In The Matter Of:

CITY OF CAMDEN v. ZONING BOARD

Transcript of Meeting March 4, 2024

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Min-U-Script® with Word Index

1	ZONING BOARD
2	CITY OF CAMDEN
3	
4	Monday, March 4, 2024
5	
6	
7	
8	Transcript of proceedings of the Zoning
9	Board of Adjustment taken in City Council Chambers,
10	2nd floor City Hall, 520 Market Street, Camden, New
11	Jersey 08101, commencing at 5:44 p.m.
12	
13	BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
14	DARNELL HANCE, CHAIRMAN
15	CHARLES COOPER, VICE-CHAIRMAN ISASIA MARTINEZ
16	KAREN MERRICKS MARITZA ALSTON
17	JOSE M. BRITO BUENO
18	
19	A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S
20	KYLE F. EINGORN, ESQUIRE, ATTORNEY FOR THE BOARD 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)

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14		
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16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Good evening ladies and
1
2
    gentlemen. Welcome to the City of Camden Zoning
3
    Board regular scheduled meeting of March 4, 2024.
    Reading of the Sunshine Law: In conformance
4
5
    with the Sunshine Law of New Jersey, notice of the
    meeting was posted in the Municipal Clerk's office on
6
    Tuesday, February 27, 2024.
7
8
                MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll call.
9
    Chairman Hance.
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Here.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Here.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
14
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Here.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
16
                MS. MERRICKS: Present.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
17
                MS. ALSTON: Present.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Jose Brito Bueno is absent.
19
20
    Henrietta Washington, absent.
2.1
                Let's start with the approval of the
22
    minutes for February 2024. Do we have a motion?
23
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Motion to accept.
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Second.
24
25
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
```

```
Chairman Hance.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
6
                                     Yes.
7
                               Ms. Merricks.
                MR. EINGORN:
8
                MS. MERRICKS:
                                Yes
9
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
                              I wasn't here.
10
                MS. ALSTON:
                MR. EINGORN: Abstain.
11
                                         Having four in
    favor and none opposed, the motion passes.
12
13
                Good evening everyone. I'm going to
14
    announce the list of cases. If you're present,
15
    please let me know. We will take the cases in order
16
    as they are on the agenda. We've already heard one
    cell phone tonight. If you could please silence
17
18
           I know everything is an emergency nowadays.
    I'm the same way; I get it. But it does interrupt
19
20
    the applicants and it changes are train of thought.
                So like I said, if you hear your name,
2.1
22
    please let us know you're ready to proceed.
    we do that, we have a couple of deficient
23
    applications that you may have received notice for:
24
25
    521 Cooper Street, that application was deficient.
```

```
If you're here because you received notice for that,
1
2
    it will not be heard tonight. They will have to
    renotice. That also goes for 880 S. 27th Street.
3
    That applicant was also deficient notice. That will
4
5
    not be heard tonight as well.
                The first matter of Old Business, Alba
6
7
    Agilar.
                MS. AGILAR:
8
                              Here.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Barbara Clark, 314 Marlton
    Pike.
10
11
                MS. McCOY: Ready to proceed.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Very good.
13
                The next matter, Cannabista, LLC, 2035
14
    Admiral Wilson Blvd. will be adjourned.
15
    we'll put it on for the next month. I don't know if
16
    they're going to appear next month or not. They may
    have to renotice. But for now, we'll mark for April.
17
    So if you're here for Cannabista, 2035 Admiral Wilson
18
19
    Blvd., it's not being heard tonight; will not be
20
    heard tonight.
2.1
                The next matter, Hattie L. Pope, 422
22
    Washington Street.
23
                MS. POPE:
                           Here.
24
                              Next is Lydia Robles.
                MR. EINGORN:
25
                MS. ROBLES:
                              Here.
```

```
1
                MR. EINGORN: Antonio Ovando Rodriguez,
2
    1016 Broadway.
3
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
                                 Here.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Roger D. Machigal. I saw
    Mr. Izzo.
5
                MR. IZZO: We're ready.
6
                              Melanie Garcia.
7
                MR. EINGORN:
8
                MR. IZZO: Also ready.
                              Hanan Almomari.
9
                MR. EINGORN:
                MR. IZZO: He's here and we're ready.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: Triplex Auto Group.
12
                MR. IZZO: Also ready.
                MR. EINGORN: And then four matters for
13
14
    Benson Investments, LLC.
15
                MR. SHEEHAN: Here.
                MR. EINGORN: I did see Mr. Sheehan in
16
    the back so those are all present as well. Let's get
17
    started with Old Business. Please come forward.
18
19
    Alba Aligar, 1164 Everett Street.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
21
    hand, please.
22
23
                ALBA AGILAR MARTINEZ; GERMAN LUNA, having
24
    first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and
25
    testified as follows:
```

1 2 MR. EINGORN: Please state your names and addresses for the record. 3 MS. AGILAR-MARTINEZ: My name is Alba 4 Agilar-Martinez, 1807 Jackson Street, Cinnaminson. 5 MR. LUNA: German Luna, 1807 Jackson 6 7 Street, Cinnaminson. MR. EINGORN: So this is a continued 8 matter from last month. The applicant has a duplex 9 and is requesting bulk variances. The Board 10 11 requested that they provide additional information. It looks like additional information has been 12 13 provided. There's a lot of pictures here. Is this a tax card? 14 15 MS. ALBA: Yes. 16 MR. EINGORN: So the applicant is appearing tonight proposing a duplex, any bulks 17 variances for minimum lot size and minimum lot width, 18 off-street parking, lot depth and building coverage. 19 And this was purchased as a duplex; is that correct? 20 2.1 MS. ALBA-MARTINEZ: 22 MR. LUNA: Yes. MR. EINGORN: And you testified last 23 24 month that there's only street parking; is that 25 correct?

```
MR. LUNA: Yes.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: And did you take the
    photographs that are in this package?
3
4
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
5
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And my big concern
    about this is, is the basement. Looks they have a
6
7
    bedroom down there.
8
                MR. EINGORN: Right. We asked for more
    information. Right? if I remember correctly, these
9
10
    meters were preexisting?
11
                MR. LUNA: Yes. Actually, we just
    replaced them a couple of weeks ago; probably like
12
13
    two weeks ago.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. But when you bought
15
    it, it had two meters?
16
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: I'm showing you four
17
    photographs here. This is two water heaters or two
18
19
    gas meters; is that correct?
20
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
21
                MR. EINGORN: And those were preexisting
22
    as well when you purchased?
23
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: And then, can you tell us a
24
25
    little about the basement?
```

```
MR. LUNA: The basement in this picture
1
2
    here is like a living room, hallway. You can put a
    couch in there, but nobody is sleeping there.
3
    is two rooms downstairs in the basement and a
4
5
    bathroom.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Your last
6
7
    photograph, pictures, can you explain that back to
8
    me. It looks like you have a door there. Is there a
9
    door? You got a door where the steps are then you --
                                  That's the backyard.
10
                MR. LUNA:
                           Yes.
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Is it two doors
    back there or one door?
12
13
                MR. LUNA: One.
                MR. EINGORN: Is there a door that leads
14
15
    from the basement to the outside?
16
                MR. LUNA: No.
                MR. EINGORN: I'm looking at what looks
17
    to be floor plans. This is the last page of your
18
19
    submission. Can the Board see this?
20
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
21
                MR. EINGORN: I'm looking at what says
22
               There's two rooms here labeled bedroom.
    basement.
23
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Are they being used as
25
    bedrooms?
```

```
MR. LUNA: Yes:
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Has the fire inspector been
    out to look at this?
3
4
                MR. LUNA:
                           No.
5
                MR. EINGORN: So really the applicant is
    here for bulk variances related to the parking and
6
    the size of the lot. The issue regarding the
7
8
    basement would really be for the fire inspector and
    code enforcement official who is going to probably
9
    have a lot to say about that. But as it relates to
10
11
    the testimony regarding the requested bulk variances,
    this is a row home?
12
13
                MR. LUNA:
                            Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: And there's a party wall
15
    between this property and the one to the left of it
16
    when you're facing the building?
17
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: And to the other side
19
    there's a small alleyway; is that correct?
20
                MR. LUNA: That's correct.
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: And there's no ability to
22
    expand the size of the lot due to the relationship to
    the other properties?
23
24
                MR. LUNA:
                            No.
25
                MR. EINGORN: And there's no ability to
```

```
reduce this size of the building to reduce the
1
2
    building coverage?
3
                MR. LUNA:
                           No.
                MR. EINGORN: All these conditions were
4
5
    preexisting when you purchased the property?
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
6
                MR. EINGORN: Does the Board have
7
8
    questions for the applicant?
9
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Since they're
    landlocked, you can't expand or anything.
10
11
    already been a duplex. What type of stipulation can
    we put on, you know, if we approve this? We approve
12
13
    it and it's out of our hands, so from that point
14
    forward?
15
                MR. EINGORN:
                               So let's start at the
16
                This is in an R-2 Zone where a duplex is
    beginning.
    a permitted use, right?
17
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: But they're requesting bulk
20
    variances related to the topographic conditions,
    right, the size of the lot which, I mean, this home
21
22
    looks to be rather old. Probably it's condition
    predated the ordinance. Whoever made this into a
23
24
    duplex probably either did a long time ago or never
25
    obtained permits or whatever it may be.
```

```
But it does appear based upon the
1
2
    construction and its relationship to the neighbors,
3
    you can't change it which would be a preexisting
    conformity condition. Now that said, to the extent
4
5
    that the Board is interested in granting this
    application, you could condition the variances upon
6
    obtaining inspections and CO from the fire inspector
7
8
    specifically, the code enforcement; make sure that
9
    they're in there; that they have their say before --
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        I can make a
10
    motion to approve --
11
12
                MR. EINGORN: Wait.
                                      We might have more
13
    questions first and then we got to open to the
14
    public.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  I'm curious about the
    off-street parking. So what are we doing about the
16
    off-street parking? They need two and a half
17
18
    spaces?
19
                MR. EINGORN: Yes. This is street
20
    parking only. They're requesting a variance.
2.1
                MR. LUNA:
                           There is always parking
22
    spots.
23
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Please speak louder.
24
                MR. LUNA: There is always parking spots
25
    all the time.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: This building here, is
1
2
    that is a school? What's across the street from you?
3
                MR. LUNA: A park.
4
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: What's the building
5
    right next to it?
6
                MR. EINGORN: I think it's like a
7
    water --
8
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It's a water
9
    tower.
10
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Is street parking allowed
    on both sides of the street there?
12
13
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: How long did you own the
15
    property?
16
                MR. LUNA: I bought it like a year ago.
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You guys are not living
    in the property, correct?
18
19
                MR. LUNA: No.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're renting it out?
2.1
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
22
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is it rented out
    already?
23
                MR. LUNA: Yes.
24
25
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So when you purchased
```

```
it, was it residents living there when you purchased
1
2
    the house or the apartment, duplex?
                            It looks like already that
                MR. LUNA:
3
    people was living there.
4
5
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Okay. What did she say
    about downstairs? That's not part of this
6
    application, the basement since we knew about this
7
8
    case?
9
                MR. EINGORN:
                              No.
                                    That's a Code
10
    Enforcement Class Fire Inspector issue.
11
    questions down there from the Board?
12
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     No.
13
                MS. ALSTON:
                             No.
14
                MR. EINGORN: We will open to the public.
15
    Is anybody in the public here tonight that would like
    to be heard on 1164 Everette Street? If you would,
16
    come forward now. Seeing and hearing none, we'll
17
    close the public portion.
18
                The applicant is here tonight seeking
19
    bulk variances for parking and lot size, lot width,
20
21
    lot depth and building coverage. Now is the time for
22
    the Board to ask any final questions, do a
    discussion and to make a motion. As previously
23
24
    indicated, the Board is authorized to condition its
25
    approvals to the extent that the Board wishes to
```

```
grant the application.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Do you have any questions?
3
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: No questions.
4
    good down here.
5
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I'm going to make
    a motion to accept with certain conditions that they
6
7
    obtain a CO for what they're doing and that the fire
    marshall can come in and also inspect.
8
9
                MR. EINGORN: Inspection by Fire Marshall
    and obtain a CO.
10
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
12
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Second.
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
13
14
    Chairman Hance.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
17
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
19
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
2.1
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
23
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Five in favor and none
24
25
    opposed, the motion is granted. Have a great night
```

```
1
    guys.
2
                MR. LUNA: Thank you.
3
                MS. ALIGAR-MARTINEZ:
                                       Thank you.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Next matter in New Business
    is Barbara Clark, 314 Marlton Pike.
5
6
                MS. McCOY: Good evening. I am not
7
    Barbara Clark. I'm the attorney for Ms. Clark.
                                                       The
    application is for a variance for a nonconforming use
8
    on 314 Marlton Pike.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Would you like to put your
10
11
    appearance on the record.
                MS. McCOY: Vera McCoy representing
12
    Ms. Barbara Clark.
13
14
                MR. EINGORN: Do you have any witnesses
    you'd like to be sworn.
15
                MS. McCOY: Her husband Mr. Bob Jones is
16
17
    here.
18
                MR. EINGORN: You want to bring Mr. Jones
19
    forward?
20
                MS. McCOY: Yes.
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
22
    hand, please.
23
                BOB JONES, having first been duly
24
25
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
```

follows: 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Please state full name and 3 address for the record. 4 5 MR. JONES: Bob L. Jones, 3 Cobalt Court, Swedesboro, New Jersey. 6 7 MR. EINGORN: What do we have going on? 8 MS. McCOY: So when Ms. Clark bought this 9 back in 1995, it was being used as a duplex and it stayed as that use ever since. 10 The use has never 11 changed. However, when he went to sell it, that was when this was brought to the Board's attention. 12 13 as it stands now, we're still ready to move forward 14 with it so it can be zoned, properly zoned and be 15 used as a duplex. 16 There's pictures that were submitted when this application was first submitted back in August. 17 18 And those haven't changed; nothing was changed since then. And we do have rental approvals for both 19 units. 20 2.1 Has the applicant obtained MR. EINGORN: rental approvals dating back to 1995? 22 23 MS. McCOY: Yes. But we have recent ones 24 now for 2023/2024. 25 MR. EINGORN: Can we have copies of those

```
for the record?
1
2
                MS. McCOY: Yes.
                              Let the record reflect that
3
                MR. EINGORN:
    counsel has provided Certificate of Rental Approvals
4
    dated January 27th, 2022 and January 26, 2022
5
    respectively. They both state that the property is a
6
    two-family dwelling. I will share these with the
7
8
    Board. We'll mark them Exhibit A to the application
9
    as Rental Approvals.
                I'm showing you this photograph.
10
11
    Mr. Jones, did you take this photograph?
12
                MR. JONES: I didn't take any.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Do you know who did?
14
                MR. JONES:
                           No.
15
                MR. EINGORN: This is the property here?
                MR. JONES:
16
                           Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: And are both of these
17
18
    entrances for the property?
                MR. JONES: Both of them. One's upstairs
19
    and one's down.
20
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: So there are separate
22
    outside entrances for both units?
23
                MR. JONES: Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Based upon the exhibit, is
25
    it your understanding that this building was
```

```
constructed as a duplex?
1
 2
                MR. JONES: It was constructed as a
 3
    duplex.
                MR. EINGORN: Very good. Thank you.
                                                        Did
 4
 5
    everybody hear that testimony?
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
 6
 7
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Does the Board have
 8
9
    questions for the applicant?
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have one question.
11
    Your back door, is that accepted for both apartments;
12
    they go up the steps and then down the steps if they
    had to get outside from the back door?
13
14
                MR. JONES:
                             No. Only one has the door to
15
    the rear, which is the first floor.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you got a front door.
    So they come through the front. So your second
17
    floor, how do they exit if there's a fire? Do they
18
    go out the back door or do they go out the front
19
20
    door?
2.1
                MR. JONES:
                             They go out the front door.
22
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  So there's no back door?
23
                             There's no back door on the
                MR. JONES:
24
    second floor.
25
                 CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  For the second floor?
```

```
MR. JONES: I found out and then I bought
1
2
    a fire ladder so they could use it on the side to
3
    come down from the second floor and it was approved.
                MR. JONES:
                            None of those houses have
4
    second-floor doors.
5
                MS. McCOY: None of them have a second
6
    floor actually.
7
8
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public
9
    tonight would like to be heard on the application
    related to 314 Marlton Pike, Camden, New Jersey?
10
11
    Hearing and seeing none, we'll close the public
12
              The applicant here tonight is seeking a
    portion.
13
    Certificate of Nonconforming use for the property at
14
    314 Marlton Pike. The applicant has submitted rental
15
    approvals and photographs which seem to support the
16
    requested relief. The Board should do a discussion
    and make a motion regarding the application.
17
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        In these
19
    apartments you got separate utilities for both,
20
    correct?
2.1
                MR. JONES:
                             That's correct.
22
                MS. McCOY:
                             Yes.
23
                MR. JONES: One was hot air and the other
24
    one is hot water.
25
                                        When you purchased
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
```

```
it, this the way it came?
1
2
                MR. JONES: That's the way it was. Only
3
    thing we updated the heating system and we had put
    new a hot air system and new water.
4
5
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: The only problem,
    you should have some type of photograph stating this.
6
7
                MR. JONES: New heater and water?
8
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Un-huh. Do you
9
    got pictures?
10
                MR. EINGORN: Did you see this picture
11
    about the separate front entrance?
12
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. Yes, I see
13
    the two meters here too.
14
                MR. JONES: Is that what you want, the
15
    hot water and air?
                MR. EINGORN: I think issue is that the
16
    evidence before the Board seems to demonstrate that
17
    this was constructed as a duplex.
18
19
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Right.
                MR. EINGORN: So I don't know that the
20
21
    additional pictures would add anything to the
22
    application. That's all. I'd rather not carry him
    to next month.
23
24
                MR. JONES: I have some more pictures.
25
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yeah, but she has
```

```
pictures for us.
1
2
                MS. McCOY: He has them on the phone too.
3
                MR. EINGORN: We can't get take
4
    photographs from phone or tablets.
5
                MS. McCOY: They already have those
    photographs.
6
7
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I'm fine with
8
    that.
9
                MS. MUHAMMAD: Let's see your pictures
    that you have because I didn't include all of them
10
11
    because they weren't of every room that you gave me.
    You didn't give me every room.
12
13
                MS. McCOY: These are for the second
14
    floor.
15
                MR. EINGORN: We will mark these exhibits
16
    as "B," the additional colored photos.
17
                MS. McCOY: And those pictures were taken
    by the realtor.
18
19
                MR. EINGORN: Ma'am, can I swear you in
20
    real quickly. Would you raise your right hand,
21
    please.
22
23
                KENAISHA PRESSLEY-SMITH, having first
24
    been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified
25
    as follows:
```

```
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name
    and address for the record
3
4
                MS. PRESSLEY-SMITH:
                                      My name is Kenaisha
5
    Pressley-Smith. My address is 513 South Lenola Road,
    Morrestown, New Jersey 08057.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Pressley, you've handed
8
    the Board numerous colored photographs of the
9
    property. Did you take those photographs?
                MS. PRESSLEY-SMITH:
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: And can you tell me about
12
    when you took them?
13
                MS. PRESSLEY-SMITH: Over the summer.
                                                         So
14
    it was probably around June -- probably 2023 July,
15
    August.
16
                MR. EINGORN: And the property is roughly
    in the same condition as shown in these pictures as
17
    we see here today?
18
19
                MS. PRESSLEY-SMITH:
                                      Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Sorry to drag you into
    this.
21
22
                                      That's okay.
                MS. PRESSLEY-SMITH:
                                                    That's
    why I'm here.
23
                MR. EINGORN: That will authenticate the
24
25
    evidence.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm happy to drag you
1
2
    into it cause we got the gas meters there so that's
3
    perfect.
4
                MR. EINGORN: You made the Board very
5
    happy.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        It's only fair.
6
7
    We ask other people to show this proof. For us to
8
    give it to you on your word is...
                MR. EINGORN: I think the difference
9
    between the last application and this one is, they
10
    were asking for variances. And this is a Certificate
11
    of Nonconforming Use. The standard is different, the
12
    legal standard.
13
14
                So now we're waiting for a discussion and
15
    a motion.
16
                MS. McCOY: Anything further?
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: I don't think there's
17
    a problem with it since he bought it years ago.
18
    could make a motion, motion to accept the
19
20
    application.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll say this, we go
22
    through this a lot. You owned it since 1995?
23
                MR. JONES: Yes.
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: When you buy into
25
    something that you think is legal and it's not legal,
```

```
1
    here you are.
2
                MS. McCOY: That's pretty much it.
3
                                  It's a plus for the
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
4
    City.
5
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Is that a second?
6
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Second.
7
                MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
8
           Chairman Hance.
9
    vote.
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
11
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
12
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
13
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
14
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
16
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
17
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
18
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Five in favor and none
    opposed, congratulations. Thank you for your time
20
    tonight.
21
22
                MR. JONES:
                             Thank you.
23
                MS. McCOY: Thank you.
24
                MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Hattie
25
    L. Pope, 422 Washington Street.
```

MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 1 2 hand, please. 3 4 HATTIE L. POPE, having first been duly 5 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 6 7 8 MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and address for the record. 9 10 MS. POPE: My name is Hattie L. Pope. 11 Address is 422 Washington Street, Camden, New Jersey 08103. 12 13 MR. EINGORN: Would you like me to read 14 your appeal for zoning? 15 MS. POPE: Yes. 16 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Pope is here tonight regarding 422 Washington Street. She is the owner of 17 the property. The property is in the R-2 Zoning 18 19 District with frontage of 20 feet. There's one building on the lot. It's a three-story home with a 20 basement; 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms. 2.1 22 residential property. And the zoning officer denied a permit for a ground-level deck, 20-by-20 because of 23 24 impervious coverage. The area of the property and 25 walkway is 100 percent impervious. And so the

```
applicant is requesting a bulk variance for the day.
1
2
    Is that accurate?
                MS. POPE: Yes.
                                  Thank you.
3
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Pope, did you take the
4
    photographs that are attached to this application?
5
                MS. POPE: Yes, I did.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN:
                             Very good. And when did
8
    you take these photographs?
                MS. POPE: Over the past year.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Construction for the deck
10
11
    has already started?
12
                MS. POPE:
                            Yes.
                                  The deck is completed.
13
    If you look at the "before pictures," you probably
14
    will see why I wanted something in that area, my back
15
    yard. And the house, it started out as a DIY project
    but it was just a little beyond me.
16
                 I purchased this home 14 years ago and
17
    I did a lot of the DIY work inside myself.
18
    exterior, I started working on that back yard.
19
    when it rains, there's mud, a lot of soil, dirt and I
20
2.1
    had a fall. So I hired someone to put the deck in
22
    for me so I would have an outside space; something to
23
    exercise and do my rehab. And I do apologize.
24
    was a large oversight on my part that I did not get a
25
    permit.
```

```
And it's sort of ironic how I found out
1
2
    that I needed a permit. The deck received damage.
                                                         Ι
    don't know if anyone on the Council is aware of
3
    Carravello Development, but they were tearing down
4
    the house next to me, and they damaged the deck and
5
    the fence. So in trying to get them to repair, I
6
    found out that I needed a permit. So a bad thing
8
    happened but a good thing happened because once I
    found out I was in violation, I took steps to apply
9
    for the permit, took pictures and here we are.
10
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 So there was an existing
    deck there already before when they damaged it?
12
13
                MS. POPE: No, sir.
                                     There was -- if you
    look at the pictures, there was --
14
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I saw the gravel there
    and the dirt.
16
                MS. POPE:
                           Yes.
                                 And the staircase, the
17
    steps and the railing needed replacing.
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 So you said that they
19
20
    damaged your fence, though, correct, when they were
21
    knocking down the house next door?
22
                MS. POPE: The fence was existing when I
23
    purchased the home. So when I put in the deck, I
    took it to the side-by-side to the fence area so
24
25
    that's where I think I over-calculated.
```

REVEREND MARTINEZ: This is how it looked 1 2 right now like the last picture you got here? 3 MS. POPE: Yes, sir. REVEREND MARTINEZ: Nice. 4 5 MS. POPE: Thank you. MS. ALSTON: You mentioned that the 6 reason you started the project was because of the 7 8 water issue; you were getting water in your yard and it wasn't running out. And what are you doing now 9 with this deck? 10 11 MS. POPE: Let me just restate. The water did run off but, you know, maybe for a couple 12 13 of hours it would be unusable. And if you look at 14 the "before picture," the yard really wasn't that 15 great. So once I finished the inside, I'm looking, what can I do on the outside. Starting the project, 16 I just didn't know about a permit. And I don't like 17 to say, I don't know things. I like to research and, 18 you know, be knowledgable. 19 20 In getting some of the quotes, they were 21 very expensive from Lowe's and Home Depot. 22 trying to get this yard done, I would speak to 23 anyone, neighbors, people in Home Depot, anyone that 24 would stand still for ten minutes. I was telling 25 them what I wanted to do with this back yard.

So one of the neighbors recommended this contractor. 1 2 And I hired him labor-only and I purchased all of the 3 materials so that I knew that I wanted that 20-foot board. 4 REVEREND MARTINEZ: So this contractor, he should know better than ask for a permit, right? 6 MS. POPE: Well, I called his number; 8 I texted him; I emailed him and I get crickets. So I don't know. I feel that he should have known but as 9 10 the homeowner in doing my research, it falls back on 11 the homeowner. 12 MS. ALSTON: So understand it. 13 Esthetically, it's going to look nice. I get it. 14 And I think it's going to be great and it's going to 15 add value to your property. My concern is, the original -- where I was leading to originally, where 16 would the water drain? Is the water going to be 17 draining off the property? Is there a drain because 18 all the drainage there? 19 MS. POPE: Yes, ma'am. In one of my 20 21 pictures at the back of the fence, there's a very 22 huge drain and that's where the water was going. 23 There was even -- when I purchased the home, there was even additional some, I think, type of pipe that 24

went to that drain so the water didn't stay and it

25

```
didn't stand. It made it muddy.
1
2
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It just saturated
3
    the area and made it muddy?
                MS. POPE:
                           Right.
                                   In purchasing the
4
5
    materials for the deck, I did discuss in length with
    this person that put it down, that the water will
6
    have to go towards that drain. And that's what
7
8
    you'll see in the pictures. When it was being
    developed, I took pictures to make sure of the
9
10
    progress that that water would be going away from the
11
    property to that drain.
12
                MS. ALSTON: Do you have a contractor
13
    now? Have you replaced the old contractor with a new
14
    contractor to do the work or?
15
                MS. POPE: No. The work is completed.
    That was my oversight. This was done a couple of
16
    years ago. And finding out about the permit was when
17
    the demolition company damaged the deck and trying to
18
    bring them to have some type of justice. Everybody
19
    asked me: Do you have a permit? I was like:
20
    Permit?
2.1
22
                MR. EINGORN: Is that the drain you're
    referring to?
23
24
                MS. POPE: It's right behind the gate.
25
    My deck is inside that gate.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: And the deck boards, are
1
2
    they spaced so that the water can go through?
                MS. POPE: Yes. Under the deck
3
    there's --
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: I'm not worried about under
    the deck.
6
                MS. POPE: I don't know what you call
7
8
    them but. The water rolls this way and it goes to
    that drain.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Got it.
10
                                       Okay.
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So you have like a
    nail-hole gap in between each board so the water will
12
13
    run off of the deck?
14
                MS. POPE: Yes. I think there's a
15
    picture there of what the foundation looks like.
                MS. ALSTON: So I saw that there's
16
    another piece. I don't know what they call it, the
17
    metal on the bottom of the deck there. Is there any
18
    way for animals or squirrels to crawl up in there and
19
    start living in that area?
20
21
                MS. POPE: No. On the outside there's a
22
           I don't know if one of the pictures where it
    mesh.
23
    shows there's completely vacant around my property.
    There's no houses. There's a house next to me. But
24
25
    in your -- I'm sure the council is aware that the
```

block where I live, 185, is slated to be developed. 1 2 And they are just tearing everything down around me. So the deck was sort of a relief; something nice to 3 look at. 4 5 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. CHAIRMAN HANCE: So how long has the deck 6 7 been down? 8 MS. POPE: Two to three years. 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: At least you got your 10 money's worth. It looks good. Two to three years is 11 good. 12 Thank you so much. MS. POPE: 13 MR. EINGORN: Anymore questions? Hearing 14 no questions, let's open to the public. Anybody here 15 tonight like to be heard on 422 Washington Street? Anybody? Going once, going twice. Hearing or seeing 16 no public, we will close the public portion. Now is 17 the time for the Board to do a discussion and make a 18 motion regarding the applicant's request for a bulk 19 20 variance for impervious coverage related to a 21 ground-level deck. 22 REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think we all want to have a nice place to live in. 23 I think she's one of them. So I think she needs -- if we find out that 24

the other contractor messed up her property and even

25

```
she left money there, I think we should approve this
1
2
    application.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to back-track
    and say, thank you for apologizing. I've been here
4
5
    a minute and you're probably the first one who
    apologizing of not knowing. And I believe in if
6
    you're beautifying your neighborhood even your home,
7
8
    that's where you have peace at when you come home
    from work and you go out to your deck and you just
9
    soak it all in. So I'm kind of jealous. But any
10
11
    way, you did a good job. And like "Do it yourself."
    It means you took pride in what you were doing to
12
13
    your home. I think it's something good. You learned
14
    your lesson; you got to get a permit. All-in-all,
15
    I'm going to make a motion to accept.
16
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     I second you.
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
17
    Chairman Hance.
18
19
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
22
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Reverend Martinez.
23
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
                              Ms. Merricks.
24
                MR. EINGORN:
25
                MS. MERRICKS:
                                Yes.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
1
2
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Five in favor and none
3
    opposed, the motion passes. Enjoy your deck.
4
                MS. POPE:
5
                            Thank you so much.
                MR. EINGORN:
                               The next matter is Lydia
6
7
    Robles, SS Polk 310 E. 28th Street.
8
                Would you raise your right hands, please.
9
10
                LYDIA ROBLES, FRANCHESCA ABED, having
11
    first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and
    testified as follows:
12
13
14
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your names and
15
    addresses for the record.
                MS. ROBLES: Lydia Robles, 2825 Polk
16
    Avenue in Camden, New Jersey 08105.
17
                MS. ABED: Franchesca Abed, 401 Kaighn
18
    Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08103.
19
20
                So my name is Franchesca. I work for
21
    Rolf's Plumbing, Heating, Electrical & General
22
    Contractors Corp. My client, Lydia Robles, is trying
23
    to put up a carport across the street from her house.
    The current house that she lives in, her dwelling
24
25
    that she stated for the record, 2825 Polk Avenue, had
```

an existing driveway that led to a storage shed in the back.

she has a disabled son, was used for a ramp to get up to the house. So she purchased the lot directly across the street from herself and they would like to put up a carport for storage of the two vehicles that they currently have. So they have two vehicles that are kind of overflow and then the other two vehicles that are parked currently there. If anybody who knows anything of that area, it's saturated with parking. So we're trying to get some of the cars off the street.

I believe you guys have the plans for the carport. And that's a prefab carport. You order it and it literally comes kind of legos and you put it all together. And we're going to be putting it into a concrete base. And we also are applying for the curb cut for the engineering department so that they'll be able to get up on to the property. And if you guys don't have the colored pictures, I did bring some extras of what the existing in the front looks like and then what the lot across the street looks like.

(At which time, Mr. Brito Bueno arrives

```
at the meeting.)
1
2
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: We only got one
3
    picture.
                MS. ABED:
                            Okay. So this is the house --
4
5
    you know, I think I have like three. You guys can
    pass them around. This is the house where they live
6
    in and that shows the ADA ramp that is obstructing
7
8
    these.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. So for the record,
10
    the applicant has provided the Board with a picture
    of the front of the residence that is across the
11
    street from the property. We'll mark this Exhibit A
12
13
    to the application. And I will distribute these to
14
    the Board members.
15
                MS. ABED:
                           The other picture shows the
    proximity of the house across from the adjacent lot
16
    so you could see it's directly across the street.
17
    So it's not like she's picking up a lot two blocks
18
    down or anything like that. It's directly across the
19
    street for that.
20
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have that picture
22
    too?
23
                MS. ABED:
                           Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Let the record reflect that
25
    Exhibit B will be a photo of the street.
```

```
MS. ABED: The sizes and dimension of the
1
2
    carport are listed on the plans if you want to take a
    look at that. The reason for denial was that the
3
    City Council would need approval. It's most likely
4
5
    going to need approval for the curb cut. All curb
    cuts go before City Council. I'm not worried about
6
7
    that.
8
                The use variance, it was previously
    interpreted. I've had quite a few of the residents,
9
    when we did the mailing, reach out and find out that
10
11
    they were under the impression that when they saw
12
    carport, that it would be like a mechanic shop or
13
    something like that. That's not the case.
14
    literally just to park two vehicles.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: The house is where the
    white picket fence is?
16
17
                MS. ADED: Yes.
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And there's a curb cut
    right here.
19
20
                MS. ABED: And that's actually for the
21
    adjacent lot. So the lot that's fenced in right
22
    there, yes.
23
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Are you going to
24
    put a garage door on this?
25
                           Yes. So on the plans it shows
                MS. ABED:
```

```
that it's aluminum and then it had the garage
1
2
    overhead door. And it is planning on getting
3
    electric service so that we can have light when we
    switch it off. Just for the record, this is one of
4
5
    those properties that have one of those weird
    addresses. So it's Southside Polk 310 East 28th
6
7
    Street.
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  I know.
                                           I had a hard
9
    time finding it.
                MS. ABED: Then 2825 is directly across
10
    which is her property.
11
12
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're going to have
13
    a cement pad under it and then you're going to put
14
    the garage on top of that. You're going to run a
15
    electric into it?
16
                MS. ABED:
                           Correct.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And I'm sure Rolf's is
17
    going to do all this?
18
19
                MS. ABED: Yes. Construction has not yet
20
    began yet. We want to get the zoning first to make
21
    sure it's approved. And then we'll go and deal with
22
    engineering and the City Council for the curb
23
    cub.
24
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        And this garage
25
    will be able to hold two cars?
```

1 MS. ABED: Correct. Long ways. 2 MS. MERRICKS: And you do own the lot? Yes, she owns the lot. MS. ABED: 3 deed was provided as part of the application 4 5 It was part of that. We just can't deed it together because the lots aren't adjacent to each 6 7 other. 8 MS. ALSTON: So the sole purpose of the carport is just to have the two cars since they have 9 no other plans for this space? 10 11 MS. ABED: No. 12 MS. ALSTON: Any electric vehicle? 13 MS. ABED: So we're bringing electric to 14 the unit and I am going to foresee a 220 outlet just 15 because. As of right now, there's not an electric vehicle but that's not to say that in the future 16 there won't be. So the outlet and the electric 17 service is for the lighting around, obviously, 18 for safety, put the lighting around and for the 19 20 motion sensors then possible like I said. Her husband does have like a work bench 2.1 22 kind of thing and some tools. So mostly likely that'll be over there. So like I said, the previous 23 shed that you see in that first picture that we 24 25 showed you, is obstructed by the ADA ramp that we had

to do for her handicapped son. 1 2 MR. EINGORN: Is there additional 3 questions? Hearing none, we'll open to the public. Anybody in the public that would like to be heard on 4 5 the application related to Southside Polk 310 East 28th Street? Hearing and seeing no public comment, 6 we'll close the public portion. 7 8 The applicant has come before the Board for a use variance for a principal-use garage on a 9 vacant lot. Not typically something we see. 10 11 applicant wants it for personal residential use. The Board should do a discussion related to the Positive 12 13 and Negative Criteria. It does seem to me, however, 14 that this does create some sort of possible slippery 15 slope in the future related to commercial use. 16 the extent that the Board's inclined to grant this application, it may be limited to residential use 17 18 only, --19 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. 20 MR. EINGORN: -- something of that 2.1 nature. 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I say it's Positive. 23 You work hard for everything and you need your 24 property protected. A garage seems to be the right 25 way to do it, right across the street. You answered

```
my questions earlier about security and all that
1
2
    stuff that you're going to do the lighting, you're
3
    doing security, motion sensor and whatever the case
    may be.
4
                MS. ABED:
5
                            Sure.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I think it's a great
6
7
    idea.
8
                MS. ALSTON: Kyle, do they need to check
9
    in with City Council at all?
                MR. EINGORN: Yes.
10
                                     So they're already
11
    doing that, right, but you can make that a condition
    of approval as well.
12
13
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: They got to get
14
    approval for the curb cub.
15
                MR. EINGORN: They're going to have to do
16
    that anyway.
                MS. ABED: Yes. Regardless, I have to go
17
    before them if I want a curb cut.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Any questions, comments,
19
    discussion?
20
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I'm going to
22
    piggy-back on my friend's comment. I think it's a
23
    good thing when we finally protect your property and
    have somewhere to put your car and park it safely.
24
```

Because in the City that we all, it's a tough chore

```
keeping your car safe. I think it's a good thing.
1
2
                MR. BRITO BUENO:
                                   Motorbikes especially.
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        I make a motion to
    accept.
4
5
                MS. ALSTON:
                             Yes.
                MS. MERRICKS: With conditions.
6
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
7
                                        Sorry. I make a
8
    motion to accept with one condition that it stay
    residential and not commercial.
9
                MS. ABED: Absolutely. We have no
10
11
    objection to that condition. And I heard someone
12
    mention but just for the record so that we can state
13
    it, the same way that they would require insurance
14
    for a driveway, a parking lot, any way, we're going
15
    to do the same thing. Right now it's just vacant
16
    land so we can't put the driveway insurance and all
    that other stuff on it. But City Council is going
17
    require a Certificate of Insurance before they allow
18
19
    the curb cut.
20
                MR. EINGORN: So we have a motion to
21
    accept on the condition that the garage be used for
22
    residential purposes only.
23
                MS. ABED: Yes.
24
                MS. ROBLES: Yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
```

```
MS. MERRICKS: Second.
1
2
                 MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
3
    Chairman Hance.
4
                 CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
5
                 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
                 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
6
7
                 MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
8
                 REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
                 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
9
                 MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
10
11
                 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
                 MS. ALSTON: Yes.
12
13
                 MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
14
                 MR. BRITO BUENO:
                                   Yes.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Congratulations.
                 Let the record reflect also that Mr.
16
    Brito Bueno has appeared and will now be marked
17
18
    present.
19
                 The next matter is Antonio Ovando
    Rodriguez, 1016 Broadway, seeking a Cert of
20
    Nonconforming use for a restaurant. Raise your right
2.1
22
    hand, please.
23
24
                 ANTONIO OVANDO RODRIGUEZ, having first
25
    been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified
```

```
as follows:
1
2
3
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
    address for the record.
4
5
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Antonio Ovando Rodriguez,
    321 N. Walnut Avenue, Camden, New Jersey.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: So the applicant is
8
    appearing tonight seeking a Cert of Nonconforming Use
    regarding a restaurant/retail. Sir, is this a
9
10
    restaurant?
11
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
12
                MR. EINGORN: So the applicant provided a
13
    commercial lease agreement with the landlord Mohammad
    Asraf Oddin.
14
15
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: It's already set up as a
    restaurant. Was there a restaurant there before?
17
18
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's a store.
19
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: We need an
20
    interpreter.
                MR. EINGORN: Was the kitchen there when
2.1
22
    you signed the lease? Is there anybody here in the
    public here who speaks fluent Spanish that can help
23
24
         No. So we'll do our best.
25
                The kitchen, was that thee when you
```

```
signed the lease?
1
2
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 I have a question.
    I help him because I know about this cause it's right
4
    now from one of our businesses?
5
                MR. EINGORN: Can you tell us what you
6
7
    know about the -- you went to the property?
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. It's right down
9
    from where my office is.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Okay.
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll give you guys an
12
             This is right down from our building, 900
    update.
13
    Broadway. It used to be a corner store/inside
14
    restaurant. And it closed down and then these guys
15
    showed up and I've seen them working on the
16
    building. They brought it up to the way they want it
    to be. Yes, there was always a kitchen inside there.
17
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Because it was a
19
    store eventually.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It was a store in the
21
    front and a restaurant in the back. It was like a
22
    Bordego.
23
                MR. EINGORN: This sign?
24
                                 That's mine.
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
25
                MR. EINGORN:
                              New?
```

```
MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Just a cover?
3
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
                                 It's just a sticker.
4
                MR. EINGORN: You're going to need a
5
    separate approval for the sign. You have to come
    back for the sign. Okay?
6
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
                                       They said I need a
7
8
    permit for a new one but this is only a sticker.
    It's not a new one.
9
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You changed it.
    used to be yellow one up there.
11
12
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: They changed the sticker.
13
                MR. EINGORN: There's another application
14
    to change the sign. Any other questions? Seems that
15
    the Board knows this property.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you open right now?
    Are you doing business?
17
18
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: No, no open. I sign the
    lease in December but we're painting, prepping
19
20
    everything.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: That's your little food
22
    truck out there?
23
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I have it.
24
    work in the City on the food truck but it's not open.
25
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 I seen the work on the
```

```
building. Nice to improve something. I have seen
1
2
    them working on the building.
                                   I haven't seen
    anything being sold out of the building. Like I
3
    said, my office is right there a block away.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions for the
    applicant?
6
7
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm curious. You said
8
    retail restaurant. Is it just a restaurant?
9
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, just a restaurant.
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you going to be
11
    selling clothes or anything out of there?
12
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
                                No.
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So it's just a
14
    restaurant?
15
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Just a restaurant.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Retail kind of changed
    it around.
17
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
18
                                No.
19
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Just a restaurant?
20
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
21
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: What time are you going
    to open and close?
22
23
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: We open up 11:00 to
24
    10:00.
25
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is that every day or
```

```
Monday through Sunday?
1
2
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Wednesday to Sunday.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you closed Monday
4
    and Tuesday?
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
5
                                 Yes.
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: What's going to be
6
7
    the name of it, Taqueria El Commandante?
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
8
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: That's the new name?
9
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
10
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: The only issue I have
    is, you're going to try to keep the homeless out?
12
13
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: I talked to the police.
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Cause we have the same
15
    problem.
16
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: So I talked to the police
    and they would come any time.
17
18
                                  Right. I see you guys
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
    keep it clean but when you come back the next day,
19
    it's a mess.
20
2.1
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
                                 Yes.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
23
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        No.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Open to the public?
25
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
```

MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public like 1 2 to be heard on 1016 Broadway? Please come forward. 3 MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right 4 hand, please. 5 REVEREND JOSEPH L. SCOTT, having first 6 7 been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 8 9 10 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name 11 and address for the record. 12 13 REVEREND SCOTT: Reverend Joseph L. 14 Scott, pastor of Shalom Baptist Church, 1036 15 Broadway, Camden, New Jersey. 16 MR. EINGORN: Great. What do you have for the Board? 17 18 REVEREND SCOTT: Just a couple of e questions. When I saw that we received the notice 19 about a restaurant and I was wondering what 20 21 modifications were going to be made to the building 22 and what kind of vehicular traffic. Because the church sits on the opposite side of the street where 23 24 you have the vacant church that's adjacent. 25 Mt. Vernon Street, I believe. And I was just

```
concerned with some of the other storefront
1
2
    operations in the community that seem to attract
    certain populations, the homeless and the others.
3
                So I was wondering how much the
4
5
    restaurant/retail business would impact that
    population and ourselves. So that was my concern on
6
    behalf of the church. Will the business enhance the
7
8
    community or will it become yet another trouble
           I guess one of my questions is, with the
9
10
    restaurant parking, how much of a problem that may
11
    become.
             There's a lot of parking on Mt. Vernon
             But the question is, how will the restaurant
12
    Street.
13
    impact parking around there? And, again, bringing an
14
    undesirable element to that particular corner.
15
    was basically my concern on behalf of the church.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Thank you. How many tables
    are you going to you have?
17
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have nine or ten
18
             But these are small table for two people.
19
    tables.
20
                MR. EINGORN: So like 20, 30 people at
21
    most?
22
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
                                 Yes.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Is there any parking for
24
    the store itself?
25
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's on the street, yes,
```

cause there's a lot of parking. 1 2 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: If this application is approved, I pray and hope that you 3 would coincide with the police department and help 4 5 keep your property clean, you know. Again, I ride down that area a lot and I see a lot of people 6 loitering. So if you could curtail the loitering 7 8 around your store, that would be a plus for the 9 neighborhood. 10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Okay. 11 CHAIRMAN HANCE: There's also a Chinese food store on the opposite a little further down that 12 13 draws -- well, they're mainly take-out, though, so 14 they draw a lot of traffic. But you're both take-out 15 and eat-in? 16 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. CHAIRMAN HANCE: There is parking. 17 Ιt used to be a school back there but there's parking on 18 this way. People always park on Broadway. I think 19 20 there's two apartments across the street. I know 21 exactly where the church is because we're actually 22 900 Broadway so we're actually Camden County OEO. So 23 you're kind of caddy-corner to me. 24 MR. RODRIGUEZ: So across the street is a 25 gas station.

```
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Do you have -- the
1
2
    top floor, do you own that too or just the store?
3
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Both.
                                        So you have
    apartments upstairs?
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: He has a lease.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: All right.
6
                                                    So
7
    you're just leasing the first floor then?
8
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, that's right.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
10
                                  I have some questions
11
    for the church. So you guys are mostly there on
    Sunday evening, correct?
12
13
                REVEREND SCOTT: Sunday morning, Saturday
14
    and one Thursday a month with food give-away.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Right, I remember.
16
    Because I drive up and down Broadway also. And you
    guys keep it nice and clean over there too.
17
18
                REVEREND SCOTT:
                                  We try.
19
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And there's a big lot
20
    besides you. Do you guys own that lot beside you?
2.1
                REVEREND SCOTT: Yes, we do.
22
                MR. EINGORN: You said you've already
23
    been on contact with the police?
24
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: So you're prepared to deal
```

with anybody who is hanging outside? 1 2 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. MR. EINGORN: Anybody else in the public 3 that would like to be heard on this application? 4 Hearing none, we'll close the public portion. 5 The Board has heard the testimony of the 6 applicant and Reverend Scott regarding this 7 8 application. The Board should do a discussion regarding the request for Certificate of 9 Nonconforming use and then make a motion. 10 I'm going to go first. 11 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I think it's a good thing because that building is 12 13 occupied. When it's not, they sleep there; they got 14 the tents up. It's a headache. I think if we all 15 work together, the church, the restaurant and OEO, we 16 could kind of keep everything calmed down out there. I'm actually the director of security for 17 Camden County OEO so I do all the streets. We have 18 16 different buildings throughout the county. 19 where our main office is. So I'm especially there so 20 21 I watch the church. I definitely watch the 22 restaurant. Somebody new coming into the neighborhood, I definitely watch them. I think if we 23 all work together as one, we can communicate, we'll 24 25 be okay.

1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

MS. ALSTON: I like the fact that it's not going to be an empty building there but actually going to be a restaurant. I think it's going to put some people to work which is always a benefit. But him opening every day, it's going to probably let people know that someone is there caring for the property so that's going to be helpful. There may be challenges along the way but overall it's a good idea.

MS. MERRICKS: I think it's a good opportunity for the people coming out of the church. They can get some good food and go right home. And maybe he can give out coupons and make everybody work together. Right?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I can also say that it used to be a corner store already with a restaurant in the rear, so that's really nothing new to the neighborhood. I think we'll have necessarily less traffic because it used to be a corner store where people came for bread, milk. It was constant, so I think dedicated to a restaurant. I will be by to check the food out. I think it's a great idea. We're having a lot of fires again. A lot of vacant buildings have been catching on fire with the

```
homeless getting inside of there. So I think
1
2
    anything that would occupy, it's a plus.
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a motion?
3
4
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion that we
5
    accept.
6
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Second.
7
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
    Chairman Hance.
8
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
10
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
13
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
15
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
17
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
19
                MR. BRITO BUENO:
                                   Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
21
    none opposed, the motion passes. Congratulations.
22
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Don't forget the sign.
23
                MR. RODRIGUEZ:
                                 Thank you.
24
                MR. EINGORN: The next application is
25
    Roger Machigal, 2500 Baird Boulevard. Good evening,
```

```
Counsel. You want to put your appearance on the
1
2
    record?
3
                MR. IZZO:
                            Charles Izzo representing the
    applicant, Roger Machigal, 2500 Baird Blvd.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Machigal, would you
    raise your right hand, please.
6
7
                ROGER D. MACHIGAL, having first been duly
8
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
9
    follows:
10
11
12
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name
    and address for the record.
13
14
                MR. MACHIGAL: Roger Machigal, 1138
15
    Cambridge Avenue, Camden, New Jersey.
16
                MR. IZZO: Mr. Machigal, you would like
    to use the property at 2500 to run a business; is
17
    that correct?
18
19
                MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, correct.
20
                MR. IZZO: And what's the building being
    used for now?
2.1
22
                MR. MACHIGAL: Right now it's empty.
23
                MR. IZZO: Do you know how the building
24
    was previously used before it was empty?
25
                MR. MACHIGAL:
                                No. That was a long time
```

```
that building was closed. I really don't know what
1
2
    was there.
3
                MR. IZZO: So on your table and on my
    folder, there's a site plan that was prepared.
4
    says Marlton Pike, Baird Boulevard and it shows an
5
    odd five-sided building, one-story building; is that
6
7
    correct?
8
                MR. MACHIGAL:
                                Yes.
                                      Correct.
9
                MR. IZZO: And that's the building that
10
    you're approaching the Board about tonight, the
11
    one-story red building that sits at that corner.
12
                MR. MACHIGAL:
                               Yes.
13
                MR. IZZO: And on your site plan, you
14
    have parking spaces drawn in. Is that on the paved
15
    area around the building?
16
                MR. MACHIGAL: Yes.
                                      It's around the
    building inside the property.
17
18
                            The building is an odd shape.
                MR. IZZO:
    It's got five sides and you're showing a paved area
19
    surrounding the building on three sides with parking
20
21
    spaces drawn in?
22
                MR. MACHIGAL:
                               Right.
                                        What's your
    question again?
23
24
                MR. IZZO: Parking spaces eight feet,
```

eight feet, like these spaces?

```
MR. MACHIGAL: Yes. We already mentioned
1
2
    all the ones.
                MR. IZZO: What's the purpose of those
3
    parking areas?
4
                MR. MACHIGAL: Well, for the one on
5
    Marlton Pike, the parking that I got on Marlton Pike,
6
    I'm going to use cars that are waiting for my
7
8
    service. And when I'm finished, they can go to the
    Marlton Pike parking spot where the customer can pick
9
10
    it up.
11
                MR. IZZO: What kind of service are you
    going to provide?
12
13
                MR. MACHIGAL: I'm going to do mechanics.
14
    Like the name I choose "Fast Way" because I'm going
15
    to do fast things like brakes, oil change, some kind
16
    of stuff. I don't have too many cars on the
17
    property.
                MR. IZZO: So you're going to service
18
    vehicles inside the building or around the outside of
19
20
    the building?
2.1
                MR. MACHIGAL: Where you can see the
22
    parking spot on Marlton Pike, I got enough space to
    make the service right there and then park the other
23
    cars on the Baird Boulevard Street.
24
25
```

MR. IZZO: What's going to be inside the

```
1
    walls?
2
                MR. MACHIGAL: Inside the can be building
    can be my tools, all the things I will need to make
3
4
    the service to the cars.
5
                MR. IZZO: Are vehicles going to be
    brought it into building?
6
7
                MR. MACHIGAL: I'm thinking on doing this
    for the wintertime, but I need to start working first
8
    to do that kind of thing.
9
                MR. IZZO: Mr. Machigal, who is the owner
10
11
    of this property?
12
                MR. MACHIGAL: My wife.
                                          That's Ms.
13
    Lillian Noreaga. Does she support your application
14
    here?
15
                MR. MACHIGAL:
                                Yes.
                MR. IZZO: How will it benefit this area
16
    of the City for you to have this business in this
17
18
    area?
19
                MR. MACHIGAL: Right now it's an empty
20
    lot -- it's an empty property. What I can see is a
21
    lot people get into the back of the building and do
22
    bad things, trash and everything. The other thing
    I have before was, I parked a couple of cars one
23
24
    time. And they get into the building and break the
25
    door and everything. One time when I restored to
```

```
active operations, I'm going to make good security
1
2
    cameras and everything. And it can be a little bit
3
    more secured space for the place.
                MR. IZZO: How long has your wife,
4
5
    Lillian, how long has she owned this property?
                MR. MACHIGAL: For like around a year.
6
7
                MR. IZZO: Have you been able to use it
    at all?
8
9
                               No. We are still working
                MR. MACHIGAL:
10
    to clean up.
11
                MR. IZZO: Has anyone else approached you
    to rent this property or use it for any other
12
13
    purpose?
14
                MR. MACHIGAL: Yes.
                                     We got one people
15
    that they want use it for a office. But we really
    want to use it because that's what we're doing and we
16
    both work for our own business.
17
                MR. IZZO: I have no further question to
18
19
              The Board is going to ask you questions.
    ask you.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. I'll give you some
21
    history on that building. That building used to be
22
    an insurance company years ago. And from there it
    was a flea market after flea markets. It's kind of
23
    tight for a garage and I'll tell you why. You're on
24
25
    a caddy-corner there. You have a church right behind
```

you so you're limited for parking. Baird Boulevard 1 2 is jammed with parking. That's why they park in the middle and put signs up there, "No Parking on the 3 Grass" now. So it's even more difficult to put a 4 5 garage there. There is a garage across the street 6 7 that's fenced which is much bigger than your spot. 8 It used to be Miller's years ago. But now I think --I don't know if they resold it or renamed it. 9 There's a fish company right here which I think they 10 11 closed now. And then across from you it's a gas station that we passed before the laundromat. 12 13 see why someone would want to rent it for an office, 14 that's about how big it is. I don't think they want 15 you, the City, to fix cars on the outside. They 16 would rather you pull them into a garage. And then you got waste; you got cars 17 18 coming in. That corner is congested. I lived there. I lived on 348 Boyd Street. Then I went to 19 20 Mitchell Street and that place has been there 21 forever. And no one was ever too sure what to put 22 there because of the space and the way it's angled. 23 It's just a busy, busy area. You got Cousin's right there, a spill-over from Cousin's. So there's a lot 24

of big businesses there. If you go there around

```
school time, it's impossible from the buses, from the
1
2
    traffic coming from Baird Boulevard to Marlton Pike.
3
    That is my few issues that I have with that being a
4
    mechanic shop and especially when you're working
5
    outside.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Outside, yes.
6
7
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're going to be the
8
    only mechanic there?
9
                MR. MACHIGAL:
                               What?
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're going to be the
11
    only one doing the work fixing the cars?
12
                MR. MACHIGAL: Say that again?
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Fixing the cars.
                                                    You're
14
    going to be the only one fixing the cars?
15
                MR. MACHIGAL: How long I'm fixing the
16
    cars?
                MR. IZZO: No. Just you or do you have
17
    other people?
18
19
                MR. MACHIGAL: For now it will be just
    me, my wife in the office. Maybe one more helper.
20
2.1
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: You can't put a car
22
    inside the working side?
                MR. MACHIGAL: Yes, that's what I'm doing
23
24
          I just want to start, you know, with the --
25
    have the application agreement so I can open the door
```

to work inside. In cold weather I can work inside. 1 2 One time I got the permit for working as a mechanic 3 on that place. I started working on the permit for opening a gate on the building and I can work inside 4 because it will be better. 5 6 REVEREND MARTINEZ: Can you put a lift inside and work inside? 7 8 MR. MACHIGAL: I don't really going need a lift inside because I don't want to do big things. 9 It's just mostly the service. That's why I choose 10 11 the name, "Fast Way," you know, because it's going to be fast things that I can do on the ground. I don't 12 13 need to lift the car. 14 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you going to put a 15 fence up there, six-foot fence? MR. MACHIGAL: Yeah, a six-foot fence all 16 Two doors, one can be on Marlton Pike for 17 around. 18 getting to the entrance and one for the opposite side on Baird Boulevard following the traffic, you know. 19 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: 20 It seems like you 21 got to do a lot of outfitting to do in order to get 22 inside that thing. For you to be working outside, 23 you know, it's an eyesore pretty much. You know, you got cars; you got hoods; you got oil running on the 24

ground, and things of that nature.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think it he could put the fence that would cover the church. His car can't go on the church lot. If you put a fence all around the property, it would be a lot better.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm worried about the traffic and I'm worried about the areas.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: What I'm saying like the traffic, you're going to get traffic anywhere we go. Today there's traffic everywhere. But you don't have to agree with me. I think if he put a fence around his property, have a gate -- I go through there every single morning when I go to work.

I work at the Kennedy Towers and I travel through there back and forth and I know how busy it is and how dangerous is that corner there. But we all are trying to make a living. And I think if he builds that fence around that property and have a gate to put at least two cars, whatever car you can fit in there, I think it should be all right.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm just concerned with one worker. I'm concerned with parking cars on Baird Boulevard. And I'll say that because where I live on Broadway, when they have something down the street, no parking. And when I try to get home and I'm like you, I work all day. I want to park close to my

```
house. Like I park down on (Inaudible) Street until
1
2
    they closed up and moved on. Let's just say if he
    has a bunch of cars, he's not going to be able to
3
    take to those cars.
4
5
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                      How many cars can
    you fit on to the property legal?
6
7
                MR. MACHIGAL: Thirteen cars inside the
8
    property.
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you got 13 cars.
    Where are you going to work at?
10
11
                MR. MACHIGAL: I still have the space for
12
    working.
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Did you see the
14
    property; did you go to the property?
15
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you got 13 cars
    around there.
17
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: It was back then an
18
19
    insurance company.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So I'm just looking to
21
    the future. You really can't park them all. It's
22
    the corner. If you look at the corner, it's like
23
    you're right at the light.
24
                MS. ALSTON: So I'm thinking when you
```

said light work, you're thinking about oil changes,

```
maybe a tire change here and there. What wouldn't
1
2
    you take for a job? What would be too big?
                                                  Just to
3
    get an idea of what you would be doing?
                MR. MACHIGAL: Well, brakes are mostly
4
5
    the kind of job that takes more time when you have to
    change the rodders. That's the most time. Like two
6
    hours for a car maybe, two to three hours maybe.
7
8
                MS. ALSON: That's time consuming with
    the cars. But that's underneath the car.
9
    doesn't --
10
11
                MR. MACNIGAL: No. You just use a
    regular jack to put up the car.
12
13
                MS. ALSTON: Do you at any point seeing
14
    maybe a tow truck trying to get in there?
15
                MR. MACHIGAL: Not a tow truck.
                                                  I don't
    think no tow trucks.
16
17
                MS. ALSTON: You're not taking those type
    of customers?
18
19
                MR. MACHIGAL: Not those type of
20
    customers.
2.1
                MS. ALSTON: So they have to be able to
22
    drive in.
23
                MR. MACHIGAL:
                               Yes.
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: In and out?
24
25
                MR. MACHIGAL: That's why the name is
```

```
"Fast Way."
1
2
                MS. ALSTON: I'm just getting an idea.
                                I'd like to ask a
3
                MS. MERRICKS:
    question.
               I'm a little confused with the application
4
5
    which the application was zoned for auto repair and a
    six-foot fence. But it says, the purpose is auto
6
    sales on this portion here.
7
8
                MR. BRITO BUENO: Do we have a plan?
    Where is the exit?
9
                               There's a site plan.
10
                MR. EINGORN:
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  My only other issue is,
12
    did you talk to the church?
13
                MR. MACHIGAL: You know, if I have one or
14
    two cars for sale, I can park it.
                MS. ALSTON: You know what, this does say
15
16
    automobile sales. Are you intending to sell?
17
                MR. MACHIGAL: Well, you know, if I got
    couple of cars. I work as a mechanic. If I got a
18
    car and I can re-sell it, I'm going to park it on the
19
20
    same property.
                              Isn't that like a whole lot
2.1
                MS. ALSTON:
22
    more "permitting" involved?
23
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        That's more cars
24
    that will be sitting on that property now because now
25
    you're trying to sell the cars; not going in and out
```

```
If now you got six, seven cars there for sale.
1
    now.
2
                MR. MACHIGAL: No, that's too much.
3
    That's going to be too much cars.
                MR. EINGORN: I think that's also a
4
5
    different --
                MR. MACHIGAL: Any way for this, for six
6
    to seven cars, I would need a dealer license and I
7
    don't --
8
9
                MR. EINGORN: Right. That's a different
    variance.
10
11
                MR. BRITO BUENO: I have a question.
    see all the parking spaces, where are you going to
12
13
    work?
14
                MR. MACHIGAL: There is enough space on
15
    the side of Marlton Pike. Again, one time I got the
    permit, I'm working for working inside the building
16
    because inside is enough space. Again, I'm not going
17
    to need a lift so I don't want to start with a lift.
18
                MS. ALSTON: Have you thought of trash
19
    disposal; disposing of tires, oils and things like
20
2.1
    that?
22
                               I already had a mechanic
                MR. MACHIGAL:
           So for that kind of job I can do it on my
23
    other place that I have. So that's the thing, I try
24
25
    to work on this place. For the things takes me time
```

```
on other place. You know, because I got customers
1
2
    who only want brakes and then I can send them to the
    other place to do the brakes, oil changes, fast
3
    things. Because of the place I already have, I'm
4
5
    doing oil change, some transmission. So that's the
    thing. That's the point. Don't have this car on
6
    that place. You know what I told to my other quy,
7
8
    you know, I'm going to send somebody for change the
    brakes. So he don't really have the car for too long
9
    because he can do it at the same that the customer
10
11
    gets there.
                MR. IZZO:
12
                           I think my client's wife has
13
    accomplished and gotten rid of the flea markets.
14
    hope we can keep that out of there.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  I noticed on the
    holidays there's a lot of people selling Valentines
16
    stuff, Easter stuff, stuff like that on that
17
18
    property.
                MR. MACHIGAL: Yes. One time one of the
19
    inspectors called about if I -- if we gave the permit
20
2.1
    to sell that stuff in the property.
22
                               Is there anybody in the
                MR. EINGORN:
    public would like to be heard on 2500 Baird Blvd.?
23
24
                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                        Yes.
25
                MR. EINGORN: Please come forward.
```

Would you raise your right hand, please. 1 2 BARRY MOYE, having first been duly 3 sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as 4 5 follows: 6 7 MR. EINGORN: Please state full name and address for the record. 8 9 MR. MOYE: It's Barry Moye, 2536 Baird I'm the trustee for Scott's Methodist 10 Boulevard. 11 Church which is the building that's directly right next to and the property that's right behind his. 12 13 own the property that sits right next to which is 14 about maybe ten feet -- maybe five feet walking 15 foot-to-foot; and as well as on the opposite side we own that property which creates that weird triangle 16 that Mr. Machigal has. 17 With that, I'm asking for the Board to 18 deny the application. One, that's a very high 19 traffic area. That's like NASCAR out there. At that 20 21 light, people are from the turning lane are trying to 22 take off and execute quick lefthand turns into oncoming traffic, which then the pedestrians 23 24 currently right there on the side, are attempting to 25 cross across the street to make it over to the fish

market or the opposite side where the fish market is just to give you a point of reference.

They're like backing up into the spot of where that property sits to make sure they are safe and secure. So by having a fence there, it would take that security away from those residents that know what happens and goes on there consistently on an ongoing basis that everyone is trying to beat the center lane that's going straight. Also, parking, there is no parking on Baird Boulevard nor Marlton Pike. We have three spots for the church because there's a bus stop literally right in front of the church. And we technically can get a ticket for parking in the bus stop zone if the police went through and actually gave citations for it.

So we only have three parking spots right there for parking. And with the parking on Sundays, it's very, very tight already. We've actually communicated with the community and even made sure that we could park in their spots while they're gone. And then when they get back, we have a member out there so we can just get the cars moved so they can go. We also on Grand Avenue, the same thing.

We communicate with those parts of the community so we can use the spaces when we're there.

So we're not there just on Sundays. We're there on 1 Wednesdays; we're there during the daytime. 3 our best to make sure we're there for the community as the events and things are going on as we enter 4 5 into the season. The gates that are up are currently our gates. So I heard Mr. Machigal speak about 7 cutting the gate or something. Those are our gates so I'm not exactly sure. MR. EINGORN: I think he was talking about putting up a fence and then having a gate in

2

6

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

his fence.

MR. MOYE: Okay. Because there are really no others. Just the driveway. We have a driveway that fits this property so we use that from time-to-time. So once he put up the gate, I physically even while he was describing it, if I'm correct, 13 cars tightly, tightly could fit in there; tightly. For the sense of security, that's going to be rough. We all know that the homeless do traffic into our inner City and with our community. We've worked with the police. Also we added cameras and had them installed out there. We have some other added features as like flood lights coming out into the community to make things work.

As in the auto repair coming to this

```
area, I don't think that it would be in the best
1
2
    interest of that community, hence, they are going to
    be on the opposite side. And I'm not sure of their
3
    reasoning and what they do. But when it's time, I'm
4
5
    always going over to ask them, hey, could you move
    your cars; I understand you're working on them and
6
    they're just sitting here temporarily. I get it.
7
8
    But we need the space too. So there's always a fight
    for parking in this part for space. I just want to
9
10
    make sure I tap on everything that's inside that's
11
    being asked for. That's it. Do you have any
    questions for me?
12
13
                MS. ALSTON: Are you using the lot?
14
                MR. MOYE: Sometimes we'll park -- excuse
15
         Currently they have four cars parked on there. I
    don't know exactly what they're doing.
16
                MS. ALSTON: No, no. Are you using the
17
    lot to park when they're not there?
18
                MR. MOYE: On Sunday we have members that
19
20
    park there where we try to keep them out and telling
21
    them it's not our lot. Last April we were having an
22
    Easter Egg Hunt and someone, and it wasn't the young
    lady that said purchased the lot but it was a
23
    gentleman that came over and stated that he purchased
24
25
    the lot and was trying to buy the back half of our
```

```
lot where the right side of the building faced.
1
2
    I turned him down saying, you know, it's not for
3
    sale.
4
                MS. MERRICKS: You said it was another
5
    gentleman?
                MR. MOYE: Yes.
                                 They said this young
6
7
    lady right here owns the lot. It wasn't.
8
    another gentleman that came to me when we were having
    the Easter Egg Hunt and he said, I just purchased the
9
    lot; are you interested in selling the back part of
10
11
    the lot to us and I said, no. This is the first time
12
    I heard that. I thought it was gentleman that owned
13
    the lot.
              That's how represented himself as.
14
                MS. MERRICKS: Oh, okay.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you said Grand
             Is that the opposite of the church?
16
    Street.
17
                MR. MOYE: Yes.
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is that a one-way or
19
    two-way?
20
                MR. MOYE:
                           That's a one-way.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And there's also
2.1
22
    apartments and houses?
23
                MR. MOYE: Yes.
                                  They're duplexes.
24
    There's a string of 10 homes and then there's
25
    duplexes on the left side as well as the right
```

```
side.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So these are all off of
    Baird Boulevard?
3
4
                MR. MOYE: Yes.
5
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Going one-way.
                MR. MOYE: A one-way, yes.
6
7
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have no more
8
    questions.
9
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
                MR. IZZO: I have his wife who wants to
10
11
    speak.
12
                MR. EINGORN: You want to testify on
13
    support of the application?
14
                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
15
                MR. EINGORN: She's the property owner,
    right?
16
17
                MR. IZZO: Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Is there anybody else in
19
    the public that wants to be heard on this
    application? Seeing and hearing none, we'll close
20
21
    the public portion. Now you can come forward.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
    hand, please.
23
24
25
                LILIANA NOREAGA, having first been duly
```

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sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
1
2
    follows:
3
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
4
    address for the record.
5
                MS. NOREAGA: My name is Liliana Noreaga,
6
7
    1138 Cambridge Street.
                MR. IZZO: You wanted to answer what this
8
9
    gentlemen was talking about, right?
10
                MS. NOREAGA:
                              No.
                                    I want say that I need
11
    to put the fence there because I have nine months
    with this property and everybody is going and putting
12
13
    their trash there. Everybody come and do a poop
14
    there. And my window is broke. So I need to put the
15
    fence.
16
                MR. IZZO:
                            The question is, Mr. Roger is
    using the property as a --
17
18
                MS. NOREAGA: Yes, I know.
                                             I have
    another shop and there I do the big things. But now
19
20
    the thing is, I need the fence there and I need to
21
    start to work like with the things like oil change,
22
    brakes only, something like that.
23
                MR. IZZO: You're saying mainly you need
24
    the fence?
25
                MS. NOREAGA:
                               Yes.
```

```
MR. IZZO: Whether or not Roger gets
1
2
    approved to work there, you need the fence?
3
                MS. NOREAGA: Yes.
                                     Thank you.
                MR. EINGORN: Thank you.
4
5
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I appreciate that you're
    going to put something there. Because like I said
6
    before, the homeless are getting inside buildings
7
8
    trying to stay warm or just find somewhere to sleep
    and they're causing fires. I appreciate you coming
9
    up for the fence because that protects your property,
10
11
    so I have no quarrels about that.
12
                MS. NOREAGA: And I'm waiting nine months
    for that. And I work nine to one full-time so wait
13
14
    long for that.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: My opinion is, I would
    think that you put something else there that would
16
    better service you than.
17
                MS. NOREAGA: I have years working on car
18
              I no change oil; I no change brakes.
19
    repairs.
20
    That's my job.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It says you have two
22
    garages, right?
23
                MS. NOREAGA: Yes.
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It sounds crazy but
25
    maybe an auto store. Something.
```

```
1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Basically you
2
    don't want this to be a storage yard. You got a
3
    building there, you got cars there. You're going to
    be bringing cars and storing them until customers
4
5
    come and pick them up.
                MR. MACHIGAL: We can't because in the
6
    other place they have, I have to keep the car the
7
8
    whole day because I don't have the time. If I open
    that place right there, I just got other people doing
9
10
    the job. That's going to be weekly. That's why of
11
    the name again, you know, "Fast Way."
12
                The car no going to be right there for
13
    the whole three days. Maybe sometimes, you know, if
14
    a part doesn't come, the car stays one day to
15
    another. But that's the thing, you know. And,
    again, the cars will be inside the property. I don't
16
    want to part cars on the walking way. That's why we
17
18
    want the fence too to cover the space we own.
    the thing.
19
20
                MR. EINGORN: It's so much frontage for a
21
    fence.
            I don't know.
22
                                       And it's on the
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
23
    corner.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Right. That's part of the
25
    reason why there's so much. It's got two front
```

yards. 1 2 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yeah, there's a 3 It's going to come up right to the curb. MS. ALSTON: In terms of the fence, it 4 5 takes away from that ugly blighted-look that comes from having a lot of vehicles that are not moving or 6 I think the fact that they're talking about 7 working. 8 moving them in and out and repairing them and they're small repairs, there shouldn't be a ton of cars 9 inside of that lot at any given point. I think if 10 11 they add the fence and camera for security, I believe it would be much safer there than it is now. 12 13 auto shop. It's like a menacing evil. You need ---14 MR. MACHIGAL: There's a lot of trash 15 back there. There's space back to the building. in the back of the building is space where you can 16 walk. You can't even enter on that space because 17 there's a lot of trash there. It's a lot of things 18 19 back there. 20 MS. ALSTON: Not well kept, yeah. 2.1 MR. MACHIGAL: We clean it up. We clean 22 up all this stuff right there like sheets and 23 everything where the people are sleeping on the floor 24 and everything. 25 REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think it's nice --

```
that corner there. It has been dirty forever.
1
2
    Building a fence is a good thing because like my
    colleague said, it will stop that view of seeing
3
    the -- and then if you fix up the building a little
4
    bit better than it is now, it will be even better.
5
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Izzo, did you notice
6
    for a site plan of any kind?
7
8
                MR. IZZO: I'm sorry?
9
                MR. EINGORN: The denial letter says,
10
    site plan approval or site plan waiver. Did you
11
    notice?
                MR. IZZO: Yes, I did take note of that.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: Right. Did you notice for
14
    any kind of site plan or a waiver?
15
                MR. IZZO: Yes. Our notice does mention
16
    it, the contingency of the fence having to be
    approved.
17
                              Right. Did the applicant
18
                MR. EINGORN:
    request a site plan waiver or anything related to
19
                The fence is more of a bulk variance
20
    site plan?
21
    because you're asking for a six-foot fence along the
22
    frontage where only four feet would be allowed.
23
                MR. IZZO: I reviewed it a few minutes
24
    ago. It says, approval or waiver is required;
25
    installation of six-foot fence.
```

MR. EINGORN: You mimic what was in the 1 2 denial letter. Okay. MR. IZZO: Public notice, yes. "Site 3 plan approval or waiver is required comma." And then 4 it says, "Installation of six-foot fence." 5 MR. EINGORN: Okay. We closed to the 6 public already. It's up to the Board to make a 7 decision first to do some discussion. 8 The applicant is requesting a use 9 10 variance for auto repair and then a bulk variance for 11 the height of the fence, and a site plan waiver, I guess, based upon what's in the notice. And then the 12 13 applicant must demonstrate off-street parking which 14 the applicant is testifying to related to the site 15 The Board can consider that and the weight of plan. the evidence based upon not only what's in the 16 application, but based upon your own knowledge of the 17 site conditions. 18 CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to say that I 19 can see the fence. I can definitely see the fence 20 21 going up for safety. And that will stop a lot of 22 parking on your property. 23 MS. ALSTON: I think the fence is going to take care of that look that you get from a lot of 24

vehicles, like that abandoned look. So if you have

25

```
the fence, that's going to help with that. I had a
1
2
    concern about maybe how the cars were coming in.
    they're saying there won't be tow trucks or things
3
    like that. They're basically going to be able to
4
5
    drive in and out. They don't think that's going to
    be there for a very long time. But he brought up a
6
    good question, like when it rains or snows, you're
7
8
    not going to be able to work out there, right?
                MR. MACHIGAL: That's what I'm talking
9
    before. One time I get the permit because I don't
10
11
    got the approval for what I'm doing, so I had to look
    for another thing because we own the property.
12
13
    once I get the approval, I can start working on the
14
    permit for opening a door on the building and working
15
    inside the building, because there's enough of space
    for working. One of you asked me, is that enough
16
    high for working inside. I said it's enough high for
17
    working. I not going to need a lift; you know,
18
    nothing for pulling up the car.
19
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: One question. Are you
21
    open every day?
22
                MR. MACHIGAL: No Sundays. Sundays is
23
    for the family. Thank God.
                MR. BRITO BUENO: This application is not
24
25
    complete. Is there anything specific like how is
```

```
going to be -- how are they going to get in, get out?
1
2
     How the tow truck --
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: There's no tow truck.
                MR. BRITO BUENO: Just in case they call
4
5
    a tow truck.
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: He can't have it.
6
    He just said it.
7
8
                MR. BRITO BUENO: Okay. How they going
    to work in the building; how big is the building; how
9
10
    high. Something specific. For me this application is
11
    kind of incomplete. It's missing a lot of stuff.
12
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to tell the
13
    Board this, that if you do not go and see the
14
    property in person, you can only go by what they tell
15
    you or what you would see on paper. But I go to
16
    every property because I want to make sure they're
    getting a fair shake.
17
                The reason why I'm on top of the property
18
    is because I used to live in that area many years.
19
                                                         Ι
20
    grew up there as a kid running around. So this is
21
    why I stated, this is why it was an insurance company
22
    because the property is not big enough for too much
    of anything else. I mean, you probably could put a
23
    steak shop there and it will work out.
24
25
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: A flower shop.
```

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Or a flower shop. 1 something that has constant traffic and stuff --2 REVEREND MARTINEZ: If he gets approved 3 to put the fence in there, right, now that's going to 4 5 change the view of that property of the building. Even if you paint that building a little bit nicer 6 than what it is right now. I mean, it will look 7 8 beautiful. Because that's a nice corner. Now, remember, we all are trying to make a living to 9 10 survive. And they purchased the property, God knows, 11 how much. I know the real owners back then. 12 13 know they paid a lot of money. If you pay so much 14 for a property, you can't do something with it, it's 15 kind of concerning. Me putting it in his shoes and all that money they invested and they're trying to be 16 legal coming here to us to get approval, I mean, it's 17 up to us to determine that. I mean, we could approve 18 the fence. We could take a chance on the mechanic if 19 we all agree to it. If not, we'll -- I think the 20 21 most important part is about the fence in there. 22 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Well, we're going to 23 flip it. And then you got to think about the neighbors, the neighborhood, the extra traffic. 24 25 The should have been REVEREND MARTINEZ:

```
1
    here.
2
                MS. MERRICKS:
                                They are.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        The fence that
4
5
    we're going to looking to approving, we have no plans
    or anything. We have nothing. You just said you're
6
    going to put a fence up, a six-foot fence.
7
8
    should have something on paper stating what type of
    fence it's going to be, chain-link fence or whether
9
    it's going to be a wrought iron fence or whatever.
10
11
    You know, just for us to say, okay, you can put a
    fence up. You can put a wooden fence up for all we
12
13
    know.
14
                MR. MACHTGAL:
                                That would be a chain-link
15
    fence.
            You know, you want to see the people -- the
    people have to see what you're doing inside the
16
    building. So it has to be a chained fence. It can't
17
    be closed up. It will be a business any way.
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        I make a motion to
19
20
    say no.
             Deny.
21
                MR. EINGORN: So we have a motion to
22
    deny.
           Is there a second?
                                  I'll second.
23
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
24
                MR. EINGORN: We're going to take a
25
    roll-call vote on a motion to deny the application.
```

```
As a reminder to the Board as it has been in the past
1
2
    denial motions, a "yes vote," is a "yes" to deny.
3
    Chairman Hance.
                 CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
4
5
                 MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
                 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
6
                                        Yes.
7
                 MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
8
                 REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     No.
9
                 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
10
                 MS. MERRICKS:
                                Yes.
11
                 MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
12
                 MS. ALSTON:
                              No.
13
                 MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
14
                 MR. BRITO BUENO:
                                   Yes.
15
                 MR. EINGORN: Having four in favor of
    denial and two opposed, the motion carries.
16
    sorry, your application has been denied.
17
18
                 MR. MACHIGAL: One question what about
19
    the fence; we can put a fence on the property?
20
                 MR. EINGORN: The whole application has
    been denied.
2.1
22
                 MR. MACHIGAL:
                                So what do I have to do
23
    because the people are still going to park down there
24
    on the property.
25
                 MR. EINGORN: You'll need to talk to
```

```
Mr. Izzo. We can't give you legal advice.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: The next application is
    Melanie Garcia, NS Sherman 60 E. 28th Street.
3
                MR. IZZO: This is the application of
4
5
    Melanie Garcia and this is Melanie Garcia at the
    podium here. She's going to present her application
6
    for North Side of Sherman which means it's not a
7
8
    house or a building. It's a vacant lot. It's on
    Sherman Avenue and she has an interest in it
9
    expressed in her application. She wants to use it in
10
11
    connection with a business that's already established
    and not up for approval tonight. And we're going to
12
13
    ask her to testify about that.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Garcia, would you raise
15
    your right hand, please.
16
                MELANIE GARCIA, having first been duly
17
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
18
19
    follows:
20
21
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
22
    address for the record.
23
                MS. GARCIA: Melanie Garcia, 132 N. 21st
    Street, Camden, New Jersey.
24
25
                MR. IZZO: Ms. Melanie Garcia, you gave
```

```
the court reporter your home address. But you also
1
2
    have a business in Camden; is that correct?
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
3
4
                MR. IZZO: Where is that business
    located?
5
                MS. GARCIA: At 2817 Sherman Avenue.
6
                MR. IZZO: 2817 Sherman?
7
                MS. GARCIA:
8
                              Yes.
9
                MR. IZZO: That's not the property you're
    here about tonight?
10
11
                MS. GARCIA:
                             No, that's a business.
12
                MR. IZZO: The property that you made
    application on, is identified as North Side of
13
    Sherman, 60 feet east of 28th Street?
14
15
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
                MR. IZZO: Is that near your business?
16
17
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
                MR. IZZO: How is it situated in relation
18
    to your business? Is it next to it or is it down the
19
20
    street?
21
                MS. GARCIA: Yes, it's next to it on the
22
    same street.
23
                MR. IZZO: What is your business at 2817
24
    Sherman Avenue?
25
                MS. GARCIA: It's an auto repair.
```

```
MR. IZZO: Legally approved and
1
2
    licensed?
                MS. GARCIA:
3
                              Yes.
4
                MR. IZZO: You actually operate that
5
    business --
6
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
7
                MR. IZZO: -- with someone else or by
8
    yourself?
                MS. GARCIA: Yes, with someone else.
9
                MR. IZZO: Who is that other person?
10
11
                MS. GARCIA:
                              My mom.
12
                          Your mom?
                MR. IZZO:
13
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
14
                MR. IZZO: And when you did start that
15
    auto repair business on Sherman Avenue?
16
                              Like four years ago.
                MS. GARCIA:
17
                MR. IZZO: You've come to the Board
    tonight about a lot along side your business?
18
19
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
20
                MR. IZZO: And I think you made this
21
    drawing that shows Sherman Avenue, 2817 M & A Auto
22
    Repair at Lot 15 which is not your application, but
    Lot 14 and which is your application.
23
24
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
                MR. IZZO: And it's on the same side of
25
```

```
the street as your garage is?
1
2
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
                MR. IZZO: And you divided it into
3
    parking spaces eight feet wide each, the lot you've
4
5
    identified as 40 feet wide on Sherman going back 100
    feet?
6
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
8
                MR. IZZO: And you believe that if you
9
    measure these parking spaces, you will have these 8,
    12 -- 14 -- I guess to the left, 11 spaces?
10
11
                MS. GARCIA:
                             Yes.
12
                MR. IZZO: Why do you need those parking
13
    spaces there?
14
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Since I have the business
15
    like I got a lot of customers so I want to put the
    customers' cars in the parking lot so I can have like
16
    outside so they cannot make like traffic when people
17
18
    are going by.
                MR. IZZO: So why they can't they just
19
20
    park in the street in front of your garage?
                              Because of traffic.
2.1
                MS. GARCIA:
22
                          Too crowded?
                MR. IZZO:
23
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Excuse me?
24
                MR. IZZO:
                            It's too crowded to park on
25
    the street out there?
```

```
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
1
2
                MR. IZZO: What are you going to do to
3
    change this property if the Board approves your use
    of it as a auxiliary parking lot? What are you going
4
    to do?
5
                MS. GARCIA: I want to put -- because I
6
7
    want to put like cement and make the parking two
    sides.
8
9
                MR. IZZO: Some form of paving?
                MS. GARCIA:
10
                              Yes.
11
                MR. IZZO:
                          Do you propose to build any
    structure, any booth or cabin or house of anything on
12
13
    this property that you're here about tonight?
14
                MS. GARCIA:
                              No.
15
                MR. IZZO: The Board is going to ask you
    questions about your application.
16
17
                MS. MERRICKS: Do you have pictures of
    your business?
18
19
                MS. GARCIA: Yes. I gave it to the
20
    Board.
21
                MS. MERRICKS: Oh, you gave it to us
22
    already?
23
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you want to park the
25
    cars after being repaired or when they're fixed?
```

```
MS. GARCIA: No. When they're done,
1
2
    fixed, like we just put it in the parking lot so the
3
    customers can come and get the car later.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So they can pick them up
4
    and --
5
                MS. GARCIA: Yes. So we're going to have
6
    it like outside the streets.
7
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: How far is it from your
9
    business?
                MS. GARCIA: It's like -- it's one block
10
11
    is dividing. Not a lot. It's next to it.
12
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Let me think. If you're
13
    on Sherman Street, is your business on the lefthand
14
    side?
15
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And you turn, is it like
    a sharp turn?
17
18
                MS. GARCIA: No, it's in the same
19
    street.
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're on the same
21
    street and --
22
                MS. GARCIA: The shop is right here and
23
    then the lot is going to be like next to it.
24
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Is it a
25
    transmission place?
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE:
1
2
                MS. GARCIA:
                              It's an auto repair.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Auto repair.
4
    further down Sherman. It's like, this is Conrail
5
    here and then it's the detail shop. And then you're
    the next block down, am I right, on the lefthand
6
    side?
7
                MS. GARCIA: Yes, it's next to it.
8
9
                MR. EINGORN: Is this the garage?
                MS. GARCIA: Yes, that's the shop.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: This was attached to the
12
    application from last month. I don't know why.
13
    these are the photographs I think the applicant
    referred to.
14
15
                MS. GARCIA: This one is like the lot.
                MR. EINGORN: Yes, we have these.
16
    is the lot in question, right?
17
18
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: They wanted to see the
20
    shop.
2.1
                MS. GARCIA:
                              That's the shop, yeah.
22
                MR. EINGORN:
                               I'm looking at the bottom
23
    photograph here. This is the entrance to the
24
    property?
25
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: And then, is your shop here
1
2
    or over here?
3
                MS. GARCIA: This way, yes, going to the
4
    left.
5
                MR. EINGORN: If we're standing in the
    street looking at the entrance, it's to the right?
6
7
                MS. GARCIA:
                             Yes.
8
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Okay.
9
                MR. IZZO: There just happens to be a
    15-foot lot that is not involved in the application
10
11
    in between her garage and this lot that she owns.
12
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: How long have you had
13
    your business?
14
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Four years.
15
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You and your mom,
16
    correct?
17
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
                MR. IZZO: What's the name of your
18
19
    business on Sherman?
20
                MS. GARCIA: M&A Auto Repair.
21
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Is there already a curb cut
22
    for the property that you can drive into it --
23
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: -- where it goes down like
25
    this?
```

```
MS. GARCIA: Yes, it has it.
1
 2
                MR. EINGORN:
                               It has it already?
 3
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: I'm looking at the letter
 4
 5
    attached to the application dated December 1st,
    2023.
           The applicant states: The relief might be
 6
    granted but condition that a variance in this case is
 7
    not to run with the land; that if the lot is ever
8
    sold, that the variance would terminate. Are you
9
    still agreeable to that condition?
10
11
                MR. IZZO:
                           Right. So just pointing out,
12
    the Board has wide discretion. They exercise every
13
    single time they come here and Ms. Garcia and her mom
14
    may not have this business forever. The Board might
15
    consider whether the relief would be forever.
                                                    So
16
    it's an immediate need and it's an obvious benefit to
    the street there. But I understand, the Board has to
17
    think of decades to come.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Any additional questions
19
20
    for the applicant?
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: How many cars do you
2.2
    think that lot holds?
                              Like 11.
23
                MS. GARCIA:
                                Eleven?
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
25
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And now right it's an
1
2
    issue with too many cars in the street?
3
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Yes.
                                    Because I got like
4
    neighbors so they need -- they don't have like
5
    parking for their houses so they have to leave their
    cars outside so we can't take peoples' parking
6
    because they don't have no where to park.
7
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So the cars that's fixed
9
    are going to put them in that lot --
                MS. GARCIA:
10
                              Yes.
11
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: -- and the cars to be
    fixed, you want to keep --
12
13
                MS. GARCIA: Yes so their neighbors can
14
    have a space too so they can have their cas in the
15
    street too. That's basically what I'm doing too.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you going to pave
    that or what are you going to do; leave it the way it
17
18
    is when you park the cars up there?
19
                             No. I'm going to make like
                MS. GARCIA:
20
    parking.
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Concrete.
22
                MS. GARCIA: Yes, concrete. And make
23
    like the parking lot.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody have further
25
    questions or we open to the public?
```

```
1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: We can open to the
2
    public.
3
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public would
    like to be heard on the application for North Side
4
5
    Sherman 60 E. 28th Street? Hearing none, we'll close
    the public portion.
6
                The applicant is here tonight requesting
7
8
    a use variance approval to turn a residential lot in
    the R-2 Zone into a parking lot which would be
9
10
    accessory to an auto garage not on the lot.
11
    stand-alone parking lot is obviously not permitted in
    the R-2 Zone. We've heard the applicant's testimony
12
13
    and now it's time for the Board to do a discussion of
14
    the Positive and Negative Criteria and make a motion.
15
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        I think it would
16
    be a Positive to do something with that open lot if
    you're going to fence it in and maybe some security
17
18
    lighting will help secure the neighborhood.
    it's a good think.
19
20
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think it's a good
21
    thing.
22
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  I think it's a great
23
    idea for Camden. We do have a lot of parking issues
    in Camden. And to take some of the cars off that
24
25
    street.
             I know exactly where you are. And to put
```

```
them somewhere safe. I will say you should have
1
    lighting; some type of security there because you may
2
    have some overnight cars.
3
                MS. GARCIA: Yes.
                                    We have cameras in the
5
    shop that's looking towards the parking place.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  I will suggest with
6
    conditions that if they sell the business, that they
7
    have to come back before us for that lot. Because I
8
    don't want that to go into like a commercial mode
9
10
    where they're now selling cars on the lot.
11
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Sounds good.
12
                MS. MERRICKS: I think it's a great idea.
13
    Security is really big with the young people. That's
14
    what they look for security and all that stuff.
15
    You're young and creating a business so I think it's
    an awesome opportunity for Camden. I think you'll be
16
    a good role model for other young girls in Camden
17
18
    being a business owner so young, so I think it's a
    great awesome idea and keep doing what you're doing.
19
20
                MS. GARCIA:
                             Thank you.
2.1
                MR. EINGORN: Any consideration for the
22
    fact that when you put down that much cement you
    create run-off issues?
23
24
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Would that go back
25
    before the Planning Board or does it stop here?
```

MR. EINGORN: This is a use variance 1 2 request. So site plan would remain with the Zoning 3 Board. But with that much concrete, you're talking about run-off. Right? The water's got to go 4 somewhere. And with concrete, it's not going to go 5 into the ground. So I don't know whether or not the 6 Board wants to condition this on site plan or maybe 7 8 you just want to do like crushed stone or something where the water goes right through and into the 9 ground. But once you change the run-off, that 10 11 affects your neighbors and then you trigger a site plan approval. You're going to create 100 percent 12 13 impervious coverage. 14 MR. T770: I think that's the best I did. 15 She can't get a construction permit here anyway. 16 only can get zoning approval. So you should consider a crushed stone surface where the water can soak into 17 the earth instead of run out to the street. 18 19 understand that? 20 MS. GARCIA: Yes. 21 MR. EINGORN: If the applicant is 22 agreeing to that then we can put that as an

agreement as part of a motion if you're approving

should have to seek site plan approval so that you

If they're stuck on the concrete then they

23

24

25

guys can check out where the run-off is and all of 1 2 those items and make sure that it's not going to run 3 off into the neighbor's house or something of that nature. 4 5 VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Is there a motion? REVEREND MARTINEZ: Motion to pass with 6 7 all the conditions that we just mentioned. 8 MR. EINGORN: So the conditions are, one, the approvals are for the applicant only. 9 crushed stone surface or some kind of permeable 10 11 surface, otherwise, site plan is required. Does that 12 sound right? 13 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. REVEREND MARTINEZ: Kyle, there's a lot 14 15 of stuff here that people don't know when they come to us. And one thing is the concrete. If you want 16 to put concrete to that property, you need more than 17 18 a permit to put concrete on there. That water, like you said, that's going to sink and then it's going to 19 20 go the neighbors. You're going to have problems. 2.1 MR. EINGORN: Right. Plus you're 22 creating bulk variance issues that aren't before the Board. So those are the conditions. We have a 23 24 Is there a second? motion. 25 CHAIRMAN HANCE: Second.

```
MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
1
2
    vote.
           Chairman Hance.
3
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
4
5
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
6
7
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
8
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Ms. Merricks.
9
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
10
11
                MS. ALSTON:
                              Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
12
                MR. BRITO BUENO:
13
                                   Yes.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
15
    none opposed, the motion with conditions passes.
16
                MS. GARCIA:
                              Thank you.
                MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Hanan
17
18
    Alomari, 601 N. 5th Street.
19
                MR. IZZO: Coming to the podium is
20
    Mr. Hanan Alomari. He has an application to
21
    establish a grocery store at this indicated location
22
    601 N. 5th Street. And he has submitted a complete
23
    zoning application and provided a photograph of the
24
    building as it is now. He has not opened business
25
    there but he's ready to open a business because the
```

```
property is prepared inside and out. And he seeks
1
2
    Board approval for an existing nonconforming use, a
3
    legal nonconforming use.
4
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
5
    hand, please.
6
7
                HANAN ALOMARI, having first been duly
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
8
    follows:
9
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your name and
    address for the record.
12
13
                MR. ALOMARI: Hanan Alomari, 1486 N. Main
14
    Street, Williamstown, New Jersey 08094.
15
                MR. IZZO: Mr. Alomari, you want to run
    a grocery store at 601 N. 5th Street in Camden?
16
17
                MR. ALOMARI:
                               Yes.
                MR. IZZO: And you brought in a picture
18
    of a corner property, I guess, right?
19
20
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
                MR. IZZO: And it's fitted out with store
21
22
    windows and an awning and a corner door?
23
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
24
                MR. IZZO: Is this the way the property
25
    will look when you operate your business?
```

```
1
                MR. ALOMARI:
                               Yes.
2
                MR. IZZO: And why are you at the Zoning
3
    Board tonight; what's the issue?
                MR. ALOMARI: To get approved for a
4
5
    grocery store because it was a grocery store for
            I don't know why it was denied. And I
6
    years.
7
    believe it's good for the community, for the
8
    neighborhood because the closet supermarket or
    mini-market, they have to drive all the way to
9
              That's like 20 to 25-minutes away.
10
11
                 It's good for the community to come
12
    nearby; it's walkable; it's driveable to the
13
    business.
               They don't have travel that much.
                                                    It's
14
    easy. They could pick up their baby food, baby milk,
15
    groceries and their main essentials over there
16
    instead of having a further drive. It may be
    dangerous to drive with a lot of lights.
17
18
                MR. IZZO: Do you own this building that
19
    you want to start?
20
                MR. ALOMARI: No, I don't own the
21
    building.
2.2
                MR. IZZO:
                            Who is your landlord?
                MR. ALOMARI:
23
                               Ralph.
24
                MR. IZZO:
                            Raphael?
25
                MR. ALOMARI:
                               Yes.
```

```
1
                MR. IZZO: Does he support your
2
    application here tonight?
3
                MR. ALOMARI:
                              Yes.
                MR. IZZO: And do you know if Raphael or
4
5
    anyone else that he rented to had a grocery store in
    this location?
6
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
                                     They had a grocery
    store and been there for a while. Years.
8
    sure how long but it existed as a grocery store.
9
10
    Apparently it closed and that's why you're
11
    here?
                              Yes, it closed.
12
                MR. ALOMARI:
13
                MR. IZZO: What kind of renovation did
14
    you have to do to --
15
                MR. ALOMARI: We didn't do no renovation
    because everything was in there, shelves. Everything
16
    was in there because during COVID, a lot of
17
    businesses closed; they couldn't afford the rent and
18
    it was hard. We saw it was for rent and we rented
19
    it. We saw that everything is still in there.
20
21
    just needed basic cleaning, organizing. It doesn't
22
    need like no major work. Everything is already in
    there.
23
24
                MR. IZZO: Did you apply for your state
25
    licenses for sales tax and tobacco?
```

```
MR. ALOMARI:
1
                              Yes.
2
                MR. IZZO: And are you ready to operate?
3
                MR. ALOMARI:
                               Yes.
                MR. IZZO: And you understand that if the
4
5
    Board approves you, you have to get a City license, a
    Mercantile License to run the store?
6
                MR. ALOMARI:
7
                              Yes.
8
                MR. IZZO: You told the Board very nicely
9
    why the neighborhood would benefit.
                MR. ALOMARI: Oh, yes. The market is
10
11
    very good for the community. I love Camden.
                                                   The
12
    neighborhood is historical. It's not big like the
13
    cities and it's a lot of potential and opportunity
14
    for the people in the community in Camden.
15
                MR. IZZO: The Board is going to ask you
16
    about your application.
17
                MR. ALOMARI:
                               Sure.
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: When did you purchase
19
    the building or the store or are you leasing?
20
                MR. ALOMARI: Leasing, yes.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're leasing it?
22
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
23
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And it's going to be a
24
    grocery store?
25
                MR. ALOMARI:
                               Yes.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So what are you going to
1
2
    be selling out of there, eggs, bread?
3
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes. We sell eggs, bread,
    bananas, some fruit and vegetables, major groceries
4
5
    like baby food, baby formula, baby water, all kinds
    of groceries like canned goods foods, cereal, baby
6
    cereal, regular cereal.
7
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you going to be
9
    doing any cooking in there or anything like that?
10
                MR. ALOMARI: Cooking, no.
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: You're saying it's
12
    a grocery store. The pictures that you presented to
13
    the Board here, I don't see no groceries.
                                                But on the
14
    top I see vape and tobacco products all in the
15
    windows.
16
                MR. ALOMARI: Yeah. On top of the signs
    we have pictures of groceries. But these two signs,
17
    banners, are just for like decoration and design to
18
    make it look nice and fancy.
19
20
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you selling Hookah
21
    out of there or any type of --
22
                MR. IZZO: You got a Hookah on the
    window.
23
24
                MR. ALOMARI: We are but not really. So
25
    like maybe five percent of tobacco but I'm not
```

```
focusing all kind of that. I'm focusing on grocery,
1
2
    food and groceries. That's how you're benefiting the
3
    community.
                MR. IZZO:
                           If the Board wanted you to
4
5
    take that detail off your window, would you be able
    to do that?
6
7
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
                                    It's a poster.
8
    removable.
                It's not that serious. We can remove
9
    it.
10
                MR. EINGORN: That's the next question
11
    is, you got a lot of signage. For that much signage,
    you would need approval. So you would probably have
12
13
    to take the window signs down any way. And then as
14
    we told -- what applicant was that -- about the
15
    awning? If you're going to change the awning sign,
    you have to get a sign approval also because those
16
    awning signs exceed the ordinance size requirement.
17
18
                MR. ALOMARI: Are you talking about this
    one or these two?
19
20
                MR. EINGORN: One, you have to come in
21
    for the number of signs. Because, I believe, you're
22
    only allowed one sign. And, two, the sign that goes
23
    across the top, those exceed the square foot signage
    requirement generally. And so you would need
24
25
    approval for a new awning cover as well.
```

```
MR. ALOMARI: These two are removable.
1
2
    It's not a problem. And this, it was a sign from
3
    before from the previous owner. We only changed the
    plastic, removed the old plastic and put the plastic
4
5
    on. Somebody still needs to apply for the permit you
    said?
6
7
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Yes. You'll need a sign
8
    permit.
9
                MR. ALOMARI: That's not a problem.
10
                MR. EINGORN: But the applicant is here
11
    for a Cert of Nonconforming Use related to the
12
    grocery store. And it does, from the pictures,
13
    appear that it was some sort of grocery store before.
14
    The applicant didn't raise this and I'm not trying to
15
    bolster the application in any way, but I would draw
16
    attention to the lease. The owner of the store is
    called Rosados Morgan Market, LLC which would
17
    indicate that this was some sort of corner market.
18
                MR. IZZO: That's the owner of the real
19
20
    estate.
21
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Yes.
22
                               So you said the
                MS. MERRICKS:
23
    refrigerator and shelves and all that is going to be
24
    in there?
25
                MR. ALOMARI: Everything was already in
```

```
there. We don't have to do nothing.
1
2
                MS. MERRICKS: Just dusting.
                MR. ALOMARI: Maybe switch like a broken
3
    shelf.
            Some basic essential work.
4
5
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I have a question.
    The diagram here that's in black and encased in
6
    glass, that's where you guys -- that's where the
7
    trash carts and all that stuff is at?
8
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
9
10
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: My question is,
11
    there's a door behind this, a front door and there's
    a back door to this?
12
13
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes, there's a back door,
14
    yes.
15
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: And your trash, how
16
    are you going to bring that out?
17
                MR. ALOMARI: We have a small back yard
    where we will put all the trash. And then when it's
18
    trash day, you take it out.
19
20
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: So the City collects
    the trash?
2.1
22
                MR. ALOMARI:
                              Yes.
23
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: You don't have a
24
    company that comes to pick it up?
25
                MR. ALOMARI: I'm not 100 percent sure
```

but I believe so. 1 2 REVEREND MARTINEZ: And the other thing 3 is those posters. MR. ALOMARI: Those posters, I can 4 5 It's not a problem. It's removable. MS. ALSTON: Me too. So I like the idea 6 that there are groceries and people are able to get 7 8 what they need especially in the City where it's known for people that have a hard time getting milk, 9 eggs, fresh produce and things like that. 10 11 MR. ALOMARI: Yes. 12 MS. ALSTON: But when you have the 13 marketing piece that's geared towards vaper and Hookah, it kind of like clashes. It sends a 14 15 different message. 16 MR. ALOMARI: Yes, I understand. the sign guy who gave it to us as a gift because, 17 you know, good customer and stuff like that. 18 19 removable. We can remove it. 20 MR. IZZO: Ms. Alston is saying there's 21 children in your neighborhood. 22 MR. ALOMARI: Yeah, I know. I understand 23 I have kids myself so I worry. I think about 24 that too.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: If I walk through

25

```
there in a month or so, I'm not going to see none of
1
2
    this stuff?
3
                MR. ALOMARI: You're not going to see
4
    none of that. You're more than welcome to come.
5
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: I'm a pastor.
                MS. ALSTON: There's nothing wrong with a
6
7
    grocery store.
8
                 MR. ALOMARI: If it's approved, I will
9
    go right now and remove them.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So we're back to a
10
11
    family grocery store.
12
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's there for the
14
    neighborhood?
15
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
    we ready to open to the public?
17
18
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public would
19
    like to be heard on the application of 601 N. 5th
20
2.1
    Street?
22
                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
23
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
24
    hand, please.
```

25

MILTON HINTON, JR., having first been 1 2 duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows: 3 5 MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name and address for the record. 6 7 MR. HINTON: Milton Hinton, Jr., 8 608 N. 5th Street. I'm right across from this store. I've been there about 16, 17 years. I retired five 9 years ago. I worked for the Gloucester County 10 Prosecutor's Office. I tried to move as close to 11 Philadelphia as I could. They wouldn't let me move 12 out of the state so I moved to North 5th Street. 13 We need to talk real here. North 5th 14 15 Street is a corridor. It has a corridor from Rutgers University and it runs all the way down past State 16 Street. When I first got there, it was a drug 17 corner; drug sales all over the place and at this 18 This has been a nuisance store ever since 19 I've been there, lived there. You've seen the 20 21 pictures of Hookah and it doesn't say broccoli, eggs, 22 hamburger nowhere on there. It's been up since last 23 April. A group from 5th Street has already been up 24 one of these floors complaining about the neon lights 25 that were on 24/7 all night long. I am told, and

```
this is hearsay, but I'm told it took them a week to
1
2
    reach the owners in Philly to get them to turn off
3
    those friggin' neon lights that was keeping everybody
    up at night.
4
5
                Trash, you mentioned trash. There has
    never been any trash disposal at this store.
6
                                                   The
    raccoons, the possums come for dinner every night.
7
8
    This is how it's suppose -- I don't know if I can
    give you an exhibit.
9
10
                MR. EINGORN: You can give an exhibit,
11
    sure.
           I'll ask you about it once I see it.
                                                  So let
12
    the record reflect that Mr. Hinton has provided the
13
    Board with a photograph of what looks to be the
14
    backside of the building.
15
                MR. HINTON: That's where they put the
16
    trash.
                MR. EINGORN: We'll mark this
17
18
                MR. HINTON: Pile it up in bags and throw
19
    it in the back.
                MR. EINGORN: Excuse me. Public Exhibit
20
21
    Α.
22
                MR. HINTON:
                              I'm sorry.
23
                MR. EINGORN: That's okay.
24
                MR. HINTON:
                              They pile it up in bags and
25
    throw it behind the store where a house was torn
```

down. There is no other area to put trash. 1 2 have never had containers. They've never had a 3 dumpster. Between you, me and whoever is listening, what they do is pay the trash people a couple of 4 5 bucks to take the trash away. I don't have a problem with that. That's business. If they can get it 6 done, they can get it done. But it sits there for a 7 8 week. We're getting ready to change the tide. 10 Putting a store back into this apartment building during the summer months, is going to be distressful 11 for everybody who lives on this street. I live 12 13 practically right across the street. It's a little angle but 608, that's 601. You would think I would 14 15 be way up the street. I'm not. 16 The streets on the west side where the store is are all two-story. The streets where I live 17 on the east side, are all three-story. 18 burned, that whole row, my house - I didn't own it 19 20 then - burned to the ground about 12 years ago. 21 the houses on my side of the street have been 22 rebuilt, redeveloped, remodeled. 23 I heard someone say travel around and 24 look. You look at the houses. They look like a 25 typical Camden rowhouse. But when you go in them,

they are brand spanking new. We do not need a Hookah 1 2 store within a school zone. There's a school right on the next block. We have two groceries store on 3 4th Street. We have two grocery stores on 6th 4 5 Street. We got Litwin's on 8th or 9th. That's the big grocery store where everybody goes to. We do not 6 7 need another grocery store for people to hang out 8 at. 9 Hookah. People just got killed at a 10 Hookah Store in South Jersey. That's the crowd 11 that this attracts. And we have come through this with a new Camden County Police that have really done 12 13 a good job in North Camden, in my opinion, because we 14 don't have people hanging out on the corners 15 anymore. This is going to be selling Blunts, other rolling papers, et cetera which is going to attract a 16 crowd late night summer that we've seen before. 17 Ι have nothing against this young man trying to run a 18 19 business. I understand. But our quality of life

We've had peace since last April. The last store there didn't make it a year. They made it through the summer and they closed. Because there's -- you can't make enough money selling eggs and fruits and vegetables with all these other stores

suffers whenever that store is open.

20

2.1

22

23

24

25

```
around and Litwin's which is two, three, four blocks
1
2
         They just can't do it. And when stores get in
    trouble, that's when trouble starts because they
3
    start doing things that are a little shady. That's
4
5
    been my experience.
                The last thing I want to say, I came home
6
    from work one day and there was a fight at that
7
8
    store.
9
                                 How long ago was that?
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                             This is about six, seven
10
                MR. HINTON:
11
    years ago. The fight came out into the street and
    the guy got shot in the head right in front of my
12
13
    house. We really don't want or need another store.
14
    And I respectfully ask --
                MR. EINGORN: One second, sir. Let the
15
    record reflect that the applicant has provided the
16
    Board more than one two, three, four -- five black
17
    and white photographs that look to be printed from
18
    the Courier Post online. They're dated 11/7/2013.
19
20
    We'll mark these photographs as Public Exhibit B.
2.1
                MR. HINTON:
                             Right now the -- let me tell
22
    you how that building is set up. The first floor is
23
    set up for an apartment. It has been used as a
    store. A second floor and third floor is one
24
25
    apartment. So although it's a three-story building,
```

```
it's a two-unit building. And I just respectfully
1
2
    ask, nothing against this young man, that you do not
3
    approve this store or Hookah shop.
                MR. EINGORN: So how long would you say
4
    that this building has been used a grocery store or a
5
    store of some sort in your experience?
6
                MR. HINTON: Ever since I've been there,
7
    it has been used a store but it has been closed.
8
                MR. EINGORN: When did you move in?
9
                MR. HINTON: I moved in in 2009.
10
11
                MR. EINGORN: I'm going to mark this
12
    Public Exhibit B and pass it down for the Board's
13
    consideration. Thank you for your time, sir.
14
    there anybody else in the public that who would like
15
    to be heard on the application of 601 N. 5th Street?
    Hearing none, we'll close the public portion.
16
17
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: A couple of
    questions. What's the hours of operation for your
18
19
    store?
20
                MR. ALOMARI:
                              Eight to ten.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Monday through Sunday?
22
                                     And then Friday,
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
23
    Saturday, eight to eleven.
24
                                 Eight to eleven?
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
25
                MR. ALOMARI:
                               Yes.
```

```
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: If I'm not
1
2
    mistaken, we have some type of Ordinance or something
    that they have to close at a certain time.
3
                MR. EINGORN: I don't know the ordinance
4
5
    that require what the hours are.
                MS. MERRICKS: There is an ordinance.
6
                MR. EINGORN: The applicant will have to
7
8
    comply with whatever the ordinance says on store
9
    opening and closing.
                MR. ALOMARI: I understand what he means.
10
    I don't know how the previous store owners managed
11
    the business. I know he saw some garbage in the
12
13
    back.
           That's from the previous owners.
                                              I already
14
    personally cleaned everything out; threw all the
15
    garbage out because I don't want to attract mice,
16
    rats, raccoons. That's from the previous owners.
    I want the same thing what he wants, something
17
    different for the community. And my management is
18
    different than from the previous owners. You can't
19
20
    compare two people.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: So we're not going to
22
    see any neon lights, signs?
23
                MR. ALOMARI: No.
                                   Like you said, I
    applied for a sign. And if we're able to get it on
24
25
    the sign, no problem. If it's not allowed, we can
```

```
remove it. It's okay.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Do you know how long
3
    that's been a store there?
                MR. ALOMARI: What the landlord told me,
4
5
    a long time. Maybe over 20 years maybe. It has
    always been a store. And the business, it depends on
6
7
    the management. If the management is doing good,
8
    everything is going to be good. If they have poor
    management, everything is going to go bad. And, of
9
    course, we have to go work with Metro Camden County
10
11
    Police. We have to. Cause if the area is dangerous,
    it's going to be dangerous for my life too because
12
13
    I'm married and I got kids. I want to be safe too.
14
    So we're going to have to work with the community and
15
    with the Camden Police if there's any crime, action
    or something happening. I know they have across the
16
    street the state police for the bridges, right
17
             That's a good thing.
18
                MS. MERRICKS: How long have you leased
19
20
    the store?
2.1
                MR. ALOMARI: Couple of months now.
                                                      We
22
    can do nothing until zoning is approved.
23
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       How can you
24
    improve the trash collection?
25
                MR. ALOMARI: To get a couple of buckets
```

```
with the cap on top with the lock which they sell at
1
2
    Home Depot, those are good. But when we leased, we
3
    saw a lot of trash out there from the previous owner.
    So we cleaned all that. They had broken trash cans.
4
5
    Everything is going to be changed as soon as the
    zoning approves. So we can start doing clean-ups
6
    like professional, 100 percent clean-ups and buying
7
8
    containers and changing locks, fixing everything and
    having an exterminator come every week to exterminate
9
    outside and inside the property and all over the
10
11
    property.
12
                And you see a lot of trash because it has
13
    been closed for a couple of months; vacant.
14
    course, homeless people are going to stay over there;
15
    people are going to throw the trash over there;
16
    people going to throw the bottles. When we open,
    we're going to have a trash can outside instead of
17
    people throwing stuff on the floor, we have a bin
18
    over there they can throw inside.
19
20
                MS. MERRICKS: So as your ownership
21
    within the last three months or your leasing, have
22
    you been cleaning up the back?
23
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes, I already cleaned it.
24
    There's no more garbage bags. There were bags of
25
    Goya, canned goods and stuff like that but we already
```

```
got rid of it; threw them out. But I'm still going
1
2
    to do more cleaning as soon as it's approved and we
3
    have the okay. I'm going to bring more trash cans,
    more cleaning and stuff like that. How about we
4
5
    bring some stuff and the zoning is not approved and
    then I will lose the money. Health and safety is
6
    number one. I'm scared of racoons, scared of possum.
7
8
    My backyard in the summertime I see shunks, beavers
    and I'd be scared. I'm scared of them.
9
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
10
                                       Any more
11
    questions? Well, sir -- Positive, Negative?
                MR. EINGORN: This is a Cert of
12
13
    Nonconforming Use. So the applicant's burden isn't a
14
    use variance burden. It's just a burden to
    demonstrate that this was a use that was permitted
15
16
    prior to the change in the ordinance. The testimony
    you've heard and the evidence you've heard suggests,
17
18
    at least based upon Mr. Hinton's testimony, that this
    was some sort of store dating back at least to '09.
19
20
    It appears that it has been a store and operated as a
21
    store.
            It looks like it's set up as a store. Right?
22
    That's the burden. The burden is to show, this was a
23
    store before there was a change in the ordinance and
    it's allowed to continue in that use.
24
25
                MS. MERRICKS: I've seen it as a store.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Right. That's really the
1
2
    burden of proof here. This isn't a use variance
    application. It's a Cert of Nonconforming Use.
3
    Right?
4
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
5
                                        Yes.
                MR. ALOMARI: And I know there's stores
6
7
    in the area that are far away from certain homes.
8
    And some people are scared to walk two, three blocks
9
    cause it gets dark at night in Camden. So it's
    convenient for people to go out through the door and
10
11
    go right away to the store instead of walking a long
    walk. And some stores the grocery stores over there
12
13
    is different. It's like Bordegas. This would
14
    basically would be like more -- you can have some
15
    Hispanic groceries and more varieties of groceries in
16
    there so people can have more options to shop.
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: And this place is
17
    kind of too small too, right?
18
                MR. ALOMARI: It might like long.
19
                                                    Ιt
20
    might look tight but it's kind of long.
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Somebody want to
22
    make a motion on it?
23
                                     I make a motion --
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
24
                MR. EINGORN: Hold on.
                                        Ms. Merricks?
25
                MS. MERRICKS:
                               I'm just like listening to
```

```
the resident. So we will take down the smoking
1
2
    things?
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: We're going to
3
    give him some conditions.
4
5
                MS. MERRICKS: Okay. Fine.
                                              Then go
    ahead then. That's what I wanted to say.
6
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: And I make a motion
7
8
    to pass with whatever decision we tell him to make
           First of all, this has got to change, all
9
    these signs and all this stuff here and the trash.
10
11
    I think it would be better by hiring a --
                MR. EINGORN: Private hauler?
12
13
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                    Right.
14
                MR. ALOMARI: It's not a problem with us.
15
    I don't mind it. It's even better for us instead of
    the City coming every other day. I'd rather have a
16
    company come every day and pick up the trash.
17
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: And the other thing
18
    is, where my church is, I got two stores right -- one
19
20
    in front of the building and one on the side of the
21
    building. And now I've seen it be open like a month
22
          They got caught. Where you walk through to the
    now.
23
    sidewalk, they got about three cars parked right in
    the sidewalk where people cannot even walk through
24
25
    there no more. So, you know, I really appreciate if
```

```
you look out for your neighbors. If we honor you a
1
2
    permit. Our City needs a store.
3
                MR. ALOMARI: You're right about that.
4
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: We need a corner
5
    store, not a Bordega. With all the conditions that I
    mentioned and I make a motion to pass.
6
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I have one more
7
    condition.
8
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Go ahead.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: That this is a
10
11
    grocery store.
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: So we have a motion to pass
14
    with conditions that, one, the applicant can come
15
    back for approval for new signage. Two, to hire a
    private trash and three, grocery store and not a
16
    smoke shop. Is that correct?
17
18
                MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
19
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
                MS. ALSTON: Second.
20
                MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
21
22
    vote.
           Chairman Hance.
23
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
25
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
1
2
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
                               Ms. Merricks.
3
                MR. EINGORN:
4
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
5
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
6
7
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
                MR. BRITO BUENO:
8
                                   Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
9
    none opposed, the application passes with conditions.
10
11
                At this time, we have a request to take
    is a five-minute break.
12
13
                 (The proceedings are off the record at
14
15
    8:22 p.m.)
16
                 (The proceedings are back on the record
    at 8:30 p.m.)
17
18
19
                MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Triplex
    Auto Group, 901-909 S. 3rd Street. Mr. Izzo welcome
20
    back.
2.1
22
                MR. IZZO:
                            Charles Izzo attorney for the
    applicant, Property 901-909 S. 3rd. And our
23
24
    application here is to obtain an interpretation of
25
    the Board whether or not this requires a finding of
```

```
legal nonconforming use. And we have an expert
1
2
    witness in this case, Mr. Seidel. We'd ask him to
3
    come forward and give his testimony.
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
4
5
    hand, please.
6
7
                BRIAN SEIDEL, P.P., having first been
8
    duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
    follows:
9
10
11
                MR. SEIDEL: My name is Brian Seidel.
    I'm a New Jersey Professional Planner and certified
12
13
    by the American Institute of Certified Planners as
14
    well.
15
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Great.
                                       The Board will
    accept Mr. Seidel as a professional planner.
16
17
                MR. SEIDEL:
                              Thank you.
18
                MR. IZZO: In your role as a certified
    professional planner, did you have an opportunity to
19
20
    evaluate zoning applications and testify in support?
2.1
                MR. SEIDEL:
                              Yes.
22
                MR. IZZO:
                          And have you done that in the
    State of New Jersey?
23
                MR. SEIDEL: I have on numerous
24
25
    occasions.
```

MR. IZZO: Camden County? 1 2 MR. SEIDEL: Yes. MR. IZZO: What about the extent of your 3 familiarity with the application that's before the 4 5 Board tonight? MR. SEIDEL: We reviewed the application; 6 7 visited the property; reviewed the Master Plans; the 8 Neighborhood Plan associated with the property. MR. IZZO: And how do you characterize 9 the proposal, the project that's before the Board? 10 11 MR. SEIDEL: The application that's 12 before the Board is basically for an assessment of 13 an existing nonconforming use. The property contains 14 a purpose-built automotive repair shop with several 15 automotive bays. It has a hydraulic lift in there 16 for the vehicles. It has not been utilized for more than a year. As a result, there's provisions in the 17 Land Use regulations for existing nonconforming uses 18 that they can continue in perpetuity. However, if 19 they are discontinued in use for over a year, the 20 21 existing nonconformity could go away. 22 We went back and looked at the planning documents and the historic records for the property. 23 24 Going back into the most recent plans, I guess, or 25 the longest plans from the Redevelopment Authority,

```
shows this in a report from 2002 for the industrial
1
2
    sites inventory as a developed property as a garage
3
    at that point.
4
                MR. IZZO:
                            So 2002 when obviously it's
5
    two years later you're reporting to the Board that
    you don't see any period where it was used for any
6
7
    other purpose accept the one we're talking about
8
    tonight?
9
                MR. SEIDEL:
                              That's correct.
                                               While it
10
    may have been out of active use, it is still
11
    developed and exists today as an automotive repair
12
    garage.
                MR. IZZO: You made an observation of the
13
    surrounding geography of the 901 S. 3rd Street?
14
15
                MR. SEIDEL:
                             Correct.
                                        T have a
    small packet of information that I'd like to hand out
16
    to the Board just to give some character of the
17
    property if that's okay.
18
19
                MR. EINGORN: That will be great.
                                                    Let's
20
    give them out.
2.1
                MR. SEIDEL:
                              There's two packets.
                                                    I'11
22
    explain them.
23
                MR. EINGORN: So let the record reflect
24
    that we received what appears to be an aerial
25
    photograph. The aerial photograph will be
```

```
Exhibit A. And we received a packet consisting of
1
    three pages which we'll mark Exhibit B.
2
                             You said Exhibit A and
                MR. SEIDEL:
3
4
    Exhibit B?
                MR. EINGORN: Yes, sir. Exhibit A will
5
    be the aerial and Exhibit "B" will be the packet.
6
                MR. IZZO: What is the zoning and what is
7
8
    the surrounding nature of the space?
9
                MR. SEIDEL: The zoning designation is
    R-2 Residential. Exhibit "A" with the aerial
10
11
    photograph that we're showing, basically the site is
12
    located at the southwest corner of Spruce and 3rd
13
    Street. We've identified that with a yellow outline
14
    labeled as subject property. It contains the
15
    property and the building that we're speaking of.
16
    Across the street is Church. It's also the Port
    Authority parking area.
17
18
                To the west is the utility substation
19
    that's currently being expanded. And the lower
20
    righthand corner, we've just provided a street view
21
    of the existing building. This photograph is a
22
    little bit outdated. Within the last month or so it
    has been, I would say, reskinned, improved with a new
23
24
    stucco facade on the exterior of the building.
25
                MR. IZZO: What is the significance of
```

```
1
    the industrial sites that are around this property or
2
    what is the significance of that in terms in this
    application? I would say the significance here as
3
    the second exhibit that we've provided, Exhibit "B,"
4
5
    what this is, is essentially a summary of the
    Neighborhood Action Plan for the central waterfront
6
7
    area which is active update of 2020, so fairly
8
    recent.
             The second page of that document shows the
    land use from 2020. On that document it does show
9
    that the subject property is identified as an
10
    industrial land use and that it is also identified as
11
    vacant or semi-vacant.
12
                MR. IZZO: Who is the author of this
13
14
    proposal?
15
                MR. SEIDEL:
                              It was prepared by Interface
16
    Studio, LLC.
17
                MR. IZZO: For what agency?
18
                MR. SEIDEL: For the Redevelopment
19
    Authority --
20
                MR. IZZO: Camden Redevelopment
21
    Authority?
22
                MR. SEIDEL:
                              Correct.
23
                MR. IZZO: In their planning map, they've
24
    got 901-909 S. 3rd Street in an Industrial
25
    Redevelopment Zone.
```

```
MR. SEIDEL: That's correct. This is an
1
2
    updated map. There was a map prior to this,
    essentially the same report from, I believe, 2014
3
    that essentially shows the same information.
4
                MR. IZZO: How does that impact the
    extent of residential use that's already in place on
6
    South 3rd Street?
7
8
                MR. SEIDEL: I'll go to the next page of
    that document which identifies the industrial uses.
9
    And then more specifically looking at that
10
11
    intersection of Spruce and 3rd Street, again, it's
    identified as vacant land. It's also shown that
12
    there's a vacant building on there. It's across the
13
14
    street from South Jersey Port Corporation adjacent to
15
    the Camden, what's identified as the Camden Gas
    Plant. So it's a very industrial area, despite the
16
    fact that we're in a residential zoning district,
17
    we're adjacent to a lot of industrial uses.
18
                MR. IZZO: About this project itself,
19
20
    what is the scope of it and what is the nature of the
21
    proposal that the owner wants to do here?
22
                MR. SEIDEL:
                             The scope is generally
23
    pretty simple. It's to put the automotive repair
    center back into active business.
24
25
                MR. IZZO: And are you proposing to
```

```
expand the building or reduce the building?
1
2
                MR. SEIDEL: No changes to the extent of
3
    the building. Just improvements to the building
4
    itself.
5
                MR. IZZO: And what is the impact of the
    discontinuance of the previous auto repair business.
6
7
    How does that fit into this application?
8
                MR. SEIDEL: As I mentioned, the
    provision of the Land Use Ordinance discuss existing
9
    nonconforming uses and indicate they can continue
10
11
    within or in perpetuity. The only deviation here is
    that the use has been discontinued. Now while the
12
13
    use has been discontinued and, again, it didn't
14
    change the parameters or the aspects of the building
15
    with the hydraulic lift or anything of that nature.
16
    So it is for that reason we're here before you to get
    clarification on that existing nonconforming aspect
17
    of the property.
18
19
                MR. IZZO:
                           If the Board is able to see
20
    that mirror of your argument there, how is this then
2.1
    going to fit into the Camden neighborhood community,
22
    the Industrial Redevelopment area of Camden, how is
    this going to work?
23
                MR. SEIDEL: I believe that it will fit
24
25
    in very well. There is discussion in the
```

```
Neighborhood Plan to reuse, repurpose existing
1
2
    buildings, to bring action back into or activity back
    into these properties, and that's what this is going
3
    to do. Here you've got a vacant property. You're
4
5
    going to put this back into active use to become a
    commercial property where it was previously a
6
    commercial property. Very little impact on
7
8
    residential uses. Because as I've described, there's
    really very little residential around there. It's
9
    primarily commercial and industrial in nature.
10
                           So people in these type of
11
                MR. IZZO:
12
    situations want to know about the parking, the
13
    traffic, the noise that may be associated with the
    operation of a business and the esthetics of the
14
15
    neighborhood, accessible to those things?
16
                MR. SEIDEL:
                             The criteria for an
    automotive repair garage and I'm careful to use that
17
    language because there is a discussion of an
18
    automotive center service center within the Code as
19
20
    well, that discusses automotive fuels, dispensing
21
    gasoline, things of that nature. And that's not
22
    what's proposed with this application. It would just
    be the automotive repair garage.
23
24
                A criteria for that is to be able to
25
    provide, I believe, it's five parking stalls.
```

```
on the aerial map that we're showing, there are four
1
2
    or five vehicles on the site at that point kind of
    parked randomly. One of them is a large commercial
3
    vehicle that looks like it's a roll-off-dumpster-type
4
5
    of vehicle. So there's plenty of room. I would say
    there's adequate room for at least eight or nine
6
    vehicles on the property outside of the garage bays
7
8
    themselves.
9
                MR. IZZO: What's the style of the
    building itself as it sits there today waiting to be
10
11
    cleaned up and rehabbed?
12
                MR. SEIDEL: Masonry building.
13
    understanding is, I'm told that it was originally
14
    built for a Sinclair Automotive repair business or
15
    service business. So it has some historial qualities
16
    to it.
                           It's got repair bays?
17
                MR. IZZO:
18
                MR. SEIDEL:
                              It does.
19
                MR. IZZO: Driveways?
                MR. SEIDEL:
20
                              Yes.
2.1
                MR. IZZO: An apron area for customer
22
    parking?
23
                MR. SEIDEL:
                              Correct.
24
                MR. IZZO: What is the conclusion of your
25
    professional survey of the property? What do you
```

recommend to the City?

MR. SEIDEL: I recommend that the application be approved. I believe the existing nonconforming condition certainly exists. It has been there for some time. The existing nonconforming designation of the property, I believe, would be appropriate here. In the event if the Board feels that that designation is not appropriate, I do believe we meet all the criteria that would be required for the granting of a use variance. And I'll just summarize a couple of those points briefly.

The site is particularly suited for the proposed use as an automotive garage because it was built was one previously. It has the garage bays. It has the hydraulic lifts. It will advance the purpose of zoning; enhance the general welfare by putting this back into active service by bringing back a commercial use; getting us back on the tax rolls; providing a service to the community; no real negative detriment because it's adjacent to those industrial uses already; and, again, previously developed as garage so it doesn't require any additional stormwater management or other improvements other than importance to the building itself.

```
And, again, regarding the zoning aspects,
1
 2
    while it is in a residential zoning district, it is
    not in a residential used area. It is primarily
 3
    industrial and commercial based on the land use maps
 4
 5
    that we provided.
                MR. SEIDEL: And you also assessed the
 6
7
    Positive and Negative Criteria that are necessary for
8
    a variance to be granted and you're satisfied that
    the property is able to meet those criteria?
9
                              Yes. And the criteria that
10
                MR. SEIDEL:
11
    I just rattled off was basically the summary of the
    Positive and Negative Criteria.
12
                MR. IZZO: I will submit the witness for
13
14
    questions.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Any guestions?
15
16
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     No.
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public?
17
    Seeing no one, let's close to the public since
18
    there's nobody here. I'm assuming you're part of the
19
20
    applicant?
2.1
                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
22
                MR. EINGORN: So we'll close the public
    portion.
23
24
                MR. IZZO: He's the corporate
25
    representative of the corporate owner.
```

```
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have one question.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Okay. What's your
3
    question?
4
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you the owner or is
    the owner here?
5
6
                MR. IZZO: The gentleman has to be sworn
7
    in.
                MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right
8
9
    hand, please.
10
                GREG WHITE, having first been duly
11
    sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
12
    follows:
13
14
15
                MR. EINGORN: Please state your full name
    and address for the record.
16
17
                MR. WHITE: 988 Trent Road, Camden, New
    Jersey 08104.
18
19
                MR. IZZO: You're the property owner of
    901-909 S. 3rd?
20
2.1
                MR. WHITE: No. I'm actually the leasee.
22
                MR. IZZO: Your company wants to lease?
23
                MR. WHITE: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: You're part of Triplex Auto
24
25
    Group?
```

```
MR. WHITE: Yes.
1
2
                MR. EINGORN: Very good.
                                 So tell me about it?
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
3
    You guys are going to repair or are you going to
4
5
    sell?
           I was there earlier today around the building.
    Is that your property going around the building also?
6
                MR. WHITE: A small portion in the rear
7
8
    end belongs to us and then the rest belongs to the
    City of Camden.
9
10
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to ask, so you
    want to upgrade yours then?
11
12
                MR. WHITE: Yes.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: When I was there today,
13
14
    the building looks nice.
15
                MR. WHITE: Thank you. I appreciate it.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: It blossomed. I patrol
16
    in that area. So when I saw it, I said, wait a
17
    minute. Okay. Somebody is here. They didn't come
18
    before me yet. So I got out and I checked it.
19
    is some junk cars here; some bricks on the lefthand
20
2.1
    side.
22
                MR. WHITE:
                            Yes.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Then I went around the
23
24
           There's a fence there. And they got two
25
    cement blockers, I guess, that are going back and
```

forth through there. 1 2 MR. WHITE: Yes. So what happened, I 3 guess last year some time, some parties came in and dumped a bunch of tires on the City property. So the 4 5 City took the initiative and did the clean up a few days ago. And the City placed the Jersey blocks to 6 prevent cars from coming in that way and dumping 7 8 tires. 9 CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're a Triplex. 10 Are you just going to fix the cars or are you going 11 to sell some cars also? 12 MR. WHITE: No, no. We just intend to 13 service our vehicles and also to service the public. 14 But if the Board would permit for the customers that 15 bring in a vehicle that might need a loaner, would the Board permit us to lease them a vehicle? 16 17 MR. EINGORN: You have you have to come back for that. 18 That wasn't advertised to the public. You got to get everybody around to say, hey, we're 19 going to have rental car service. Since that's not 20 21 really before the Board, you would have to come back 22 for that. 23 MR. WHITE: All right. Not a problem. CHAIRMAN HANCE: I will say this, it's 24 25 the perfect area. That area had kind of died out a

```
long time ago. So a facelift that building is going
1
2
    get it, is needed. But I'll be watching you guys.
3
                MR. WHITE: All right. I appreciate it.
    Any further questions?
4
5
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Times of opening and
    closing?
6
7
                MR. WHITE: I guess from eight to eight.
8
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 And that's just going to
9
    be every day or?
10
                MR. WHITE:
                            No.
                                 Just from Monday through
11
    Saturday. You answered all my questions.
12
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Hey, Kyle, I have
13
    a question to you.
14
                MR. EINGORN:
                              Yes.
15
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Because he's
16
    renting, can we make like a motion for this property
    to be used for that purpose just for him? Because,
17
    say, we grant it. So this is forever.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Here is what's going on.
19
20
    They're coming before you to say it has already been
21
    forever. Right? And, therefore, you should allow us
22
    or you should recognize that this has always been an
    auto repair garage. Right? They're not saying, we
23
    want a use variance. They're saying, hey, we want
24
25
    you to acknowledge that this use predated the zoning
```

```
ordinance. I don't want to recast the testimony.
1
2
    But I think that kind of summarizes it. If you look
    at the property card, I mean, it seems to support the
3
    fact that this was a Sinclair auto garage whenever
4
    this is dated. I don't see a date on this.
5
                MR. WHITE: It was like in the 70's.
6
                MR. EINGORN: I mean, these cars look
7
8
    older than most of the people in the room.
9
    really, they're not here saying, hey, give us a
    variance. They're saying, hey, let us continue this
10
11
    use because it predated the ordinance.
12
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Thank you for
13
    clearing this up.
14
                MR. EINGORN: Yes, sir.
15
                MR. SEIDEL: And if I may just to chime
    in on that topic. Looking back at the revisions to
16
    the Zoning Code, it looks like there was a revision
17
    around 2004-2005 that changed it to residential from
18
    what would have been previously an approved permitted
19
20
    use.
2.1
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Okay.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Anybody else?
23
                So what you have is an application for a
    Certificate of Nonconforming Use related to an auto
24
25
    repair business at 901-909 S. 3rd Street. The Board
```

```
should do a discussion and make a motion.
1
2
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: That's actually a big
3
    chunk back there. That was a sore eye. I'm quite
    sure you had homeless in there and everything else.
4
5
    But the building was super, super falling apart back
    there. Like I said, I went past there one day and I
6
    said: Wow, somebody is going to get hurt back there.
7
8
    This is what the City needs. That's like a deadend
    that street back there. And to bring it back to
9
    life, hopefully somebody else joins in and hit the
10
11
    next warehouse. I think it's a great idea. Like I
    said, I'll be going past there to see it through as
12
13
    you guys go back and make it come back to life.
14
    keep it clean.
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a motion?
15
                                        I make a motion
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Yes.
17
    that we pass.
18
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Second.
                MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
19
20
    vote.
           Chairman Hance.
2.1
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
22
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
23
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
24
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
25
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
```

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MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
1
 2
                MS. MERRICKS:
                                Yes.
                               Ms. Alston.
 3
                MR. EINGORN:
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
 4
 5
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
                MR. BRITO BUENO:
 6
                                   Yes.
 7
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
8
    none opposed, motion is granted. Congratulations.
9
                MR. IZZO: Thank you.
10
                MR. WHITE:
                             Thank you.
11
                MR. EINGORN:
                               Last but not least,
    Mr. Sheehan has waited very patiently to present four
12
13
    applications.
14
                MR. SHEEHAN: Good evening.
15
    Mr. Eingorn said, my name is Kevin Sheehan.
                                                   I have
16
    packets of four exhibits that I'll hand out.
17
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Thank you.
18
                MR. SHEEHAN: It should have nine in
19
    there.
20
                MR. EINGORN: So let the record reflect
21
    that Mr. Sheehan has provided the Board with a packet
22
    of colored photographs and colorized maps and an
23
    aerial photograph.
24
                MR. SHEEHAN: So this application --
25
    there's four applications on your agenda but they're
```

all identical. They're all asking the Board to 1 2 interpret the Redevelopment Plan which is the Zoning Ordinance related to these properties to 3 confirm that, as it states in the plan, that the 4 5 existing use of these properties as a multi-family residential is permitted for up to four units. 6 The properties are 620 Benson Street, 8 622 Benson Street, 624 Benson Street and 632 Benson The first exhibit on the first photo on the 9 Street. exhibit I gave you, is a photo of that 600 Block of 10 Benson. 11 It's located directly across Cooper 12 Hospital, which is on the righthand side of Benson 13 Street there. They are townhouse units. 14 apparently have been rented as residential units. 15 Three of them are three units. One of them is four 16 units and an office. The applicant is the contract purchaser 17 18 of the property. In order to sell property, now there's a new ordinance in the City. You need a 19 Certificate of Continuing Occupancy from the 20 construction office to confirm that it's safe. 2.1 22 ordinance. In order to file that application, you 23 need a zoning permit. In applying for the zoning 24 permit, Dr. Williams and I looked at the

Redevelopment Plan. And the property is located in

25

the Cooper Plaza Redevelopment area. That part of
Benson Street, if you turn to page 2 which is the
exhibits, is a light blue adjacent to the yellow
directly across the biggest blue between 7th Street
and Chambers, I think it is.

That part is in the MS Medical Support
Zone. The Medical Support Zone in the Redevelopment

Plan says that residential uses are permitted. Any residential use is permitted in the R-3 High Density Zoning District. However, when you look at the Redevelopment Plan, there's nothing that says R-3

12 High Density Zoning. So it refers you to nothing.

As a result, Dr. Williams said, I can't issue a zoning permit because it doesn't tell you in there.

What I'm asking the Board to do is to use logic and interpret the ordinance to allow at least up to the four units that are in the one building and then three in the other. And the reason to do that, if you look in the R-2 Zone of the Redevelopment Plan, it specifically permits multi-family and Garden Apartments. And that's where -- it's calls it an R-2 Medium Density Zoning. So if the Medium Density permits Garden Apartments and multi-family, logically a High Density should permit the same thing.

So what I'm asking the Board to do and if

```
you look at the third page there, I've highlighted in
1
2
    red where these properties are located.
                                              That red
    area is the MS Zone, which is suppose to permit High
3
    Density residential. Immediately below that is the
4
5
    yellow which is where Medium Density Residential
    would be permitted. So the logic that I'm asking the
6
    Board to apply, is that if the drafters of the
7
8
    Redevelopment Plan specifically permitted High
    Density residential use similar to an R-3 High
9
    Density Zoning to this but didn't identify what that
10
11
    zoning was, that I'm asking the Board to apply some
12
    logic that High Density would be more than the
13
    Medium Density that's in the R-2 which would permit
14
    multi-family apartments. And I'm asking you to
15
    interpret to allow up to the four units that are
    currently in those apartments, and ask Dr. Williams
16
    to sign the Zoning Permit so I can get the CCO in
17
    order to proceed.
18
19
                As a practical matter, we're going to
20
    take the apartments out. It's a procedural step
21
    because we're going to take those apartments out of
22
    use when they become vacant. We won't rent them.
    And we'll turn them over to the Medical Support
23
24
    office-type use.
25
                                        So currently you
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
```

```
got people in all these apartments?
1
2
                MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. In 620 Benson Street
    it's three units. 622 is three units. 624 is four
3
    units, although one of them is vacant. And the other
4
5
    one is three units. Apparently, they've been there
    for some time. I don't know exactly how long because
6
    they've turned over. Over the years our client is
7
8
    buying them. All I know is that two of them have one
    unit vacant in each one. And the other ones are
9
    occupied. So if you can interpret the Ordinance to
10
11
    say High Density includes at least up to four
    multi-family units, that would, I think, allow
12
    Dr. Williams to sign a Zoning Permit.
13
14
                MR. EINGORN: Do you understand what's
15
    being asked?
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 Yes.
                                       I was actually
    there today to check it out. The homes or
17
    apartments, whatever the case may be, what is here is
18
    needed. Way past due especially in that area.
19
    I mean, people walk the area and see that there's a
20
21
    medical facility and medical cases that need to be
22
    addressed. Also housing needs to be addressed.
23
    Child care of course. The only thing I don't see is
24
    parking.
25
                MR. SHEEHAN:
                              It looks like there's some
```

```
parking on the street. But also if you look at the
1
2
    one --
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                 I parked right by a fire
3
    hydrant so trust me, it's crowded.
4
5
                MR. SHEEHAN: I'm not encouraging folks
    to do that. But there is parking behind the second
6
7
    block.
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yeah, it starts in the
8
9
               I drove down the alleyway there.
                                                  There's
    parking back there.
10
11
                Cooper Hospital is a plus for the City.
    They gave us a lot, especially jobs that we needed
12
13
    for our people. I think the next step is suppose to
14
                That area out there needs to be uplifted.
15
    It's like a big part of our City. Like I said, it's
    way past due. I think this is definitely needed.
16
                MR. EINGORN: So the applicant is
17
18
    requesting an interpretation regarding the MS Medical
    Support Zone incorporating High Density residential
19
    and that a residential building with up to four units
20
21
    would satisfy the criteria of High Density.
22
                Is there any questions related to that
23
    legal request? Anybody in the public? No?
    nobody here for the record. But for procedural sake,
24
```

we'll close the public portion. The question is not

25

```
really positive or negative but the question is,
1
2
    legal interpretation.
                The Board is acting in a quasi-judicial
3
    function just like a judge would sitting in the
4
5
    Superior Court of New Jersey. And the applicant is
    asking the Board to agree with the interpretation
6
    that up to four units would, since it meets the
7
8
    criteria of Medium Density would also meet the
    criteria of High Density. And then, is there a
9
    timing crunch for closing on this?
10
11
                MR. SHEEHAN:
                              There is. We're trying to
12
    close this in March. And if you do approve this, I
13
    would ask that you allow the Board Secretary to
14
    inform Dr. Williams that you have so approved it and
15
    authorize him to sign the Zoning Permits.
16
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  So I'm going to ask,
    what's the difference between a Medium Density and a
17
    High Density?
18
                MR. SHEEHAN: Typically, it would be in
19
20
    the Ordinance. But actually the density is not
21
    identified. It only has the type of buildings.
22
    in the R-2 it permits single-family, townhouse, and
23
    duplex. But it also permits Garden Apartments and
24
    multi-family.
25
                                 Because most of those
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
```

```
places have four apartments; am I correct?
1
2
                MR. SHEEHAN: Most of them are three
    actually. One of them has four. The other ones are
3
    three apartments.
4
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And then the last one
5
    has a side door; a side apartment.
6
                MR. SHEEHAN: That might be the one that
7
8
    has four. That might be 624 that has the fourth
    apartment. The other ones have three.
9
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Because I walked around
10
11
    the porch with a BBQ grill.
12
                MR. SHEEHAN: Yeah.
13
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: And somebody was growing
    plants up there.
14
15
                MR. SHEEHAN: Yeah.
                                     I mean, normally an
    ordinance would when it says density, it would tell
16
    you how many units per acre. In this it doesn't say
17
    that. I quess it tries --
18
19
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Then for us to
20
    interpret.
2.1
                MR. SHEEHAN: Yeah, exactly.
22
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I think they're serving
             I think they are as I said, developing
23
    Camden.
    Camden again. This is the future because we need
24
25
    the best. I may not get it but my grandkids or
```

```
theirs. At least we got it in motion.
1
2
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                       Yes.
3
                MS. ALSTON:
                             There's a lot going on on
    Benson Street. You have the Cooper Hospital
4
5
    Building, the security booth and now the parking is
    already an issue. So probably the location.
6
                                                   You
    said you can't change that because you said they
7
8
    already have tenants.
9
                MR. SHEEHAN:
                              Yes. We're not adding any
10
    units.
            In fact, we'll be taking -- when people move
11
    out, we won't be reoccupying them. So we will
    definitely not be adding any additional residents to
12
13
    the building.
14
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: I also see the signs out
15
    there saying, no big steps.
16
                MR. EINGORN: At 624, are we keeping the
    office?
17
                MR. SHEEHAN: Ultimately, it'll all be
18
    office but yes. An office is permitted in the Zone.
19
20
                MR. EINGORN: Right.
21
                MS. ALSTON: Did you say you're not going
    to be putting tenants in the units?
22
23
                MR. SHEEHAN: No, we're not going to
    reoccupy them with tenants. We're not going to kick
24
25
    anybody out. But when those tenants decide to leave,
```

1 we're not going to reoccupy. 2 MS. ALSTON: And what are you going to 3 do? MR. SHEEHAN: Ultimately, we're going to 4 5 turn it into professional offices for which we'll come back for site plan approval also. 6 MS. ALSTON: Housing is needed especially 7 8 in that area. And Coriell is building right around the corner also. And they were approved just 9 10 recently. So how long are the leases, the longest 11 lease, I guess. MR. SHEEHAN: They're all one-year 12 13 leases. but as I said, nobody is going to be kicked 14 When they decide to move out then they'll move 15 Just from a bigger picture, I know the City out. 16 is -- the mayor having watched and speak, is trying to get apartments in the downtown area and there are 17 18 projects fermenting. So I anticipate housing being a push by the City in the coming years and developers 19 20 that I've spoken to are interested in doing so. I 21 think you're going to have enough -- these are rental 22 I think you're going to have enough rental now. 23 housing in this part of the City. 24 MR. EINGORN: But for now what they're 25 asking you is, they want to continue to use these as

```
residential for the foreseeable future.
1
2
                MR. SHEEHAN: Yes.
                MS. ALSTON: I didn't hear you.
3
                MR. EINGORN: I said, what the applicant
4
    is saying now, though, is, for the foreseeable future
5
    as these tenants are there, we want to continue to
6
    use this as residential. That's why they're here.
7
    Right? They're here to continue the residential use.
8
                MR. SHEEHAN: We need the COO to allow
9
    those residents to remain there.
10
11
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I make a motion.
                MR. EINGORN: We have a motion to grant
12
13
    the interpretation?
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
14
                                        Yes.
15
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
                REVEREND MARTINEZ: Second.
16
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
17
    Chairman Hance.
18
19
                CHAIRMAN HANCE:
                                  Yes.
20
                MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
2.1
22
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
23
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
24
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
25
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
```

```
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
1
2
                MS. ALSTON:
                              Yes.
                               Mr. Brito Bueno.
3
                MR. EINGORN:
                MR. BRITO BUENO:
                                   Yes.
4
5
                MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
    none opposed, the motion passes.
6
7
                MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. Then I'm
8
    suppose to wait for the Adoption of Resolutions.
                MR. EINGORN: It'll be adopted next
9
            Don't go anywhere. We have Resolutions.
10
    month.
                               I got to hear from one of
11
                MR. SHEEHAN:
    the first ones.
12
13
                MR. EINGORN: So those that were here
14
    last month are, Vice-Chairman Cooper, Reverend
15
    Martinez, Ms. Merricks and Mr. Brito Bueno.
                                                  Those
16
    are the people can vote on the Resolutions.
17
                The Resolutions are: Granting Minor Site
    Plan Approval regarding 1435 River Owner, LLC.
18
    was constructing a building.
19
20
                Granting Use Variance Approval and
21
    Preliminary and Final Site Plan Approval for Holcomb
2.2
    Bus Service. This was the bus parking lot.
23
                Granting Bulk Variance Approval for
    Jonathan Gabay. That was a duplex.
24
25
                And Granting a Cert of Nonconforming use
```

```
for Gideon Nwachukwu, 1180 Bergen Avenue.
2
                Do we have a motion to adopt?
3
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER:
                                        Motion to
4
    adopt.
5
                MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
6
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Second.
                MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
7
8
    Vice-Chairman Cooper.
9
                VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
10
                MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
11
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
                                     Yes.
12
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
13
                MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
                MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
14
15
                MS. ALSTON: Yes.
16
                MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
17
                MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
18
                MR. EINGORN: Motion passes. Motion to
19
    adjourn?
                CHAIRMAN HANCE: Motion to adjourn.
20
                REVEREND MARTINEZ:
2.1
                                     Second.
                MR. EINGORN: All in favor?
22
23
                THE BOARD: Yays.
24
25
           (**Meeting concluded at 9:10 p.m.**)
```

1	CERTIFICATION
2	
3	
4	I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am a Certified Court
5	Reporter and Notary Public.
6	I FURTHER CERTIFY that the witness was sworn
7	to testify to the truth.
8	I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing is, to
9	the best of my ability, a true and accurate
10	transcript of the testimony taken stenographically by
11	me at the time, place, and date hereinbefore set
12	forth.
13	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a relative,
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