9;116:8;132:10 Thursday (1) 167:13 TIARE (2) 165:3,9 tidy (1) 116:14 tied (1) 25:19 **TIFFINNIE (2)** 117:23;118:4 tight (1) 25:8 til (1) 223:7 Tim (4) 41:15;48:17, 19;59:15 times (23) 29:11;39:9; 60:14;67:1;95:9; 106:20;111:2;123:18; 125:18,21;147:12,13; 163:4,5,7,8;165:24; 166:18;169:8;180:10; 185:8;217:9;228:24 Timothy (1) 122:2 tired (4) 167:22; 195:25;197:24; 220:18 today (16) 54:25; 78:3;83:24;94:2; 102:17;111:14; 118:13;122:22;124:7;

125:17:139:10; 161:18;162:19; 168:10;214:10,13 together (23) 29:13, 14,16;44:3,3,4,8,9,10, 18;51:20,21;84:21; 104:13;122:15; 124:10,17:138:16; 140:6;141:10;149:10; 155:7:164:18 told (8) 100:5,9; 142:20;172:7;177:18; 179:10;214:15,20 tolerance (1) 58:22 tomorrow (2) 56:1; 141:22 tonight (40) 5:13; 6:14;8:10,23;10:11; 18:10;27:10;30:14; 31:2,8,14;32:18;70:4; 75:16:96:3:107:4; 115:6;126:9;127:6; 128:17;138:6;140:13; 155:12;156:8;176:22; 179:21;180:6,18; 188:21;195:10; 196:18;204:10,13; 216:7,9;219:23,25; 220:23;222:11;230:8 tonight's (1) 117:6 took (11) 33:1;35:16; 44:6;45:1;91:3; 148:19:152:23; 165:16;196:13; 222:11,25 6 **top (6)** 12:24;13:1,5; 34:3;47:22;187:25 total (6) 14:4;221:12, 17;222:12,15;223:17 totally (3) 82:14; 191:1;216:3 touched (1) 30:17 tough (6) 61:17,19; 64:10;79:6;86:9; 130:5 tour (1) 151:4 tow (2) 21:5,13 towards (2) 38:21; 116:10 town (3) 65:17;102:1; 118:19 towns (1) 191:12 township (14) 45:6,7; 68:24;72:2;94:6,10, 14,20;171:4,17; 172:10,11,24;191:11 tow-truck (1) 25:16 toys (1) 36:12 track (2) 51:24;92:3 tracks (1) 51:23 traditional (1) 69:16 traffic (3) 73:3,8,8 trailers (3) 63:22,22;

64:1 turkeys (1) 34:9 trained (1) 173:5 training (1) 40:2 transferred (1) 53:6 transform (4) 100:17; 101:21,22;102:8 transforming (1) turning (1) 226:12 116:19 twice (3) 107:13; transit (1) 52:2 transition (3) 38:13; 92:22;128:14 transitional (6) 38:12; 57:23;73:22;104:10; 107:7;117:3 transparency (1) 47:20 transpired (1) 98:5 transportation (4) 91:1;92:18;167:5; 190:7 trapped (2) 20:22; 25:17trash (2) 113:24; 114:1 trauma (2) 145:16,17 treatment (7) 28:18, 24;29:14;39:24; 48:13;55:4,7 two-car (1) 22:20 tremendous (1) 38:5 two-day (1) 53:4 Trenton (1) 98:21 tried (6) 58:23;80:22; 81:7;101:4;170:16; type (16) 18:1;28:2; 192:4 trigger (3) 58:25;59:3, trouble (1) 191:5 TROY (2) 89:15,21 truck (5) 20:22;21:5; 33:11,15;92:14 trucks (5) 20:20;21:8, typical (6) 33:17; 9,10;33:16 true (1) 10:12 Trust (2) 167:2; 198:13 truth (2) 192:4;214:21 try (26) 63:11;71:5; 123:19;124:8;125:20, 23;144:20;145:1,5, 11;146:21,24;148:19; ugly (1) 129:10 150:3,18;153:6,14; 175:11:176:14,16; 197:16,21;198:7,7,8; 205:15 trying (24) 57:9;58:7; unable (2) 105:21; 61:12;66:23;75:18; 81:13;99:11;101:11, 11;140:5;141:10; unaware (1) 205:20 144:21;149:4;150:1; unborn (1) 37:10 170:12;176:2;188:17; uncle (2) 145:14; 189:16,18;191:6; 196:24;197:23;213:9; uncomfortable (1) 222:17 **Tuesday (1)** 4:6

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING **December 4, 2023**

8;109:23;123:23;

147:1;158:9

145:4;200:24

21,23;24:7,7,19;

23;114:6;116:2;

130:22;147:13;

30:15;59:7;70:9;

22;181:9;187:22;

U

209:9;211:15

181:8

76:17

118:20

196:8

167:3

160:23

14,15

under (29) 17:18; turn (9) 19:18;20:3,7, 30:11,11,20;31:5; 62:7;65:5;67:11,12; 148:3;156:25;161:8 69:15;70:13,21;71:8; turned (4) 37:1;45:7; 77:15,17;78:8,9;79:8; 80:5,6,18;81:6,10; 105:17,25;106:15; 132:16;171:13;181:2 underhanded (2) Two (57) 13:9,11,12; 135:7,24 underlying (1) 81:10 14:3;15:16,17;19:20, underscores (1) 31:17;36:5,16;41:12; 115:16 understandable (1) 43:15,17;57:1,11; 59:21;74:7;75:11; 46:15 85:17;91:25;100:12; understands (1) 104:6 104:4;108:19;113:14, understood (1) 49:21 undo (2) 141:11,12 122:14;127:5;128:23; undue (1) 71:12 unemployment (2) 152:20;159:6;186:23; 35:19:166:2 190:1,3,21;195:12; unfortunate (3) 30:6; 196:6;202:14,14,16; 44:21;96:22 203:21,22,22;209:16; Unfortunately (3) 212:19;222:18;223:9, 28:3;173:1,16 unheard (1) 77:4 two-bedroom (1) 14:2 **UNIDENTIFIED (18)** 16:1,7,14,19;18:16, 21;19:1;152:24; two-family (1) 202:6 178:23:179:2,12; 196:12,17;197:6; two-phase (1) 116:25 198:7,15;200:11; 221:20 76:22;81:3;140:7; unique (5) 31:4; 173:3;175:24;180:14, 45:14;81:19;104:19; 181:23 uniqueness (1) 29:25 types (6) 29:14;52:12; unit (8) 14:2;29:12, 75:12;79:12;131:4; 19;74:25;221:10,18, 19:222:6 United (2) 138:22,22 39:16;40:5,6;71:18; units (4) 14:3;17:23; 203:14;222:12 typically (2) 71:9;82:9 universally (1) 70:25 unknown (1) 28:10 unknowns (2) 28:12, 14 ubiquitous (1) 176:7 unless (2) 148:25; 199:20 ultimately (8) 28:22; unquote (3) 57:20; 29:24:30:2:31:12; 61:9:175:4 48:11;61:23;117:12; unrelated (1) 209:6 unsafe (2) 185:5,6 unsheltered (1) 157:22 unsuccessful (1) 87:9 unanswered (1) 159:1 **up (129)** 13:5;16:16; 24:7;25:6;26:5; 31:17;33:3,12;35:8; 36:5,11;38:18,19; 39:11;40:24;45:13; 46:21;47:12;49:12; 51:3,10;56:12;57:12, undated (2) 47:24,25

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

	т			December 4, 2023
10.59.22.50.2 7 0 12.	125.6.172.5 6.	74:14	210.12.220.2.14.	206.5.212.4.214.2.
19;58:22;59:3,7,9,13;	135:6;173:5,6;		219:12;230:2,14;	206:5;213:4;214:3;
65:10;83:12,22;	175:25;176:15;181:7,	venture (2) 56:5;	231:5	218:11,21
86:23;90:11,23;	9,9,14;182:18,19,23;	59:18	voted (1) 101:8	ways (2) 31:11;71:9
91:17,25;92:14;99:2;	184:8,12,18,19,21;	verbiage (1) 97:1	votes (1) 195:14	wealth (1) 106:5
101:9,18;102:1;	187:22;188:11;189:4;	verified (1) 177:16	voting (1) 160:24	wean (1) 54:24
103:19;107:12;	196:9,10,19;199:7,9,	version (2) 149:5;	vulnerable (1) 158:7	weaned (1) 55:5
110:21;113:15;	11,12;200:4,5,6,7;	151:24		wear (1) 74:13
116:23;118:18,19;	201:1,3,21;202:8;	via (2) 197:18;198:5	W	weather (1) 140:23
119:4;120:3,8,9,13,	204:9,15,19;216:3;	Vice-chairman (73)		website (1) 200:18
13;121:10;123:9;	226:8,9;229:13,18	4:10,11;5:2,3;12:12,	Wait (10) 16:17,17;	week (16) 32:25;
126:6,11,20;135:9;	used (12) 19:21;25:1,	19,22;13:3,11;14:7,	127:1;186:12,12;	33:17;42:13;45:7;
137:4,5,10,10;	2;69:19;73:10;92:15;	16,23;15:4,19,25;	194:2,2;196:14;	49:9;53:19,19,22,24;
138:19;139:5;141:22;	126:6;132:8;135:18;	18:11;20:11,15;22:9;	198:12;211:24	124:12;127:3;145:4;
142:5,9,10;146:7;	180:5,11,23	24:12,16;25:19;	waiting (3) 34:6;	146:5;147:12,13;
148:7;149:18,21;	uses (9) 75:12;77:19;	26:14,15;35:10;48:5;	188:18;195:25	150:9
150:1;151:15;152:7;	79:12,15;132:9,10,	59:5,20;63:20,25;	waiver (3) 27:15;	weekends (2) 36:19;
154:7;164:13,14;	24;133:2;161:25	64:5;87:11;183:9,16;	182:19;211:17	131:10
167:10,15,19;168:19;	ushered (1) 99:8	184:14;193:1,4,7,10,	walk (6) 126:4;	weekly (1) 33:6
				weeks (3) 85:17;
169:16;173:15;	using (7) 40:19;41:3,	20;194:24,25;203:21,	140:10,21;146:6;	
176:17;178:9,13;	4;50:19;62:4;64:8;	24;204:2,7,22;205:3,	209:22,22	91:25;212:19
182:14;184:1;185:15,	65:2	4;210:22;211:24;	walked (2) 138:12;	weigh (3) 76:8;81:2;
16;190:23;191:17;	Usually (3) 45:18;	212:9,12,16;218:5;	140:11	210:24
193:2,6;196:13,25;	49:23;197:17	219:2,5,15,16;223:20,	walking (1) 120:3	weigh-in (1) 18:13
197:16,18,23;198:5;	usurp (1) 172:21	25;224:10,23;225:2;	walks (1) 43:4	Welcome (6) 4:1;
207:21;208:17;	utilities (2) 84:4;88:15	227:14;228:9;229:7,	Wall (2) 72:2;108:22	33:25;96:17;135:23;
209:21,22,22;210:16;	utilize (2) 81:21;	25;230:12,17,18;	Walnut (1) 109:14	136:5;163:18
211:15;212:1,2;	180:13	231:7,8	wants (11) 15:11,13;	welcoming (2)
214:12;215:13,14,17,		vice-president (3)	59:9;100:23;102:11;	116:14;136:6
22;216:2,19,25;	V	90:19,20;110:24	126:19;127:19;	welfare (6) 71:2,6,15;
217:1,5,17;221:2;		vice-versa (1) 214:4	134:24;149:24;	76:19;77:20,22
223:8;224:11,13;	vacant (2) 56:15;	Victoria (3) 6:1;200:3;	168:21;179:4	well-aware (1) 181:2
229:7	203:13	201:1	warehouse (1) 55:24	well-suited (2) 69:24;
up-and-up (1) 136:21	value (4) 70:25;	victorious (1) 44:9	warehouses (2)	71:24
upcoming (1) 83:1	105:16;109:25;160:9	VIDAL (11) 5:18;9:7,	55:15;56:13	weren't (4) 16:2,20;
update (1) 77:19	values (1) 105:14	8,17;10:22;11:3,7,10,	wash (1) 121:24	90:25;154:19
upgrade (1) 177:13	vandalism (1) 209:7	13,18;27:2	washed (1) 165:17	what's (35) 21:10;
upkeep (1) 116:13	vandalizing (1)	video (8) 39:8,15;	washer (3) 33:3,9;	29:22;58:6,8;64:10;
upon (4) 42:14;49:15;	215:25	41:7,12,15,17,19;	222:19	70:20;79:21;86:21;
159:11;179:23	variance (40) 19:16;	83:22	watch (3) 41:10;	101.16.111.5 10 16.
upstairs (7) 223:1,9,				101:16;111:5,10,16;
15 005 5 01 006 10	27:12,14;45:19;62:6;	Vietnam (1) 165:16	75:20;101:18	112:17,24;130:17;
15;225:5,21;226:19,	27:12,14;45:19;62:6; 69:13,16,20;71:10,	Vietnam (1) 165:16 view (2) 121:14;		
15;225:5,21;226:19, 24			75:20;101:18	112:17,24;130:17;
	69:13,16,20;71:10,	view (2) 121:14;	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19,
24	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12;
24 upwards (1) 173:12	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5,	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6,	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9,	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17;	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2,	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22,	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9,	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11,	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8,	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19,	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14,	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21;	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5 white (3) 164:9,9;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10,	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5 white (3) 164:9,9; 171:5
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10, 11,11,16,16,20,24;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3; 220:23;229:14	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9 volunteered (1)	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18; 130:4;134:5;135:17;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5 white (3) 164:9,9; 171:5 whole (17) 17:15;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10, 11,11,16,16,20,24; 72:4,19;73:10,17;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3; 220:23;229:14 various (5) 33:12;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9 volunteered (1) 200:21	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18; 130:4;134:5;135:17; 136:6,21;137:9;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5 white (3) 164:9,9; 171:5 whole (17) 17:15; 24:3;49:25;53:7;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10, 11,11,16,16,20,24; 72:4,19;73:10,17; 74:17;76:1,7,17;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3; 220:23;229:14 various (5) 33:12; 34:10;36:13;95:9;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9 volunteered (1) 200:21 volunteering (1)	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18; 130:4;134:5;135:17; 136:6,21;137:9; 139:12;142:3,17;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5 white (3) 164:9,9; 171:5 whole (17) 17:15; 24:3;49:25;53:7; 82:10;101:10;108:3;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10, 11,11,16,16,20,24; 72:4,19;73:10,17; 74:17;76:1,7,17; 79:14,16;80:1,7,8,17;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3; 220:23;229:14 various (5) 33:12; 34:10;36:13;95:9; 122:18	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9 volunteered (1) 200:21 volunteering (1) 146:20	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18; 130:4;134:5;135:17; 136:6,21;137:9; 139:12;142:3,17; 143:4,22;146:23,23;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5 white (3) 164:9,9; 171:5 whole (17) 17:15; 24:3;49:25;53:7; 82:10;101:10;108:3; 109:17;114:10;134:7,
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10, 11,11,16,16,20,24; 72:4,19;73:10,17; 74:17;76:1,7,17; 79:14,16;80:1,7,8,17; 81:5,11,16,18,22;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3; 220:23;229:14 various (5) 33:12; 34:10;36:13;95:9; 122:18 vehicle (2) 91:3;	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9 volunteered (1) 200:21 volunteering (1) 146:20 volunteers (1) 197:24	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18; 130:4;134:5;135:17; 136:6,21;137:9; 139:12;142:3,17; 143:4,22;146:23,23; 150:21,22;153:3;	112:17,24;130:17; 134:3;142:23;144:19, 20;150:8;156:12; 161:2;166:17;174:7; 177:17,17;178:6,7; 180:12;181:16;183:6; 191:14;200:19; 227:22;228:15 Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5 white (3) 164:9,9; 171:5 whole (17) 17:15; 24:3;49:25;53:7; 82:10;101:10;108:3; 109:17;114:10;134:7, 21;142:1;149:18;
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10, 11,11,16,16,20,24; 72:4,19;73:10,17; 74:17;76:1,7,17; 79:14,16;80:1,7,8,17; 81:5,11,16,18,22; 83:8;89:5;93:10;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3; 220:23;229:14 various (5) 33:12; 34:10;36:13;95:9; 122:18 vehicle (2) 91:3; 188:24	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9 volunteered (1) 200:21 volunteering (1) 146:20 volunteers (1) 197:24 vote (14) 26:11;45:9;	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18; 130:4;134:5;135:17; 136:6,21;137:9; 139:12;142:3,17; 143:4,22;146:23,23; 150:21,22;153:3; 154:3,24;158:5;	$\begin{array}{c} 112:17,24;130:17;\\ 134:3;142:23;144:19,\\ 20;150:8;156:12;\\ 161:2;166:17;174:7;\\ 177:17,17;178:6,7;\\ 180:12;181:16;183:6;\\ 191:14;200:19;\\ 227:22;228:15\\ \end{tabular}$
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10, 11,11,16,16,20,24; 72:4,19;73:10,17; 74:17;76:1,7,17; 79:14,16;80:1,7,8,17; 81:5,11,16,18,22; 83:8;89:5;93:10; 94:10,25;97:3;128:3;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3; 220:23;229:14 various (5) 33:12; 34:10;36:13;95:9; 122:18 vehicle (2) 91:3; 188:24 vehicular (1) 73:8	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9 volunteered (1) 200:21 volunteering (1) 146:20 volunteers (1) 197:24 vote (14) 26:11;45:9; 63:20,21;160:22;	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18; 130:4;134:5;135:17; 136:6,21;137:9; 139:12;142:3,17; 143:4,22;146:23,23; 150:21,22;153:3; 154:3,24;158:5; 159:19;170:20;177:8;	$\begin{array}{c} 112:17,24;130:17;\\ 134:3;142:23;144:19,\\ 20;150:8;156:12;\\ 161:2;166:17;174:7;\\ 177:17,17;178:6,7;\\ 180:12;181:16;183:6;\\ 191:14;200:19;\\ 227:22;228:15\\ \end{tabular}$ Whenever (2) 83:4; 114:7 Where's (1) 171:23 wherever (3) 91:4; 145:22;156:5 white (3) 164:9,9; 171:5 whole (17) 17:15; 24:3;49:25;53:7; 82:10;101:10;108:3; 109:17;114:10;134:7, 21;142:1;149:18; 160:25;162:18; 166:10;174:18\\ \end{array}
24 upwards (1) 173:12 urban (1) 130:19 urge (1) 117:5 urine (1) 56:7 use (121) 18:5,7; 25:18;27:12,14;30:2, 4,11,12;44:20;45:9, 16,18,25;51:4;54:8, 13;62:6,7;64:2,9,19; 65:5;69:12,14,16,19, 20,23;70:10,11,13,14, 19,24,24;71:4,8,10, 11,11,16,16,20,24; 72:4,19;73:10,17; 74:17;76:1,7,17; 79:14,16;80:1,7,8,17; 81:5,11,16,18,22; 83:8;89:5;93:10;	69:13,16,20;71:10, 12;73:2;76:11,17; 79:14;80:1,22;81:5, 11,16;94:13;95:6; 114:18;119:8,10; 120:5;131:23;182:18; 184:18,18,19;196:9, 10,20;199:8,9;200:4; 201:1;205:24;216:8; 229:16 variances (13) 9:12; 12:1;14:10;69:19; 111:24;184:7,8,8; 200:9,10;201:3; 220:23;229:14 various (5) 33:12; 34:10;36:13;95:9; 122:18 vehicle (2) 91:3; 188:24	view (2) 121:14; 178:15 Village (1) 155:11 violation (2) 95:1; 181:1 violent (1) 53:10 vision (4) 100:17; 104:8,17;122:24 visit (1) 111:10 visitors (1) 116:15 voice (1) 104:8 voir (1) 68:9 volunteer (3) 90:21; 155:19;156:9 volunteered (1) 200:21 volunteering (1) 146:20 volunteers (1) 197:24 vote (14) 26:11;45:9;	75:20;101:18 watched (1) 144:14 watching (1) 144:13 water (2) 105:17; 203:22 WATKINS (3) 110:6, 12,12 Wawa (1) 33:13 way (60) 13:15,16,22, 23;20:5,7;22:7,8,11, 11,11,14;23:1,2; 29:11;32:21;43:11; 56:13;76:6;77:17; 91:19;92:24;94:4; 109:5;115:15;118:18; 130:4;134:5;135:17; 136:6,21;137:9; 139:12;142:3,17; 143:4,22;146:23,23; 150:21,22;153:3; 154:3,24;158:5;	$\begin{array}{c} 112:17,24;130:17;\\ 134:3;142:23;144:19,\\ 20;150:8;156:12;\\ 161:2;166:17;174:7;\\ 177:17,17;178:6,7;\\ 180:12;181:16;183:6;\\ 191:14;200:19;\\ 227:22;228:15\\ \end{tabular}$

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING December 4, 2023

LOIGING BOARD				December 4, 2025
width (5) 9:12;14:12;	121:9,12;125:8;	32:24;33:21;36:16;	84:7;115:21;116:1;	136:14;138:22;
			162:4:210:17	
18:6;200:9;220:24	128:15;130:3,5,8;	40:16,17;50:21;51:7,	,	142:13;155:13,13,15;
Wildwood (8) 5:17;	134:8,8,25;141:22;	11;57:1,11;64:22;	100,000 (1) 101:8	180:19;183:7,13;
8:20;9:4;19:15;22:7,	143:3,4;147:12;	73:11;86:3,8;90:10,	1001-1005 (1) 229:13	187:7;192:11;193:3,
15;23:1;25:3	150:25;156:9;157:7;	19;91:13;93:13;99:1;	1007 (1) 115:4	14,19,23;194:17
WILES (25) 206:10,	158:21;161:13,14,15,	101:20;103:21;104:1;	100-degree (1)	1823 (1) 229:17
16,16,20,25;207:3,7,	16;166:21;169:19;	110:19,19;113:13;	140:22	18-month (8) 46:3,16;
9,12,15,18,23;208:1,	173:15;178:25;179:6,	121:16;125:12,12;	106 (2) 84:22;110:12	62:21;78:22;96:9;
5,9,13,15;209:11;	9;183:17;186:6;	126:7,22;138:19,22;	109-16 (1) 10:4	136:15;182:6;183:5
210:1,5;212:24;	198:10;203:7;223:11;	146:20;154:1;165:11;	11 (3) 36:23;101:3;	18-months (2) 62:23;
213:3;214:8;215:7;	227:6;229:8	166:21;167:14;169:4,	113:12	177:22
217:20	worked (13) 19:23;	4;190:5;202:24;	11:30 (2) 60:17;	19 (2) 165:11;166:21
William (1) 165:14	75:13;93:13;118:10;	208:16,18,21,23;	165:20	1948 (1) 36:19
Williams (6) 61:10;	121:19,20;122:6;	210:2,6	110 (2) 74:7;83:23	1950 (1) 36:24
99:18,23,23;102:25;	139:13;166:1,2,9,16;	yo (3) 145:18;146:15;	1160 (1) 7:19	1951 (1) 36:19
167:3	192:20	147:5	1177 (1) 200:13	1972 (1) 108:15
willing (4) 46:3;62:22;	working (12) 29:2;	York (1) 10:5	12 (12) 50:21;51:7,	1975 (1) 126:3
155:2;199:19	38:18;41:10;97:20,	young (26) 102:2;	11;64:22;73:11;	1987 (1) 68:17
Wilson (2) 8:3;165:17	21;121:15,17,22;	109:22;110:19;111:5,	116:12;142:13;155:6;	1991 (1) 68:15
window (2) 62:21;	124:10;146:18;150:5;	6,9,18,25;112:2,5,5,6,	158:13;171:24;	1st (1) 68:2
182:6	165:11	10,10,11,14,18,22;	192:11:199:1	
		113:18;118:24;	1220 (1) 133:24	2
win-win (1) 119:7	works (4) 49:21;			∠
wire (1) 216:12	127:17;133:11;143:5	121:10;141:13;	125 (1) 55:1	
wish (7) 100:25;	workshops (1) 89:3	159:21;165:22;177:5;	1255 (1) 17:5	2 (3) 77:23;78:8;
145:12,13,14;167:22;	world (1) 167:23	185:5	1262 (1) 19:12	115:24
188:22;217:13	worlds (1) 122:14	youth (2) 86:16;	13 (1) 64:22	20 (9) 17:15;87:25;
withdraw (1) 78:24	worry (1) 109:25	159:20	1300 (5) 5:21;27:6,	103:21;115:25;155:4,
withe (1) 121:17	Worrying (1) 149:25		13;47:22;60:24	6;169:4;171:22;210:5
within (9) 28:18;	worse (2) 38:4;147:3	Z	133 (1) 200:13	20,000 (1) 37:2
77:24;79:15;116:1,	worship (2) 71:22;		14 (3) 49:13;94:22;	200 (1) 10:5
19,21;158:22;159:3,	139:7	zero (2) 55:1;58:21	215:21	2003 (1) 115:8
10	worth (1) 181:16	zone (7) 18:5;70:8;	1417 (1) 109:9	2008 (4) 77:18;78:9;
without (16) 8:2,4;	wrap (1) 182:14	74:19;77:21;80:13;	1423 (1) 165:10	105:18;165:13
24:1;45:1;73:2;		202:3;226:9		
	wrap-around (1)		1426 (1) 6:12	2010 (1) 64:17
94:17;140:11;169:11;	121:25	Zoning (23) 4:2;14:1;	1427 (1) 103:17	2018 (4) 77:18,19;
171:1,17;172:1,4;	Wrentphonetic (1)	17:25;18:1;51:2;	1435 (1) 165:18	78:3;130:15
180:20;181:14;191:4;	166:12	57:1;70:8;71:4;	1439 (1) 113:12	2021 (2) 104:12;
224:18	write (1) 99:6	80:14;81:10;91:22;	1440 (1) 169:23	115:10
witness (1) 179:5	written (1) 99:5	93:10;94:17;95:3,20;	1450 (1) 229:19	2022 (4) 37:12;
witnesses (1) 185:3	wrong (11) 120:1;	139:16,17;181:1,3;	1454 (3) 125:3;126:3;	130:15;202:21,23
woman (1) 114:5	150:21,21,22;161:22;	184:3,10,20;201:23	127:4	2023 (6) 4:3,7,22;
women (8) 33:23,25;	170:15;185:16,20;	ZOOM (1) 35:13	1472 (1) 40:25	66:14;68:2;171:19
118:24;121:21;	186:23;191:6;216:4		148 (1) 10:16	2023-05 (1) 94:11
128:14;149:14;154:6;	wrongs (1) 161:11	0	15 (5) 40:17;87:25;	2024 (3) 106:1;
166:23	wrote (3) 58:22;	•	103:25;108:18;	201:11:230:7
wonder (1) 109:24	139:14;186:9	08024 (2) 22.6.	215:22	201 .11,250.7 2026 (1) 130:15
	139.14,180.9	08034 (2) 32:6;		
wonderful (3) 8:24;	NZ	110:13	150 (1) 46:21	2035 (1) 8:3
158:21;225:22	Y	08103 (2) 115:5;	1520 (3) 5:16;8:20;	20's (1) 154:13
wondering (2) 49:7;		133:25	9:4	21 (4) 185:3,4,4;
151:25	y'all (5) 164:15;		1525 (1) 108:2	186:4
Woodcrest (1) 166:3	198:13,13,15,16	1	1535 (1) 153:24	2151 (2) 220:12;
word (8) 42:15;73:14;	yard (4) 128:10;		1546 (1) 168:7	222:6
87:4;126:10,10;	202:4;222:19;223:2	1 (2) 115:17;202:5	16 (5) 74:24;156:25;	218 (4) 6:20;199:5;
132:23;188:19;189:4	Yays (1) 231:17	1,000 (1) 35:25	165:24;166:18;171:9	201:25;204:11
words (4) 32:14;52:9;	year (25) 19:23;	1,100 (1) 101:8	1600 (1) 220:1	221 (1) 162:17
106:12;134:6	37:10,14;38:18;44:7;	1,400 (1) 37:14	1607 (1) 157:4	230F (1) 14:1
work (55) 19:20,21;	57:11;59:13;66:11,	1.75 (1) 14:1	16-foot (1) 212:10	24 (3) 39:14;74:14;
20:21;21:7;24:6;	15;75:2;82:23;83:1,8,	1:30 (1) 165:20	1775 (1) 107:25	108:19
68:20,25;72:11;77:4;			18 (36) 30:2,4;46:5;	
	12;84:9,12,22,25;	10 (1) 17:15		24/7 (3) 75:1,5;81:1
86:12;93:1;104:23;	05.7710.115.05			
105 0 100 11 110 15	85:6,7,10;115:25;	10:00 (1) 197:11	86:22;87:11;90:7,14;	2422 (1) 121:2
105:9;108:11;110:16;	116:8;140:25;155:10	10:06 (1) 197:12	92:21,22,25;93:1,23;	24-hour (6) 39:8;56:6;
114:14;118:23;	116:8;140:25;155:10 years (51) 17:14;	10:06 (1) 197:12 10:47 (1) 231:19	92:21,22,25;93:1,23; 95:15,15;97:3,8;	24-hour (6) 39:8;56:6; 59:12,14;90:16;
	116:8;140:25;155:10	10:06 (1) 197:12	92:21,22,25;93:1,23;	24-hour (6) 39:8;56:6;

24-hours (2) 59:17; 178:4 2500 (4) 6:4;200:4, 12;201:2 25th (1) 10:16 2640-2642 (1) 8:6 2648-2650 (1) 8:7 27 (1) 171:19 27th (2) 6:2;106:8 28 (1) 4:6 28th (2) 6:8;201:3 2-bedroom (1) 14:3	211:25 4th (1) 8:1 5 5 (1) 116:16 5:30 (2) 201:11;229:5 50 (3) 17:14;34:5; 126:7 500 (1) 35:17 508 (1) 229:14 509 (1) 118:4 51 (1) 172:5	107:11;115:12; 140:18;162:20;164:3, 24 901 (1) 8:1 911 (4) 25:16;172:24; 215:23;217:8 915 (1) 211:10 95 (1) 173:21 99 (1) 29:1 9th (1) 229:19	
3	514 (1) 98:21 523 (1) 6:1		
3 (3) 116:5;167:14; 202:5 3,300 (1) 14:11 30 (7) 32:23;86:8; 92:1;117:13;171:10, 13,14	54 (2) 40:16;172:9 56 (1) 172:23 562 (1) 206:17 576 (1) 130:1 5th (5) 7:5,6,9,15,18		
300 (1) 36:7 3001 (3) 5:24;201:12;	6	-	
205:22 30-foot (1) 14:13 30th (1) 167:14 314 (1) 8:9 32 (1) 171:20 321 (1) 144:9 3250 (1) 195:24 3250-3252 (1) 7:22 3252 (1) 195:24 3300 (1) 7:13 34 (1) 154:1 35 (1) 110:19 360 (1) 112:17	6 (1) 207:10 60 (4) 6:8;17:14;34:5; 201:3 600 (1) 35:17 60's (1) 99:4 625 (1) 205:23 6-foot (15) 205:24; 208:12,25;209:2; 210:12;212:1,1; 213:16,17,20;216:8, 19;217:1,5;219:8 6th (2) 6:24;7:8		
365 (1) 59:12 365-day (1) 75:2	7	-	
37 (1) 93:13 37th (1) 162:17 38 (2) 220:12;222:6 38-foot (1) 33:1	705 (1) 222:6 73 (2) 36:23;44:11 75 (1) 44:11 753 (1) 109:14		
4	8		
4 (5) 4:3;116:11; 205:25;210:13; 215:16 4,000 (1) 14:12 40 (2) 14:13;100:10 40:55 (1) 70:23 40:55D-68 (1) 204:14 401 (1) 99:24 41 (1) 171:8 42 (1) 32:5 421 (1) 7:11	8 (2) 201:10;202:4 8:47 (1) 152:17 80 (2) 7:23;115:20 80's (1) 144:13 812 (1) 8:11 814 (1) 8:11 8383 (1) 89:22 870-54 (1) 183:22 8th (4) 6:14,17;227:3; 229:5		
426 (1) 6:24 43 (1) 205:23	9	-	
436 (1) 203.23 436 (1) 7:8 45 (2) 92:1;94:12 48 (2) 171:24;200:17 48,000 (1) 37:10 4-foot (2) 208:12;	9 (1) 32:9 9:03 (1) 152:18 90 (4) 44:12;77:3; 171:12,12 900 (7) 104:12;		