# In The Matter Of: <br> CITY OF CAMDEN v. <br> ZONING BOARD 

> Transcript of Meeting March 4, 2024

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> ZONING BOARD
> CITY OF CAMDEN

Monday, March 4, 2024

Transcript of proceedings of the Zoning
Board of Adjustment taken in City Council Chambers, 2nd floor City Hall, 520 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey 08101, commencing at 5:44 p.m.
$B O A R D M E B E R S E S E T$ DARNELL HANCE, CHAIRMAN CHARLES COOPER, VICE-CHAIRMAN ISASIA MARTINEZ KAREN MERRICKS MARITZA ALSTON JOSE M. BRITO BUENO

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DEMBO, BROWN \& BURNS, LLP EVITA MUHAMMAD, ZONING BOARD SECRETARY

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## I N D E X

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1) 521 Cooper Street
(Deficient Notice)
2) 880 S. 27th Street
(Deficient Notice)
3) ALBA AGILAR

1164 Everett Street
4) BARBARA CLARK 314 Marlton Pike
5) CANNABISTA, LLC6 2035 Admiral Wilson Blvd. (Adjourned to April 2024)
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7) LYDIA ROBLES36

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CHAIRMAN HANCE: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the City of Camden Zoning Board regular scheduled meeting of March 4, 2024. Reading of the Sunshine Law: In conformance with the Sunshine Law of New Jersey, notice of the meeting was posted in the Municipal Clerk's office on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll call. Chairman Hance.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Here.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Here. MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez. REVEREND MARTINEZ: Here. MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks. MS. MERRICKS: Present. MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston. MS. ALSTON: Present. MR. EINGORN: Jose Brito Bueno is absent. Henrietta Washington, absent.

Let's start with the approval of the minutes for February 2024. Do we have a motion? VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Motion to accept. REVEREND MARTINEZ: Second. MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.

Chairman Hance.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: I wasn't here.
MR. EINGORN: Abstain. Having four in favor and none opposed, the motion passes.

Good evening everyone. I'm going to announce the list of cases. If you're present, please let me know. We will take the cases in order as they are on the agenda. We've already heard one cell phone tonight. If you could please silence them. I know everything is an emergency nowadays. I'm the same way; I get it. But it does interrupt the applicants and it changes are train of thought.

So like I said, if you hear your name, please let us know you're ready to proceed. Before we do that, we have a couple of deficient applications that you may have received notice for: 521 Cooper Street, that application was deficient.

If you're here because you received notice for that, it will not be heard tonight. They will have to renotice. That also goes for 880 S. 27 th Street. That applicant was also deficient notice. That will not be heard tonight as well.

The first matter of Old Business, Alba Agilar.

MS. AGILAR: Here.
MR. EINGORN: Barbara Clark, 314 Marlton Pike.

MS. McCoY: Ready to proceed.
MR. EINGORN: Very good.
The next matter, Cannabista, LLC, 2035
Admiral Wilson Blvd. will be adjourned. I guess we'll put it on for the next month. I don't know if they're going to appear next month or not. They may have to renotice. But for now, we'll mark for April. So if you're here for Cannabista, 2035 Admiral Wilson Blvd., it's not being heard tonight; will not be heard tonight.

The next matter, Hattie L. Pope, 422 Washington Street.

MS. POPE: Here.
MR. EINGORN: Next is Lydia Robles.
MS. ROBLES: Here.

MR. EINGORN: Antonio Ovando Rodriguez, 1016 Broadway.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Here.
MR. EINGORN: Roger D. Machigal. I saw
Mr. Izzo.
MR. IZZO: We're ready.
MR. EINGORN: Melanie Garcia.
MR. IZZO: Also ready.
MR. EINGORN: Hanan Almomari.
MR. IZZO: He's here and we're ready.
MR. EINGORN: Triplex Auto Group.
MR. IZZO: Also ready.
MR. EINGORN: And then four matters for
Benson Investments, LLC.
MR. SHEEHAN: Here.
MR. EINGORN: I did see Mr. Sheehan in the back so those are all present as well. Let's get started with Old Business. Please come forward. Alba Aligar, 1164 Everett Street.

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

ALBA AGILAR MARTINEZ; GERMAN LUNA, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:
$\square$
MR. EINGORN: Please state your names and addresses for the record.

MS. AGILAR-MARTINEZ: My name is Alba Agilar-Martinez, 1807 Jackson Street, Cinnaminson.

MR. LUNA: German Luna, 1807 Jackson Street, Cinnaminson.

MR. EINGORN: So this is a continued matter from last month. The applicant has a duplex and is requesting bulk variances. The Board requested that they provide additional information. It looks like additional information has been provided. There's a lot of pictures here. Is this a tax card?

MS. ALBA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: So the applicant is appearing tonight proposing a duplex, any bulks variances for minimum lot size and minimum lot width, off-street parking, lot depth and building coverage. And this was purchased as a duplex; is that correct?

MS. ALBA-MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: And you testified last month that there's only street parking; is that correct?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: And did you take the photographs that are in this package?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And my big concern about this is, is the basement. Looks they have a bedroom down there.

MR. EINGORN: Right. We asked for more information. Right? if I remember correctly, these meters were preexisting?

MR. LUNA: Yes. Actually, we just replaced them a couple of weeks ago; probably like two weeks ago.

MR. EINGORN: Okay. But when you bought it, it had two meters?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: I'm showing you four photographs here. This is two water heaters or two gas meters; is that correct?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: And those were preexisting as well when you purchased?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: And then, can you tell us a little about the basement?

MR. LUNA: The basement in this picture here is like a living room, hallway. You can put a couch in there, but nobody is sleeping there. But it is two rooms downstairs in the basement and a bathroom.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Your last
photograph, pictures, can you explain that back to me. It looks like you have a door there. Is there a door? You got a door where the steps are then you --

MR. LUNA: Yes. That's the backyard.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Is it two doors back there or one door?

MR. LUNA: One.
MR. EINGORN: Is there a door that leads from the basement to the outside?

MR. LUNA: No.
MR. EINGORN: I'm looking at what looks
to be floor plans. This is the last page of your submission. Can the Board see this?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: I'm looking at what says basement. There's two rooms here labeled bedroom. MR. LUNA: Yes.

MR. EINGORN: Are they being used as bedrooms?

MR. LUNA: Yes:
MR. EINGORN: Has the fire inspector been out to look at this?

MR. LUNA: No.
MR. EINGORN: So really the applicant is here for bulk variances related to the parking and the size of the lot. The issue regarding the basement would really be for the fire inspector and code enforcement official who is going to probably have a lot to say about that. But as it relates to the testimony regarding the requested bulk variances, this is a row home?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: And there's a party wall between this property and the one to the left of it when you're facing the building?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: And to the other side there's a small alleyway; is that correct?

MR. LUNA: That's correct.
MR. EINGORN: And there's no ability to expand the size of the lot due to the relationship to the other properties?

MR. LUNA: No.
MR. EINGORN: And there's no ability to
reduce this size of the building to reduce the building coverage?

MR. LUNA: No.
MR. EINGORN: All these conditions were preexisting when you purchased the property?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Does the Board have questions for the applicant?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Since they're landlocked, you can't expand or anything. Its already been a duplex. What type of stipulation can we put on, you know, if we approve this? We approve it and it's out of our hands, so from that point forward?

MR. EINGORN: So let's start at the beginning. This is in an $R-2$ Zone where a duplex is a permitted use, right?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: But they're requesting bulk variances related to the topographic conditions, right, the size of the lot which, I mean, this home looks to be rather old. Probably it's condition predated the ordinance. Whoever made this into a duplex probably either did a long time ago or never obtained permits or whatever it may be.

But it does appear based upon the construction and its relationship to the neighbors, you can't change it which would be a preexisting conformity condition. Now that said, to the extent that the Board is interested in granting this application, you could condition the variances upon obtaining inspections and CO from the fire inspector specifically, the code enforcement; make sure that they're in there; that they have their say before --VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I can make a motion to approve --

MR. EINGORN: Wait. We might have more questions first and then we got to open to the public.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm curious about the off-street parking. So what are we doing about the off-street parking? They need two and a half spaces?

MR. EINGORN: Yes. This is street parking only. They're requesting a variance. MR. LUNA: There is always parking spots.

MR. EINGORN: Please speak louder. MR. LUNA: There is always parking spots all the time.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: This building here, is that is a school? What's across the street from you? MR. LUNA: A park.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: What's the building right next to it?

MR. EINGORN: I think it's like a
water --
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It's a water tower.

MR. LUNA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Is street parking allowed on both sides of the street there?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: How long did you own the property?

MR. LUNA: I bought it like a year ago.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: You guys are not living
in the property, correct?
MR. LUNA: No.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're renting it out?
MR. LUNA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is it rented out already?

MR. LUNA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So when you purchased
it, was it residents living there when you purchased the house or the apartment, duplex?

MR. LUNA: It looks like already that people was living there.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Okay. What did she say about downstairs? That's not part of this application, the basement since we knew about this case?

MR. EINGORN: No. That's a Code
Enforcement Class Fire Inspector issue. Any questions down there from the Board?

REVEREND MARTINEZ: No.
MS. ALSTON: No.
MR. EINGORN: We will open to the public. Is anybody in the public here tonight that would like to be heard on 1164 Everette Street? If you would, come forward now. Seeing and hearing none, we'll close the public portion.

The applicant is here tonight seeking bulk variances for parking and lot size, lot width, lot depth and building coverage. Now is the time for the Board to ask any final questions, do a discussion and to make a motion. As previously indicated, the Board is authorized to condition its approvals to the extent that the Board wishes to
grant the application.
MR. EINGORN: Do you have any questions?
REVEREND MARTINEZ: No questions. We are good down here.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I'm going to make a motion to accept with certain conditions that they obtain a CO for what they're doing and that the fire marshall can come in and also inspect.

MR. EINGORN: Inspection by Fire Marshall and obtain a CO .

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Second.
MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote. Chairman Hance.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Five in favor and none opposed, the motion is granted. Have a great night
guys.
MR. LUNA: Thank you.
MS. ALIGAR-MARTINEZ: Thank you.
MR. EINGORN: Next matter in New Business is Barbara Clark, 314 Marlton Pike.

MS. McCOY: Good evening. I am not Barbara Clark. I'm the attorney for Ms. Clark. The application is for a variance for a nonconforming use on 314 Marlton Pike.

MR. EINGORN: Would you like to put your appearance on the record.

MS. McCOY: Vera McCoy representing Ms. Barbara Clark.

MR. EINGORN: Do you have any witnesses you'd like to be sworn.

MS. McCOY: Her husband Mr. Bob Jones is here.

MR. EINGORN: You want to bring Mr. Jones forward?

MS. McCOY: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right hand, please.

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BOB JONES, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as
follows:

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

MR. JONES: Bob L. Jones, 3 Cobalt Court, Swedesboro, New Jersey.

MR. EINGORN: What do we have going on?
MS. McCOY: So when Ms. Clark bought this back in 1995, it was being used as a duplex and it stayed as that use ever since. The use has never changed. However, when he went to sell it, that was when this was brought to the Board's attention. So as it stands now, we're still ready to move forward with it so it can be zoned, properly zoned and be used as a duplex.

There's pictures that were submitted when this application was first submitted back in August. And those haven't changed; nothing was changed since then. And we do have rental approvals for both units.

MR. EINGORN: Has the applicant obtained rental approvals dating back to $1995 ?$

MS. McCOY: Yes. But we have recent ones now for 2023/2024.

MR. EINGORN: Can we have copies of those
for the record?
MS. McCOY: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Let the record reflect that counsel has provided Certificate of Rental Approvals dated January 27th, 2022 and January 26, 2022 respectively. They both state that the property is a two-family dwelling. I will share these with the Board. We'll mark them Exhibit A to the application as Rental Approvals.

I'm showing you this photograph.
Mr. Jones, did you take this photograph?
MR. JONES: I didn't take any.
MR. EINGORN: Do you know who did?
MR. JONES: No.
MR. EINGORN: This is the property here?
MR. JONES: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: And are both of these entrances for the property?

MR. JONES: Both of them. One's upstairs and one's down.

MR. EINGORN: So there are separate outside entrances for both units?

MR. JONES: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Based upon the exhibit, is it your understanding that this building was
constructed as a duplex?
MR. JONES: It was constructed as a duplex.

MR. EINGORN: Very good. Thank you. Did everybody hear that testimony?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Does the Board have questions for the applicant?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have one question. Your back door, is that accepted for both apartments; they go up the steps and then down the steps if they had to get outside from the back door?

MR. JONES: No. Only one has the door to the rear, which is the first floor.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you got a front door. So they come through the front. So your second floor, how do they exit if there's a fire? Do they go out the back door or do they go out the front door?

MR. JONES: They go out the front door.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So there's no back door?
MR. JONES: There's no back door on the second floor.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: For the second floor?

MR. JONES: I found out and then I bought a fire ladder so they could use it on the side to come down from the second floor and it was approved. MR. JONES: None of those houses have second-floor doors.

MS. McCOY: None of them have a second floor actually.

MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public tonight would like to be heard on the application related to 314 Marlton Pike, Camden, New Jersey? Hearing and seeing none, we'll close the public portion. The applicant here tonight is seeking a Certificate of Nonconforming use for the property at 314 Marlton Pike. The applicant has submitted rental approvals and photographs which seem to support the requested relief. The Board should do a discussion and make a motion regarding the application.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: In these apartments you got separate utilities for both, correct?

MR. JONES: That's correct.
MS. McCOY: Yes.
MR. JONES: One was hot air and the other one is hot water.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: When you purchased
it, this the way it came?
MR. JONES: That's the way it was. Only thing we updated the heating system and we had put new a hot air system and new water.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: The only problem, you should have some type of photograph stating this.

MR. JONES: New heater and water?
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Un-huh. Do you got pictures?

MR. EINGORN: Did you see this picture about the separate front entrance?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes. Yes, I see the two meters here too.

MR. JONES: Is that what you want, the hot water and air?

MR. EINGORN: I think issue is that the evidence before the Board seems to demonstrate that this was constructed as a duplex.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Right.
MR. EINGORN: So I don't know that the additional pictures would add anything to the application. That's all. I'd rather not carry him to next month.

MR. JONES: I have some more pictures.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yeah, but she has
pictures for us.
MS. MCCOY: He has them on the phone too.
MR. EINGORN: We can't get take
photographs from phone or tablets.
MS. McCOY: They already have those photographs.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I'm fine with that.

MS. MUHAMMAD: Let's see your pictures that you have because $I$ didn't include all of them because they weren't of every room that you gave me. You didn't give me every room.

MS. McCOY: These are for the second floor.

MR. EINGORN: We will mark these exhibits as "B," the additional colored photos.

MS. McCOY: And those pictures were taken by the realtor.

MR. EINGORN: Ma'am, can I swear you in real quickly. Would you raise your right hand, please.

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KENAISHA PRESSLEY-SMITH, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:


CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm happy to drag you into it cause we got the gas meters there so that's perfect.

MR. EINGORN: You made the Board very happy.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It's only fair. We ask other people to show this proof. For us to give it to you on your word is...

MR. EINGORN: I think the difference between the last application and this one is, they were asking for variances. And this is a Certificate of Nonconforming Use. The standard is different, the legal standard.

So now we're waiting for a discussion and a motion.

MS. McCOY: Anything further?
REVEREND MARTINEZ: I don't think there's a problem with it since he bought it years ago. I could make a motion, motion to accept the application.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll say this, we go through this a lot. You owned it since 1995?

MR. JONES: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: When you buy into something that you think is legal and it's not legal,
here you are.
MS. McCOY: That's pretty much it. CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's a plus for the City.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Is that a second?
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Second.
MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
vote. Chairman Hance.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Five in favor and none opposed, congratulations. Thank you for your time tonight.

MR. JONES: Thank you.
MS. McCOY: Thank you.
MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Hattie L. Pope, 422 Washington Street.

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

HATTIE L. POPE, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

MS. POPE: My name is Hattie L. Pope. Address is 422 Washington Street, Camden, New Jersey 08103.

MR. EINGORN: Would you like me to read your appeal for zoning?

MS. POPE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Pope is here tonight regarding 422 Washington Street. She is the owner of the property. The property is in the $R-2$ Zoning District with frontage of 20 feet. There's one building on the lot. It's a three-story home with a basement; 4 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bathrooms. It's a residential property. And the zoning officer denied a permit for a ground-level deck, $20-b y-20$ because of impervious coverage. The area of the property and walkway is 100 percent impervious. And so the
applicant is requesting a bulk variance for the day. Is that accurate?

MS. POPE: Yes. Thank you.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Pope, did you take the photographs that are attached to this application?

MS. POPE: Yes, I did.
MR. EINGORN: Very good. And when did you take these photographs?

MS. POPE: Over the past year.
MR. EINGORN: Construction for the deck has already started?

MS. POPE: Yes. The deck is completed. If you look at the "before pictures," you probably will see why $I$ wanted something in that area, my back yard. And the house, it started out as a DIY project but it was just a little beyond me.

I purchased this home 14 years ago and I did a lot of the DIY work inside myself. With the exterior, I started working on that back yard. And when it rains, there's mud, a lot of soil, dirt and I had a fall. So I hired someone to put the deck in for me so I would have an outside space; something to exercise and do my rehab. And I do apologize. It was a large oversight on my part that $I$ did not get a permit.

And it's sort of ironic how I found out that I needed a permit. The deck received damage. I don't know if anyone on the Council is aware of Carravello Development, but they were tearing down the house next to me, and they damaged the deck and the fence. So in trying to get them to repair, I found out that I needed a permit. So a bad thing happened but a good thing happened because once I found out I was in violation, I took steps to apply for the permit, took pictures and here we are.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So there was an existing deck there already before when they damaged it?

MS. POPE: No, sir. There was -- if you look at the pictures, there was --

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I saw the gravel there and the dirt.

MS. POPE: Yes. And the staircase, the steps and the railing needed replacing.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you said that they damaged your fence, though, correct, when they were knocking down the house next door?

MS. POPE: The fence was existing when I purchased the home. So when I put in the deck, I took it to the side-by-side to the fence area so that's where I think I over-calculated.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: This is how it looked right now like the last picture you got here?

MS. POPE: Yes, sir.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Nice.
MS. POPE: Thank you.
MS. ALSTON: You mentioned that the reason you started the project was because of the water issue; you were getting water in your yard and it wasn't running out. And what are you doing now with this deck?

MS. POPE: Let me just restate. The water did run off but, you know, maybe for a couple of hours it would be unusable. And if you look at the "before picture," the yard really wasn't that great. So once I finished the inside, I'm looking, what can $I$ do on the outside. Starting the project, I just didn't know about a permit. And I don't like to say, I don't know things. I like to research and, you know, be knowledgable.

In getting some of the quotes, they were very expensive from Lowe's and Home Depot. And trying to get this yard done, I would speak to anyone, neighbors, people in Home Depot, anyone that would stand still for ten minutes. I was telling them what I wanted to do with this back yard.

So one of the neighbors recommended this contractor. And I hired him labor-only and I purchased all of the materials so that $I$ knew that $I$ wanted that 20 -foot board.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: So this contractor, he should know better than ask for a permit, right? MS. POPE: Well, I called his number; I texted him; I emailed him and I get crickets. So I don't know. I feel that he should have known but as the homeowner in doing my research, it falls back on the homeowner.

MS. ALSTON: So understand it.
Esthetically, it's going to look nice. I get it. And I think it's going to be great and it's going to add value to your property. My concern is, the original -- where $I$ was leading to originally, where would the water drain? Is the water going to be draining off the property? Is there a drain because all the drainage there?

MS. POPE: Yes, ma'am. In one of my pictures at the back of the fence, there's a very huge drain and that's where the water was going. There was even -- when I purchased the home, there was even additional some, I think, type of pipe that went to that drain so the water didn't stay and it
didn't stand. It made it muddy.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It just saturated the area and made it muddy?

MS. POPE: Right. In purchasing the materials for the deck, I did discuss in length with this person that put it down, that the water will have to go towards that drain. And that's what you'll see in the pictures. When it was being developed, I took pictures to make sure of the progress that that water would be going away from the property to that drain.

MS. ALSTON: Do you have a contractor now? Have you replaced the old contractor with a new contractor to do the work or?

MS. POPE: No. The work is completed. That was my oversight. This was done a couple of years ago. And finding out about the permit was when the demolition company damaged the deck and trying to bring them to have some type of justice. Everybody asked me: Do you have a permit? I was like: Permit?

MR. EINGORN: Is that the drain you're referring to?

MS. POPE: It's right behind the gate. My deck is inside that gate.

MR. EINGORN: And the deck boards, are they spaced so that the water can go through?

MS. POPE: Yes. Under the deck
there's --
MR. EINGORN: I'm not worried about under the deck.

MS. POPE: I don't know what you call them but. The water rolls this way and it goes to that drain.

MR. EINGORN: Got it. Okay.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So you have like a nail-hole gap in between each board so the water will run off of the deck?

MS. POPE: Yes. I think there's a picture there of what the foundation looks like.

MS. ALSTON: So I saw that there's another piece. I don't know what they call it, the metal on the bottom of the deck there. Is there any way for animals or squirrels to crawl up in there and start living in that area?

MS. POPE: No. On the outside there's a mesh. I don't know if one of the pictures where it shows there's completely vacant around my property. There's no houses. There's a house next to me. But in your -- I'm sure the council is aware that the
block where $I$ live, 185, is slated to be developed. And they are just tearing everything down around me. So the deck was sort of a relief; something nice to look at.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So how long has the deck been down?

MS. POPE: Two to three years.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: At least you got your money's worth. It looks good. Two to three years is good.

MS. POPE: Thank you so much.
MR. EINGORN: Anymore questions? Hearing no questions, let's open to the public. Anybody here tonight like to be heard on 422 Washington Street? Anybody? Going once, going twice. Hearing or seeing no public, we will close the public portion. Now is the time for the Board to do a discussion and make a motion regarding the applicant's request for a bulk variance for impervious coverage related to a ground-level deck.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think we all want to have a nice place to live in. I think she's one of them. So I think she needs -- if we find out that the other contractor messed up her property and even
she left money there, I think we should approve this application.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to back-track and say, thank you for apologizing. I've been here a minute and you're probably the first one who apologizing of not knowing. And I believe in if you're beautifying your neighborhood even your home, that's where you have peace at when you come home from work and you go out to your deck and you just soak it all in. So I'm kind of jealous. But any way, you did a good job. And like "Do it yourself." It means you took pride in what you were doing to your home. I think it's something good. You learned your lesson; you got to get a permit. All-in-all, I'm going to make a motion to accept.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: I second you.
MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote. Chairman Hance.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.

MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Five in favor and none opposed, the motion passes. Enjoy your deck.

MS. POPE: Thank you so much.
MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Lydia Robles, SS Polk 310 E. 28th Street.

Would you raise your right hands, please.

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LYDIA ROBLES, FRANCHESCA ABED, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. EINGORN: Please state your names and addresses for the record.

MS. ROBLES: Lydia Robles, 2825 Polk Avenue in Camden, New Jersey 08105.

MS. ABED: Franchesca Abed, 401 Kaighn Avenue, Camden, New Jersey 08103.

So my name is Franchesca. I work for Rolf's Plumbing, Heating, Electrical \& General Contractors Corp. My client, Lydia Robles, is trying to put up a carport across the street from her house. The current house that she lives in, her dwelling that she stated for the record, 2825 Polk Avenue, had
an existing driveway that led to a storage shed in the back.

However, that existing driving because 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.)
REVEREND MARTINEZ: We only got one picture.

MS. ABED: Okay. So this is the house -you know, I think I have like three. You guys can pass them around. This is the house where they live in and that shows the ADA ramp that is obstructing these.

MR. EINGORN: Okay. So for the record, the applicant has provided the Board with a picture of the front of the residence that is across the street from the property. We'll mark this Exhibit A to the application. And I will distribute these to the Board members.

MS. ABED: The other picture shows the proximity of the house across from the adjacent lot so you could see it's directly across the street. So it's not like she's picking up a lot two blocks down or anything like that. It's directly across the street for that.

MR. EINGORN: Do we have that picture too?

MS. ABED: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Let the record reflect that Exhibit B will be a photo of the street.

MS. ABED: The sizes and dimension of the carport are listed on the plans if you want to take a look at that. The reason for denial was that the City Council would need approval. It's most likely going to need approval for the curb cut. All curb cuts go before City Council. I'm not worried about that.

The use variance, it was previously interpreted. I've had quite a few of the residents, when we did the mailing, reach out and find out that they were under the impression that when they saw carport, that it would be like a mechanic shop or something like that. That's not the case. It's literally just to park two vehicles.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: The house is where the white picket fence is?

MS. ADED: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And there's a curb cut right here.

MS. ABED: And that's actually for the adjacent lot. So the lot that's fenced in right there, yes.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Are you going to put a garage door on this?

MS. ABED: Yes. So on the plans it shows
that it's aluminum and then it had the garage overhead door. And it is planning on getting electric service so that we can have light when we switch it off. Just for the record, this is one of those properties that have one of those weird addresses. So it's Southside Polk 310 East 28th Street.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I know. I had a hard time finding it.

MS. ABED: Then 2825 is directly across which is her property.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're going to have a cement pad under it and then you're going to put the garage on top of that. You're going to run a electric into it?

MS. ABED: Correct.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And I'm sure Rolf's is going to do all this?

MS. ABED: Yes. Construction has not yet began yet. We want to get the zoning first to make sure it's approved. And then we'll go and deal with engineering and the City Council for the curb cub.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And this garage will be able to hold two cars?

MS. ABED: Correct. Long ways.
MS. MERRICKS: And you do own the lot?
MS. ABED: Yes, she owns the lot. The deed was provided as part of the application process. It was part of that. We just can't deed it together because the lots aren't adjacent to each other.

MS. ALSTON: So the sole purpose of the carport is just to have the two cars since they have no other plans for this space?

MS. ABED: No.
MS. ALSTON: Any electric vehicle?
MS. ABED: So we're bringing electric to the unit and I am going to foresee a 220 outlet just because. As of right now, there's not an electric vehicle but that's not to say that in the future there won't be. So the outlet and the electric service is for the lighting around, obviously, for safety, put the lighting around and for the motion sensors then possible like I said.

Her husband does have like a work bench kind of thing and some tools. So mostly likely that'll be over there. So like I said, the previous shed that you see in that first picture that we showed you, is obstructed by the ADA ramp that we had
to do for her handicapped son. MR. EINGORN: Is there additional questions? Hearing none, we'll open to the public. Anybody in the public that would like to be heard on the application related to Southside Polk 310 East 28th Street? Hearing and seeing no public comment, we'll close the public portion.

The applicant has come before the Board for a use variance for a principal-use garage on a vacant lot. Not typically something we see. The applicant wants it for personal residential use. The Board should do a discussion related to the Positive and Negative Criteria. It does seem to me, however, that this does create some sort of possible slippery slope in the future related to commercial use. So to the extent that the Board's inclined to grant this application, it may be limited to residential use only, --

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: -- something of that
nature.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I say it's Positive.
You work hard for everything and you need your property protected. A garage seems to be the right way to do it, right across the street. You answered
my questions earlier about security and all that stuff that you're going to do the lighting, you're doing security, motion sensor and whatever the case may be.

MS. ABED: Sure.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I think it's a great idea.

MS. ALSTON: Kyle, do they need to check in with City Council at all?

MR. EINGORN: Yes. So they're already doing that, right, but you can make that a condition of approval as well.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: They got to get approval for the curb cub.

MR. EINGORN: They're going to have to do that anyway.

MS. ABED: Yes. Regardless, I have to go before them if I want a curb cut.

MR. EINGORN: Any questions, comments, discussion?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I'm going to piggy-back on my friend's comment. I think it's a good thing when we finally protect your property and have somewhere to put your car and park it safely. Because in the City that we all, it's a tough chore
keeping your car safe. I think it's a good thing. MR. BRITO BUENO: Motorbikes especially. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I make a motion to accept.

MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MS. MERRICKS: With conditions.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Sorry. I make a motion to accept with one condition that it stay residential and not commercial.

MS. ABED: Absolutely. We have no objection to that condition. And I heard someone mention but just for the record so that we can state it, the same way that they would require insurance for a driveway, a parking lot, any way, we're going to do the same thing. Right now it's just vacant land so we can't put the driveway insurance and all that other stuff on it. But City Council is going require a Certificate of Insurance before they allow the curb cut.

MR. EINGORN: So we have a motion to accept on the condition that the garage be used for residential purposes only.

MS. ABED: Yes.
MS. ROBLES: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?

MS. MERRICKS: Second.
MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote. Chairman Hance.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Congratulations.
Let the record reflect also that Mr.
Brito Bueno has appeared and will now be marked present.

The next matter is Antonio Ovando
Rodriguez, 1016 Broadway, seeking a Cert of
Nonconforming use for a restaurant. Raise your right hand, please.

ANTONIO OVANDO RODRIGUEZ, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified
as follows:

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

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Antonio Ovando Rodriguez,
321 N. Walnut Avenue, Camden, New Jersey.
MR. EINGORN: So the applicant is
appearing tonight seeking a Cert of Nonconforming Use regarding a restaurant/retail. Sir, is this a restaurant?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: So the applicant provided a commercial lease agreement with the landlord Mohammad Asraf Oddin.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: It's already set up as a restaurant. Was there a restaurant there before?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's a store.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: We need an interpreter.

MR. EINGORN: Was the kitchen there when you signed the lease? Is there anybody here in the public here who speaks fluent Spanish that can help us? No. So we'll do our best.

The kitchen, was that thee when you
signed the lease?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have a question. Can I help him because $I$ know about this cause it's right now from one of our businesses?

MR. EINGORN: Can you tell us what you know about the -- you went to the property?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. It's right down from where my office is.

MR. EINGORN: Okay.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll give you guys an update. This is right down from our building, 900 Broadway. It used to be a corner store/inside restaurant. And it closed down and then these guys showed up and I've seen them working on the building. They brought it up to the way they want it to be. Yes, there was always a kitchen inside there.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Because it was a store eventually.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: It was a store in the front and a restaurant in the back. It was like a Bordego.

MR. EINGORN: This sign?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's mine.
MR. EINGORN: New?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Just a cover?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's just a sticker.
MR. EINGORN: You're going to need a separate approval for the sign. You have to come back for the sign. Okay?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. They said I need a permit for a new one but this is only a sticker. It's not a new one.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: You changed it. There used to be yellow one up there.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: They changed the sticker.
MR. EINGORN: There's another application to change the sign. Any other questions? Seems that the Board knows this property.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you open right now? Are you doing business?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: No, no open. I sign the lease in December but we're painting, prepping everything.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: That's your little food truck out there?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, I have it. Now I work in the City on the food truck but it's not open.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I seen the work on the
building. Nice to improve something. I have seen them working on the building. I haven't seen anything being sold out of the building. Like I said, my office is right there a block away.

MR. EINGORN: Any other questions for the applicant?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm curious. You said retail restaurant. Is it just a restaurant?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, just a restaurant. CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you going to be selling clothes or anything out of there?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: No.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So it's just a restaurant?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Just a restaurant.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Retail kind of changed it around.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: No.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Just a restaurant?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: What time are you going
to open and close?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: We open up 11:00 to 10:00.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is that every day or

Monday through Sunday?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: Wednesday to Sunday. CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you closed Monday and Tuesday?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: What's going to be the name of it, Taqueria El Commandante?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: That's the new name?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: The only issue I have
is, you're going to try to keep the homeless out?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: I talked to the police. CHAIRMAN HANCE: Cause we have the same problem.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: So I talked to the police and they would come any time.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Right. I see you guys keep it clean but when you come back the next day, it's a mess.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: No.
MR. EINGORN: Open to the public?
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.

MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public like to be heard on 1016 Broadway? Please come forward. MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right hand, please.

REVEREND JOSEPH L. SCOTT, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

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REVEREND SCOTT: Reverend Joseph L. Scott, pastor of Shalom Baptist Church, 1036 Broadway, Camden, New Jersey.

MR. EINGORN: Great. What do you have for the Board?

REVEREND SCOTT: Just a couple of e questions. When I saw that we received the notice about a restaurant and $I$ was wondering what modifications were going to be made to the building and what kind of vehicular traffic. Because the church sits on the opposite side of the street where you have the vacant church that's adjacent. That's Mt. Vernon Street, I believe. And I was just
concerned with some of the other storefront operations in the community that seem to attract certain populations, the homeless and the others. So I was wondering how much the restaurant/retail business would impact that population and ourselves. So that was my concern on behalf of the church. Will the business enhance the community or will it become yet another trouble spot? I guess one of my questions is, with the restaurant parking, how much of a problem that may become. There's a lot of parking on Mt. Vernon Street. But the question is, how will the restaurant impact parking around there? And, again, bringing an undesirable element to that particular corner. That was basically my concern on behalf of the church.

MR. EINGORN: Thank you. How many tables
are you going to you have?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: I have nine or ten
tables. But these are small table for two people.
MR. EINGORN: So like 20,30 people at most?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Is there any parking for the store itself?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's on the street, yes,
cause there's a lot of parking.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: If this
application is approved, I pray and hope that you would coincide with the police department and help keep your property clean, you know. Again, I ride down that area a lot and I see a lot of people loitering. So if you could curtail the loitering around your store, that would be a plus for the neighborhood.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. Okay.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: There's also a Chinese food store on the opposite a little further down that draws -- well, they're mainly take-out, though, so they draw a lot of traffic. But you're both take-out and eat-in?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: There is parking. It used to be a school back there but there's parking on this way. People always park on Broadway. I think there's two apartments across the street. I know exactly where the church is because we're actually 900 Broadway so we're actually Camden County OEO. So you're kind of caddy-corner to me.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: So across the street is a gas station.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Do you have -- the top floor, do you own that too or just the store? MR. RODRIGUEZ: Both. So you have apartments upstairs?

MR. EINGORN: He has a lease.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: All right. So you're just leasing the first floor then?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, that's right.
MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have some questions for the church. So you guys are mostly there on Sunday evening, correct?

REVEREND SCOTT: Sunday morning, Saturday and one Thursday a month with food give-away.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Right, I remember.
Because I drive up and down Broadway also. And you guys keep it nice and clean over there too.

REVEREND SCOTT: We try.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And there's a big lot besides you. Do you guys own that lot beside you?

REVEREND SCOTT: Yes, we do.
MR. EINGORN: You said you've already been on contact with the police?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: So you're prepared to deal
with anybody who is hanging outside?
MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Anybody else in the public that would like to be heard on this application? Hearing none, we'll close the public portion.

The Board has heard the testimony of the applicant and Reverend Scott regarding this application. The Board should do a discussion regarding the request for Certificate of Nonconforming use and then make a motion.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to go first. I think it's a good thing because that building is occupied. When it's not, they sleep there; they got the tents up. It's a headache. I think if we all work together, the church, the restaurant and OEO, we could kind of keep everything calmed down out there.

I'm actually the director of security for Camden County OEO so I do all the streets. We have 16 different buildings throughout the county. That's where our main office is. So I'm especially there so I watch the church. I definitely watch the restaurant. Somebody new coming into the neighborhood, I definitely watch them. I think if we all work together as one, we can communicate, we'll be okay.

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 anything that would occupy, it's a plus.

MR. EINGORN: Do we have a motion?
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I make a motion that we accept.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Second.
MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
Chairman Hance.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and
none opposed, the motion passes. Congratulations.
MR. EINGORN: Don't forget the sign.
MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.
MR. EINGORN: The next application is
Roger Machigal, 2500 Baird Boulevard. Good evening,

Counsel. You want to put your appearance on the record?

MR. IZZO: Charles Izzo representing the applicant, Roger Machigal, 2500 Baird Blvd.

MR. EINGORN: Mr. Machigal, would you raise your right hand, please.

ROGER D. MACHIGAL, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

MR. MACHIGAL: Roger Machigal, 1138 Cambridge Avenue, Camden, New Jersey.

MR. IZZO: Mr. Machigal, you would like to use the property at 2500 to run a business; is that correct?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Yes, correct.
MR. IZZO: And what's the building being used for now?

MR. MACHIGAL: Right now it's empty.
MR. IZZO: Do you know how the building was previously used before it was empty?

MR. MACHIGAL: No. That was a long time
that building was closed. I really don't know what was there.

MR. IZZO: So on your table and on my folder, there's a site plan that was prepared. It says Marlton Pike, Baird Boulevard and it shows an odd five-sided building, one-story building; is that correct?

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes. Correct.
MR. IZZO: And that's the building that you're approaching the Board about tonight, the one-story red building that sits at that corner.

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And on your site plan, you have parking spaces drawn in. Is that on the paved area around the building?

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes. It's around the building inside the property.

MR. IZZO: The building is an odd shape. It's got five sides and you're showing a paved area surrounding the building on three sides with parking spaces drawn in?

MR. MACHIGAL: Right. What's your question again?

MR. IZZO: Parking spaces eight feet, eight feet, like these spaces?

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes. We already mentioned all the ones.

MR. IZZO: What's the purpose of those parking areas?

MR. MACHIGAL: Well, for the one on Marlton Pike, the parking that $I$ got on Marlton Pike, I'm going to use cars that are waiting for my service. And when I'm finished, they can go to the Marlton Pike parking spot where the customer can pick it up.

MR. IZZO: What kind of service are you going to provide?

MR. MACHIGAL: I'm going to do mechanics. Like the name I choose "Fast Way" because I'm going to do fast things like brakes, oil change, some kind of stuff. I don't have too many cars on the property.

MR. IZZO: So you're going to service vehicles inside the building or around the outside of the building?

MR. MACHIGAL: Where you can see the parking spot on Marlton Pike, I got enough space to make the service right there and then park the other cars on the Baird Boulevard Street.

MR. IZZO: What's going to be inside the
walls?
MR. MACHIGAL: Inside the can be building can be my tools, all the things I will need to make the service to the cars.

MR. IZZO: Are vehicles going to be brought it into building?

MR. MACHIGAL: I'm thinking on doing this for the wintertime, but $I$ need to start working first to do that kind of thing.

MR. IZZO: Mr. Machigal, who is the owner of this property?

MR. MACHIGAL: My wife. That's Ms. Lillian Noreaga. Does she support your application here?

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes.
MR. IZZO: How will it benefit this area of the City for you to have this business in this area?

MR. MACHIGAL: Right now it's an empty lot -- it's an empty property. What $I$ can see is a lot people get into the back of the building and do bad things, trash and everything. The other thing I have before was, I parked a couple of cars one time. And they get into the building and break the door and everything. One time when I restored to
active operations, I'm going to make good security cameras and everything. And it can be a little bit more secured space for the place.

MR. IZZO: How long has your wife, Lillian, how long has she owned this property?

MR. MACHIGAL: For like around a year.
MR. IZZO: Have you been able to use it at all?

MR. MACHIGAL: No. We are still working to clean up.

MR. IZZO: Has anyone else approached you to rent this property or use it for any other purpose?

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes. We got one people that they want use it for a office. But we really want to use it because that's what we're doing and we both work for our own business.

MR. IZZO: I have no further question to ask you. The Board is going to ask you questions.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. I'll give you some history on that building. That building used to be an insurance company years ago. And from there it was a flea market after flea markets. It's kind of tight for a garage and I'll tell you why. You're on a caddy-corner there. You have a church right behind
you so you're limited for parking. Baird Boulevard is jammed with parking. That's why they park in the middle and put signs up there, "No Parking on the Grass" now. So it's even more difficult to put a garage there.

There is a garage across the street
that's fenced which is much bigger than your spot. It used to be Miller's years ago. But now I think -I don't know if they resold it or renamed it. There's a fish company right here which I think they closed now. And then across from you it's a gas station that we passed before the laundromat. So I see why someone would want to rent it for an office, that's about how big it is. I don't think they want you, the City, to fix cars on the outside. They would rather you pull them into a garage.

And then you got waste; you got cars coming in. That corner is congested. I lived there. I lived on 348 Boyd Street. Then I went to Mitchell Street and that place has been there forever. And no one was ever too sure what to put there because of the space and the way it's angled. It's just a busy, busy area. You got Cousin's right there, a spill-over from Cousin's. So there's a lot of big businesses there. If you go there around
school time, it's impossible from the buses, from the traffic coming from Baird Boulevard to Marlton Pike. That is my few issues that $I$ have with that being a mechanic shop and especially when you're working outside.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Outside, yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're going to be the only mechanic there?

MR. MACHIGAL: What?
CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're going to be the only one doing the work fixing the cars?

MR. MACHIGAL: Say that again?
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Fixing the cars. You're going to be the only one fixing the cars?

MR. MACHIGAL: How long I'm fixing the cars?

MR. IZZO: No. Just you or do you have other people?

MR. MACHIGAL: For now it will be just me, my wife in the office. Maybe one more helper.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: You can't put a car inside the working side?

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes, that's what I'm doing now. I just want to start, you know, with the -have the application agreement so I can open the door
to work inside. In cold weather $I$ can work inside. One time I got the permit for working as a mechanic on that place. I started working on the permit for opening a gate on the building and I can work inside because it will be better.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: Can you put a lift inside and work inside?

MR. MACHIGAL: I don't really going need a lift inside because $I$ don't want to do big things. It's just mostly the service. That's why I choose the name, "Fast Way," you know, because it's going to be fast things that $I$ can do on the ground. I don't need to lift the car.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you going to put a fence up there, six-foot fence?

MR. MACHIGAL: Yeah, a six-foot fence all around. Two doors, one can be on Marlton Pike for getting to the entrance and one for the opposite side on Baird Boulevard following the traffic, you know.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: It seems like you got to do a lot of outfitting to do in order to get inside that thing. For you to be working outside, you know, it's an eyesore pretty much. You know, you got cars; you got hoods; you got oil running on the 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 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 take to those cars.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: How many cars can you fit on to the property legal?

MR. MACHIGAL: Thirteen cars inside the property.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you got 13 cars. Where are you going to work at?

MR. MACHIGAL: I still have the space for working.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Did you see the property; did you go to the property?

REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you got 13 cars around there.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: It was back then an insurance company.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So I'm just looking to the future. You really can't park them all. It's the corner. If you look at the corner, it's like you're right at the light.

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 you take for a job? What would be too big? Just to get an idea of what you would be doing?

MR. MACHIGAL: Well, brakes are mostly the kind of job that takes more time when you have to change the rodders. That's the most time. Like two hours for a car maybe, two to three hours maybe.

MS. ALSON: That's time consuming with the cars. But that's underneath the car. It doesn't --

MR. MACNIGAL: No. You just use a regular jack to put up the car.

MS. ALSTON: Do you at any point seeing maybe a tow truck trying to get in there?

MR. MACHIGAL: Not a tow truck. I don't think no tow trucks.

MS. ALSTON: You're not taking those type of customers?

MR. MACHIGAL: Not those type of customers.

MS. ALSTON: So they have to be able to drive in.

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: In and out?
MR. MACHIGAL: That's why the name is
"Fast Way."
MS. ALSTON: I'm just getting an idea.
MS. MERRICKS: I'd like to ask a question. I'm a little confused with the application which the application was zoned for auto repair and a six-foot fence. But it says, the purpose is auto sales on this portion here.

MR. BRITO BUENO: Do we have a plan? Where is the exit?

MR. EINGORN: There's a site plan.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: My only other issue is, did you talk to the church?

MR. MACHIGAL: You know, if $I$ have one or two cars for sale, I can park it.

MS. ALSTON: You know what, this does say automobile sales. Are you intending to sell?

MR. MACHIGAL: Well, you know, if I got couple of cars. I work as a mechanic. If I got a car and I can re-sell it, I'm going to park it on the same property.

MS. ALSTON: Isn't that like a whole lot more "permitting" involved?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: That's more cars that will be sitting on that property now because now you're trying to sell the cars; not going in and out
now. If now you got six, seven cars there for sale.
MR. MACHIGAL: No, that's too much.
That's going to be too much cars.
MR. EINGORN: I think that's also a different --

MR. MACHIGAL: Any way for this, for six to seven cars, I would need a dealer license and I don't --

MR. EINGORN: Right. That's a different variance.

MR. BRITO BUENO: I have a question. I see all the parking spaces, where are you going to work?

MR. MACHIGAL: There is enough space on the side of Marlton Pike. Again, one time I got the permit, I'm working for working inside the building because inside is enough space. Again, I'm not going to need a lift so $I$ don't want to start with a lift.

MS. ALSTON: Have you thought of trash disposal; disposing of tires, oils and things like that?

MR. MACHIGAL: I already had a mechanic shop. So for that kind of job I can do it on my other place that I have. So that's the thing, I try to work on this place. For the things takes me time
on other place. You know, because I got customers who only want brakes and then $I$ can send them to the other place to do the brakes, oil changes, fast things. Because of the place I already have, I'm doing oil change, some transmission. So that's the thing. That's the point. Don't have this car on that place. You know what I told to my other guy, you know, I'm going to send somebody for change the brakes. So he don't really have the car for too long because he can do it at the same that the customer gets there.

MR. IZZO: I think my client's wife has accomplished and gotten rid of the flea markets. We hope we can keep that out of there.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I noticed on the holidays there's a lot of people selling Valentines stuff, Easter stuff, stuff like that on that property.

MR. MACHIGAL: Yes. One time one of the inspectors called about if $I$-- if we gave the permit to sell that stuff in the property.

MR. EINGORN: Is there anybody in the public would like to be heard on 2500 Baird Blvd.?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Please come forward.

Would you raise your right hand, please.

BARRY MOYE, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

MR. MOYE: It's Barry Moye, 2536 Baird
Boulevard. I'm the trustee for Scott's Methodist Church which is the building that's directly right next to and the property that's right behind his. We own the property that sits right next to which is about maybe ten feet -- maybe five feet walking foot-to-foot; and as well as on the opposite side we own that property which creates that weird triangle that Mr. Machigal has.

With that, I'm asking for the Board to deny the application. One, that's a very high traffic area. That's like NASCAR out there. At that light, people are from the turning lane are trying to take off and execute quick lefthand turns into oncoming traffic, which then the pedestrians currently right there on the side, are attempting to 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 Wednesdays; we're there during the daytime. We try our best to make sure we're there for the community as the events and things are going on as we enter into the season. The gates that are up are currently our gates. So I heard Mr. Machigal speak about 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 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 interest of that community, hence, they are going to be on the opposite side. And I'm not sure of their reasoning and what they do. But when it's time, I'm always going over to ask them, hey, could you move your cars; I understand you're working on them and they're just sitting here temporarily. I get it. But we need the space too. So there's always a fight for parking in this part for space. I just want to make sure $I$ tap on everything that's inside that's being asked for. That's it. Do you have any questions for me?

MS. ALSTON: Are you using the lot?
MR. MOYE: Sometimes we'll park -- excuse me. Currently they have four cars parked on there. I don't know exactly what they're doing.

MS. ALSTON: No, no. Are you using the lot to park when they're not there?

MR. MOYE: On Sunday we have members that park there where we try to keep them out and telling them it's not our lot. Last April we were having an Easter Egg Hunt and someone, and it wasn't the young lady that said purchased the lot but it was a gentleman that came over and stated that he purchased the lot and was trying to buy the back half of our
lot where the right side of the building faced. And I turned him down saying, you know, it's not for sale.

MS. MERRICKS: You said it was another gentleman?

MR. MOYE: Yes. They said this young lady right here owns the lot. It wasn't. It was another gentleman that came to me when we were having the Easter Egg Hunt and he said, I just purchased the lot; are you interested in selling the back part of the lot to us and I said, no. This is the first time I heard that. I thought it was gentleman that owned the lot. That's how represented himself as.

MS. MERRICKS: Oh, okay.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you said Grand
Street. Is that the opposite of the church?
MR. MOYE: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Is that a one-way or
two-way?
MR. MOYE: That's a one-way.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And there's also apartments and houses?

MR. MOYE: Yes. They're duplexes.
There's a string of 10 homes and then there's duplexes on the left side as well as the right
side.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So these are all off of Baird Boulevard?

MR. MOYE: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Going one-way.
MR. MOYE: A one-way, yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have no more questions.

MR. EINGORN: Any other questions?
MR. IZZO: I have his wife who wants to speak.

MR. EINGORN: You want to testify on support of the application?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: She's the property owner, right?

MR. IZZO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Is there anybody else in the public that wants to be heard on this application? Seeing and hearing none, we'll close the public portion. Now you can come forward.

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

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LILIANA NOREAGA, having first been duly
sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

MS. NOREAGA: My name is Liliana Noreaga, 1138 Cambridge Street.

MR. IZZO: You wanted to answer what this gentlemen was talking about, right?

MS. NOREAGA: No. I want say that I need to put the fence there because I have nine months with this property and everybody is going and putting their trash there. Everybody come and do a poop there. And my window is broke. So I need to put the fence.

MR. IZZO: The question is, Mr. Roger is using the property as a --

MS. NOREAGA: Yes, I know. I have another shop and there $I$ do the big things. But now the thing is, I need the fence there and I need to start to work like with the things like oil change, brakes only, something like that.

MR. IZZO: You're saying mainly you need the fence?

MS. NOREAGA: Yes.

MR. IZZO: Whether or not Roger gets approved to work there, you need the fence?

MS. NOREAGA: Yes. Thank you.
MR. EINGORN: Thank you.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I appreciate that you're going to put something there. Because like I said before, the homeless are getting inside buildings trying to stay warm or just find somewhere to sleep and they're causing fires. I appreciate you coming up for the fence because that protects your property, so I have no quarrels about that.

MS. NOREAGA: And I'm waiting nine months for that. And $I$ work nine to one full-time so wait long for that.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: My opinion is, I would think that you put something else there that would better service you than.

MS. NOREAGA: I have years working on car repairs. I no change oil; I no change brakes. That's my job.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: It says you have two garages, right?

MS. NOREAGA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: It sounds crazy but maybe an auto store. Something.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Basically you don't want this to be a storage yard. You got a building there, you got cars there. You're going to be bringing cars and storing them until customers come and pick them up.

MR. MACHIGAL: We can't because in the other place they have, I have to keep the car the whole day because I don't have the time. If I open that place right there, $I$ just got other people doing the job. That's going to be weekly. That's why of the name again, you know, "Fast Way."

The car no going to be right there for the whole three days. Maybe sometimes, you know, if a part doesn't come, the car stays one day to another. But that's the thing, you know. And, again, the cars will be inside the property. I don't want to part cars on the walking way. That's why we want the fence too to cover the space we own. That's the thing.

MR. EINGORN: It's so much frontage for a fence. I don't know.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: And it's on the corner.

MR. EINGORN: Right. That's part of the reason why there's so much. It's got two front
yards.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yeah, there's a building. It's going to come up right to the curb. MS. ALSTON: In terms of the fence, it takes away from that ugly blighted-look that comes from having a lot of vehicles that are not moving or working. I think the fact that they're talking about moving them in and out and repairing them and they're small repairs, there shouldn't be a ton of cars inside of that lot at any given point. I think if they add the fence and camera for security, I believe it would be much safer there than it is now. It's an auto shop. It's like a menacing evil. You need --MR. MACHIGAL: There's a lot of trash back there. There's space back to the building. And in the back of the building is space where you can walk. You can't even enter on that space because there's a lot of trash there. It's a lot of things back there.

MS. ALSTON: Not well kept, yeah.
MR. MACHIGAL: We clean it up. We clean up all this stuff right there like sheets and everything where the people are sleeping on the floor and everything.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think it's nice --
that corner there. It has been dirty forever. Building a fence is a good thing because like my colleague said, it will stop that view of seeing the -- and then if you fix up the building a little bit better than it is now, it will be even better.

MR. EINGORN: Mr. Izzo, did you notice for a site plan of any kind?

MR. IZZO: I'm sorry?
MR. EINGORN: The denial letter says, site plan approval or site plan waiver. Did you notice?

MR. IZZO: Yes, I did take note of that.
MR. EINGORN: Right. Did you notice for any kind of site plan or a waiver?

MR. IZZO: Yes. Our notice does mention it, the contingency of the fence having to be approved.

MR. EINGORN: Right. Did the applicant request a site plan waiver or anything related to site plan? The fence is more of a bulk variance because you're asking for a six-foot fence along the frontage where only four feet would be allowed.

MR. IZZO: I reviewed it a few minutes ago. It says, approval or waiver is required; installation of six-foot fence.

MR. EINGORN: You mimic what was in the denial letter. Okay.

MR. IZZO: Public notice, yes. "Site plan approval or waiver is required comma." And then it says, "Installation of six-foot fence."

MR. EINGORN: Okay. We closed to the public already. It's up to the Board to make a decision first to do some discussion.

The applicant is requesting a use variance for auto repair and then a bulk variance for the height of the fence, and a site plan waiver, $I$ guess, based upon what's in the notice. And then the applicant must demonstrate off-street parking which the applicant is testifying to related to the site plan. The Board can consider that and the weight of the evidence based upon not only what's in the application, but based upon your own knowledge of the site conditions.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to say that I can see the fence. I can definitely see the fence going up for safety. And that will stop a lot of parking on your property.

MS. ALSTON: I think the fence is going to take care of that look that you get from a lot of vehicles, like that abandoned look. So if you have
the fence, that's going to help with that. I had a concern about maybe how the cars were coming in. And they're saying there won't be tow trucks or things like that. They're basically going to be able to drive in and out. They don't think that's going to be there for a very long time. But he brought up a good question, like when it rains or snows, you're not going to be able to work out there, right?

MR. MACHIGAL: That's what I'm talking before. One time I get the permit because I don't got the approval for what I'm doing, so I had to look for another thing because we own the property. So once I get the approval, I can start working on the permit for opening a door on the building and working inside the building, because there's enough of space for working. One of you asked me, is that enough high for working inside. I said it's enough high for working. I not going to need a lift; you know, nothing for pulling up the car.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: One question. Are you open every day?

MR. MACHIGAL: No Sundays. Sundays is for the family. Thank God.

MR. BRITO BUENO: This application is not complete. Is there anything specific like how is
going to be -- how are they going to get in, get out? How the tow truck --

CHAIRMAN HANCE: There's no tow truck.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Just in case they call a tow truck.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: He can't have it. He just said it.

MR. BRITO BUENO: Okay. How they going to work in the building; how big is the building; how high. Something specific. For me this application is kind of incomplete. It's missing a lot of stuff.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to tell the Board this, that if you do not go and see the property in person, you can only go by what they tell you or what you would see on paper. But $I$ go to every property because $I$ want to make sure they're getting a fair shake.

The reason why I'm on top of the property is because I used to live in that area many years. I grew up there as a kid running around. So this is why I stated, this is why it was an insurance company because the property is not big enough for too much of anything else. I mean, you probably could put a steak shop there and it will work out.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: A flower shop.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Or a flower shop. But something that has constant traffic and stuff --

REVEREND MARTINEZ: If he gets approved to put the fence in there, right, now that's going to change the view of that property of the building. Even if you paint that building a little bit nicer than what it is right now. I mean, it will look beautiful. Because that's a nice corner. Now, remember, we all are trying to make a living to survive. And they purchased the property, God knows, how much.

I know the real owners back then. And I know they paid a lot of money. If you pay so much for a property, you can't do something with it, it's kind of concerning. Me putting it in his shoes and all that money they invested and they're trying to be legal coming here to us to get approval, I mean, it's up to us to determine that. I mean, we could approve the fence. We could take a chance on the mechanic if we all agree to it. If not, we'll -- I think the most important part is about the fence in there.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Well, we're going to flip it. And then you got to think about the neighbors, the neighborhood, the extra traffic.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: The should have been
here.
MS. MERRICKS: They are.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: The fence that we're going to looking to approving, we have no plans or anything. We have nothing. You just said you're going to put a fence up, a six-foot fence. You should have something on paper stating what type of fence it's going to be, chain-link fence or whether it's going to be a wrought iron fence or whatever. You know, just for us to say, okay, you can put a fence up. You can put a wooden fence up for all we know.

MR. MACHIGAL: That would be a chain-link fence. You know, you want to see the people -- the people have to see what you're doing inside the building. So it has to be a chained fence. It can't be closed up. It will be a business any way.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I make a motion to say no. Deny.

MR. EINGORN: So we have a motion to deny. Is there a second?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'll second.
MR. EINGORN: We're going to take a roll-call vote on a motion to deny the application.

As a reminder to the Board as it has been in the past denial motions, a "yes vote," is a "yes" to deny. Chairman Hance.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: No.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: No.
MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Having four in favor of denial and two opposed, the motion carries. I'm sorry, your application has been denied.

MR. MACHIGAL: One question what about the fence; we can put a fence on the property?

MR. EINGORN: The whole application has been denied.

MR. MACHIGAL: So what do $I$ have to do because the people are still going to park down there on the property.

MR. EINGORN: You'll need to talk to

Mr. Izzo. We can't give you legal advice.
MR. EINGORN: The next application is Melanie Garcia, NS Sherman 60 E. 28th Street.

MR. IZZO: This is the application of Melanie Garcia and this is Melanie Garcia at the podium here. She's going to present her application for North Side of Sherman which means it's not a house or a building. It's a vacant lot. It's on Sherman Avenue and she has an interest in it expressed in her application. She wants to use it in connection with a business that's already established and not up for approval tonight. And we're going to ask her to testify about that.

MR. EINGORN: Ms. Garcia, would you raise your right hand, please.

MELANIE GARCIA, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

MS. GARCIA: Melanie Garcia, 132 N. 21st Street, Camden, New Jersey.

MR. IZZO: Ms. Melanie Garcia, you gave
the court reporter your home address. But you also have a business in Camden; is that correct?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: Where is that business
located?
MS. GARCIA: At 2817 Sherman Avenue.
MR. IZZO: 2817 Sherman?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: That's not the property you're here about tonight?

MS. GARCIA: No, that's a business.
MR. IZZO: The property that you made application on, is identified as North Side of Sherman, 60 feet east of 28 th Street?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: Is that near your business?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: How is it situated in relation to your business? Is it next to it or is it down the street?

MS. GARCIA: Yes, it's next to it on the same street.

MR. IZZO: What is your business at 2817 Sherman Avenue?

MS. GARCIA: It's an auto repair.

MR. IZZO: Legally approved and
licensed?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: You actually operate that
business --
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: -- with someone else or by yourself?

MS. GARCIA: Yes, with someone else.
MR. IZZO: Who is that other person?
MS. GARCIA: My mom.
MR. IZZO: Your mom?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And when you did start that auto repair business on Sherman Avenue?

MS. GARCIA: Like four years ago.
MR. IZZO: You've come to the Board tonight about a lot along side your business?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And I think you made this drawing that shows Sherman Avenue, 2817 M \& A Auto Repair at Lot 15 which is not your application, but Lot 14 and which is your application.

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And it's on the same side of
the street as your garage is?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And you divided it into parking spaces eight feet wide each, the lot you've identified as 40 feet wide on Sherman going back 100 feet?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And you believe that if you measure these parking spaces, you will have these 8, 12 -- 14 -- I guess to the left, 11 spaces?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: Why do you need those parking spaces there?

MS. GARCIA: Since I have the business like I got a lot of customers so I want to put the customers' cars in the parking lot so I can have like outside so they cannot make like traffic when people are going by.

MR. IZZO: So why they can't they just park in the street in front of your garage?

MS. GARCIA: Because of traffic.
MR. IZZO: Too crowded?
MS. GARCIA: Excuse me?
MR. IZZO: It's too crowded to park on
the street out there?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: What are you going to do to change this property if the Board approves your use of it as a auxiliary parking lot? What are you going to do?

MS. GARCIA: I want to put -- because I want to put like cement and make the parking two sides.

MR. IZZO: Some form of paving?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: Do you propose to build any structure, any booth or cabin or house of anything on this property that you're here about tonight?

MS. GARCIA: No.
MR. IZZO: The Board is going to ask you questions about your application.

MS. MERRICKS: Do you have pictures of your business?

MS. GARCIA: Yes. I gave it to the Board.

MS. MERRICKS: Oh, you gave it to us already?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you want to park the cars after being repaired or when they're fixed?

MS. GARCIA: No. When they're done, fixed, like we just put it in the parking lot so the customers can come and get the car later.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So they can pick them up
and --

MS. GARCIA: Yes. So we're going to have it like outside the streets.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: How far is it from your business?

MS. GARCIA: It's like -- it's one block is dividing. Not a lot. It's next to it.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Let me think. If you're on Sherman Street, is your business on the lefthand side?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And you turn, is it like a sharp turn?

MS. GARCIA: No, it's in the same street.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're on the same street and --

MS. GARCIA: The shop is right here and then the lot is going to be like next to it.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Is it a
transmission place?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: No.
MS. GARCIA: It's an auto repair.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Auto repair. It's
further down Sherman. It's like, this is Conrail here and then it's the detail shop. And then you're the next block down, am I right, on the lefthand side?

MS. GARCIA: Yes, it's next to it.
MR. EINGORN: Is this the garage?
MS. GARCIA: Yes, that's the shop.
MR. EINGORN: This was attached to the application from last month. I don't know why. But these are the photographs I think the applicant referred to.

MS. GARCIA: This one is like the lot.
MR. EINGORN: Yes, we have these. This
is the lot in question, right?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: They wanted to see the shop.

MS. GARCIA: That's the shop, yeah.
MR. EINGORN: I'm looking at the bottom photograph here. This is the entrance to the property?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.

MR. EINGORN: And then, is your shop here or over here?

MS. GARCIA: This way, yes, going to the left.

MR. EINGORN: If we're standing in the street looking at the entrance, it's to the right?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Okay.
MR. IZZO: There just happens to be a 15-foot lot that is not involved in the application in between her garage and this lot that she owns.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: How long have you had your business?

MS. GARCIA: Four years.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: You and your mom, correct?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. IZZO: What's the name of your business on Sherman?

MS. GARCIA: M\&A Auto Repair.
MR. EINGORN: Is there already a curb cut for the property that you can drive into it --

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: -- where it goes down like this?

MS. GARCIA: Yes, it has it.
MR. EINGORN: It has it already?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: I'm looking at the letter attached to the application dated December 1st, 2023. The applicant states: The relief might be granted but condition that a variance in this case is not to run with the land; that if the lot is ever sold, that the variance would terminate. Are you still agreeable to that condition?

MR. IZZO: Right. So just pointing out, the Board has wide discretion. They exercise every single time they come here and Ms. Garcia and her mom may not have this business forever. The Board might consider whether the relief would be forever. So it's an immediate need and it's an obvious benefit to the street there. But I understand, the Board has to think of decades to come.

MR. EINGORN: Any additional questions for the applicant?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: How many cars do you think that lot holds?

MS. GARCIA: Like 11.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Eleven?
MS. GARCIA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: And now right it's an issue with too many cars in the street?

MS. GARCIA: Yes. Because I got like neighbors so they need -- they don't have like parking for their houses so they have to leave their cars outside so we can't take peoples' parking because they don't have no where to park.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So the cars that's fixed are going to put them in that lot --

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: -- and the cars to be fixed, you want to keep --

MS. GARCIA: Yes so their neighbors can have a space too so they can have their cas in the street too. That's basically what I'm doing too.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you going to pave that or what are you going to do; leave it the way it is when you park the cars up there?

MS. GARCIA: No. I'm going to make like parking.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Concrete.
MS. GARCIA: Yes, concrete. And make like the parking lot.

MR. EINGORN: Anybody have further questions or we open to the public?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: We can open to the public.

MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public would like to be heard on the application for North Side Sherman 60 E. 28th Street? Hearing none, we'll close the public portion.

The applicant is here tonight requesting a use variance approval to turn a residential lot in the $R-2$ Zone into a parking lot which would be accessory to an auto garage not on the lot. A stand-alone parking lot is obviously not permitted in the R-2 Zone. We've heard the applicant's testimony and now it's time for the Board to do a discussion of the Positive and Negative Criteria and make a motion.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I think it would be a Positive to do something with that open lot if you're going to fence it in and maybe some security lighting will help secure the neighborhood. I think it's a good think.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: I think it's a good thing.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I think it's a great idea for Camden. We do have a lot of parking issues in Camden. And to take some of the cars off that street. I know exactly where you are. And to put
them somewhere safe. I will say you should have lighting; some type of security there because you may have some overnight cars.

MS. GARCIA: Yes. We have cameras in the shop that's looking towards the parking place.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I will suggest with conditions that if they sell the business, that they have to come back before us for that lot. Because I don't want that to go into like a commercial mode where they're now selling cars on the lot.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: Sounds good.
MS. MERRICKS: I think it's a great idea. Security is really big with the young people. That's what they look for security and all that stuff. You're young and creating a business so I think it's an awesome opportunity for Camden. I think you'll be a good role model for other young girls in Camden being a business owner so young, so I think it's a great awesome idea and keep doing what you're doing.

MS. GARCIA: Thank you.
MR. EINGORN: Any consideration for the fact that when you put down that much cement you create run-off issues?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Would that go back before the Planning Board or does it stop here?

MR. EINGORN: This is a use variance
request. So site plan would remain with the Zoning Board. But with that much concrete, you're talking about run-off. Right? The water's got to go somewhere. And with concrete, it's not going to go into the ground. So I don't know whether or not the Board wants to condition this on site plan or maybe you just want to do like crushed stone or something where the water goes right through and into the ground. But once you change the run-off, that affects your neighbors and then you trigger a site plan approval. You're going to create 100 percent impervious coverage.

MR. IZZO: I think that's the best I did. She can't get a construction permit here anyway. She only can get zoning approval. So you should consider a crushed stone surface where the water can soak into the earth instead of run out to the street. Do you understand that?

MS. GARCIA: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: If the applicant is agreeing to that then we can put that as an agreement as part of a motion if you're approving this. If they're stuck on the concrete then they should have to seek site plan approval so that you
guys can check out where the run-off is and all of those items and make sure that it's not going to run off into the neighbor's house or something of that nature.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Is there a motion?
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Motion to pass with all the conditions that we just mentioned.

MR. EINGORN: So the conditions are, one, the approvals are for the applicant only. Two, crushed stone surface or some kind of permeable surface, otherwise, site plan is required. Does that sound right?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Kyle, there's a lot of stuff here that people don't know when they come to us. And one thing is the concrete. If you want to put concrete to that property, you need more than a permit to put concrete on there. That water, like you said, that's going to sink and then it's going to go the neighbors. You're going to have problems.

MR. EINGORN: Right. Plus you're
creating bulk variance issues that aren't before the Board. So those are the conditions. We have a motion. Is there a second?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Second.

MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
vote. Chairman Hance.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and none opposed, the motion with conditions passes.

MS. GARCIA: Thank you.
MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Hanan Alomari, 601 N. 5th Street.

MR. IZZO: Coming to the podium is
Mr. Hanan Alomari. He has an application to establish a grocery store at this indicated location 601 N. 5th Street. And he has submitted a complete zoning application and provided a photograph of the building as it is now. He has not opened business there but he's ready to open a business because the
property is prepared inside and out. And he seeks Board approval for an existing nonconforming use, a legal nonconforming use.

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

HANAN ALOMARI, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

MR. ALOMARI: Hanan Alomari, 1486 N. Main Street, Williamstown, New Jersey 08094.

MR. IZZO: Mr. Alomari, you want to run a grocery store at 601 N. 5th Street in Camden?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And you brought in a picture of a corner property, I guess, right?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And it's fitted out with store windows and an awning and a corner door?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. IZZO: Is this the way the property will look when you operate your business?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And why are you at the Zoning Board tonight; what's the issue?

MR. ALOMARI: To get approved for a grocery store because it was a grocery store for years. I don't know why it was denied. And I believe it's good for the community, for the neighborhood because the closet supermarket or mini-market, they have to drive all the way to Audubon. That's like 20 to 25-minutes away.

It's good for the community to come nearby; it's walkable; it's driveable to the business. They don't have travel that much. It's easy. They could pick up their baby food, baby milk, groceries and their main essentials over there instead of having a further drive. It may be dangerous to drive with a lot of lights.

MR. IZZO: Do you own this building that you want to start?

MR. ALOMARI: No, I don't own the building.

MR. IZZO: Who is your landlord?
MR. ALOMARI: Ralph.
MR. IZZO: Raphael?
MR. ALOMARI: Yes.

MR. IZZO: Does he support your
application here tonight?
MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And do you know if Raphael or anyone else that he rented to had a grocery store in this location?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes. They had a grocery store and been there for a while. Years. I'm not sure how long but it existed as a grocery store. Apparently it closed and that's why you're here?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes, it closed.
MR. IZZO: What kind of renovation did you have to do to --

MR. ALOMARI: We didn't do no renovation because everything was in there, shelves. Everything was in there because during COVID, a lot of businesses closed; they couldn't afford the rent and it was hard. We saw it was for rent and we rented it. We saw that everything is still in there. It just needed basic cleaning, organizing. It doesn't need like no major work. Everything is already in there.

MR. IZZO: Did you apply for your state licenses for sales tax and tobacco?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And are you ready to operate?
MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And you understand that if the Board approves you, you have to get a City license, a Mercantile License to run the store?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. IZZO: You told the Board very nicely why the neighborhood would benefit.

MR. ALOMARI: Oh, yes. The market is very good for the community. I love Camden. The neighborhood is historical. It's not big like the cities and it's a lot of potential and opportunity for the people in the community in Camden.

MR. IZZO: The Board is going to ask you about your application.

MR. ALOMARI: Sure.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: When did you purchase the building or the store or are you leasing?

MR. ALOMARI: Leasing, yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: You're leasing it?
MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And it's going to be a grocery store?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So what are you going to be selling out of there, eggs, bread?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes. We sell eggs, bread, bananas, some fruit and vegetables, major groceries like baby food, baby formula, baby water, all kinds of groceries like canned goods foods, cereal, baby cereal, regular cereal.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you going to be doing any cooking in there or anything like that?

MR. ALOMARI: Cooking, no.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: You're saying it's a grocery store. The pictures that you presented to the Board here, I don't see no groceries. But on the top I see vape and tobacco products all in the windows.

MR. ALOMARI: Yeah. On top of the signs we have pictures of groceries. But these two signs, banners, are just for like decoration and design to make it look nice and fancy.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you selling Hookah out of there or any type of --

MR. IZZO: You got a Hookah on the window.

MR. ALOMARI: We are but not really. So like maybe five percent of tobacco but I'm not
focusing all kind of that. I'm focusing on grocery, food and groceries. That's how you're benefiting the community.

MR. IZZO: If the Board wanted you to take that detail off your window, would you be able to do that?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes. It's a poster. It's removable. It's not that serious. We can remove it.

MR. EINGORN: That's the next question is, you got a lot of signage. For that much signage, you would need approval. So you would probably have to take the window signs down any way. And then as we told -- what applicant was that -- about the awning? If you're going to change the awning sign, you have to get a sign approval also because those awning signs exceed the ordinance size requirement.

MR. ALOMARI: Are you talking about this one or these two?

MR. EINGORN: One, you have to come in for the number of signs. Because, I believe, you're only allowed one sign. And, two, the sign that goes across the top, those exceed the square foot signage requirement generally. And so you would need approval for a new awning cover as well.

MR. ALOMARI: These two are removable. It's not a problem. And this, it was a sign from before from the previous owner. We only changed the plastic, removed the old plastic and put the plastic on. Somebody still needs to apply for the permit you said?

MR. EINGORN: Yes. You'll need a sign permit.

MR. ALOMARI: That's not a problem.
MR. EINGORN: But the applicant is here for a Cert of Nonconforming Use related to the grocery store. And it does, from the pictures, appear that it was some sort of grocery store before. The applicant didn't raise this and I'm not trying to bolster the application in any way, but $I$ would draw attention to the lease. The owner of the store is called Rosados Morgan Market, LLC which would indicate that this was some sort of corner market.

MR. IZZO: That's the owner of the real estate.

MR. EINGORN: Yes.
MS. MERRICKS: So you said the refrigerator and shelves and all that is going to be in there?

MR. ALOMARI: Everything was already in
there. We don't have to do nothing.
MS. MERRICKS: Just dusting.
MR. ALOMARI: Maybe switch like a broken shelf. Some basic essential work.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I have a question. The diagram here that's in black and encased in glass, that's where you guys -- that's where the trash carts and all that stuff is at?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: My question is, there's a door behind this, a front door and there's a back door to this?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes, there's a back door, yes.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: And your trash, how are you going to bring that out?

MR. ALOMARI: We have a small back yard where we will put all the trash. And then when it's trash day, you take it out.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: So the City collects the trash?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: You don't have a company that comes to pick it up?

MR. ALOMARI: I'm not 100 percent sure
but I believe so.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: And the other thing is those posters.

MR. ALOMARI: Those posters, I can remove. It's not a problem. It's removable.

MS. ALSTON: Me too. So I like the idea that there are groceries and people are able to get what they need especially in the City where it's known for people that have a hard time getting milk, eggs, fresh produce and things like that.

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MS. ALSTON: But when you have the marketing piece that's geared towards vaper and Hookah, it kind of like clashes. It sends a different message.

MR. ALOMARI: Yes, I understand. That's the sign guy who gave it to us as a gift because, you know, good customer and stuff like that. It's removable. We can remove it.

MR. IZZO: Ms. Alston is saying there's children in your neighborhood.

MR. ALOMARI: Yeah, I know. I understand that. I have kids myself so I worry. I think about that too.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: If I walk through
there in a month or so, I'm not going to see none of this stuff?

MR. ALOMARI: You're not going to see none of that. You're more than welcome to come.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: I'm a pastor.
MS. ALSTON: There's nothing wrong with a grocery store.

MR. ALOMARI: If it's approved, I will go right now and remove them.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So we're back to a family grocery store.

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: It's there for the neighborhood?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Any other questions? Are we ready to open to the public?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public would like to be heard on the application of 601 N. 5th Street?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Would you raise your right hand, please.

MILTON HINTON, JR., having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

MR. HINTON: Milton Hinton, Jr.,
608 N. 5th Street. I'm right across from this store. I've been there about 16,17 years. I retired five years ago. I worked for the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office. I tried to move as close to Philadelphia as I could. They wouldn't let me move out of the state so I moved to North 5th Street.

We need to talk real here. North 5th Street is a corridor. It has a corridor from Rutgers University and it runs all the way down past State Street. When I first got there, it was a drug corner; drug sales all over the place and at this store. This has been a nuisance store ever since I've been there, lived there. You've seen the pictures of Hookah and it doesn't say broccoli, eggs, hamburger nowhere on there. It's been up since last April. A group from 5th Street has already been up one of these floors complaining about the neon lights 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 reach the owners in Philly to get them to turn off those friggin' neon lights that was keeping everybody up at night.

Trash, you mentioned trash. There has never been any trash disposal at this store. The raccoons, the possums come for dinner every night. This is how it's suppose -- I don't know if I can give you an exhibit.

MR. EINGORN: You can give an exhibit, sure. I'll ask you about it once I see it. So let the record reflect that Mr. Hinton has provided the Board with a photograph of what looks to be the backside of the building.

MR. HINTON: That's where they put the trash.

MR. EINGORN: We'll mark this --
MR. HINTON: Pile it up in bags and throw it in the back.

MR. EINGORN: Excuse me. Public Exhibit A.

MR. HINTON: I'm sorry.
MR. EINGORN: That's okay.
MR. HINTON: They pile it up in bags and throw it behind the store where a house was torn
down. There is no other area to put trash. They have never had containers. They've never had a dumpster. Between you, me and whoever is listening, what they do is pay the trash people a couple of bucks to take the trash away. I don't have a problem with that. That's business. If they can get it done, they can get it done. But it sits there for a week.

We're getting ready to change the tide. Putting a store back into this apartment building during the summer months, is going to be distressful for everybody who lives on this street. I live practically right across the street. It's a little angle but 608, that's 601. You would think I would be way up the street. I'm not.

The streets on the west side where the store is are all two-story. The streets where I live on the east side, are all three-story. That row burned, that whole row, my house - I didn't own it then - burned to the ground about 12 years ago. All the houses on my side of the street have been rebuilt, redeveloped, remodeled.

I heard someone say travel around and look. You look at the houses. They look like a typical Camden rowhouse. But when you go in them,
they are brand spanking new. We do not need a Hookah store within a school zone. There's a school right on the next block. We have two groceries store on 4th Street. We have two grocery stores on 6th Street. We got Litwin's on 8th or 9th. That's the big grocery store where everybody goes to. We do not need another grocery store for people to hang out at.

Hookah. People just got killed at a Hookah Store in South Jersey. That's the crowd that this attracts. And we have come through this with a new Camden County Police that have really done a good job in North Camden, in my opinion, because we don't have people hanging out on the corners anymore. This is going to be selling Blunts, other rolling papers, et cetera which is going to attract a crowd late night summer that we've seen before. I have nothing against this young man trying to run a business. I understand. But our quality of life suffers whenever that store is open.

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
around and Litwin's which is two, three, four blocks up. They just can't do it. And when stores get in trouble, that's when trouble starts because they start doing things that are a little shady. That's been my experience.

The last thing I want to say, I came home from work one day and there was a fight at that store.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: How long ago was that?
MR. HINTON: This is about six, seven years ago. The fight came out into the street and the guy got shot in the head right in front of my house. We really don't want or need another store. And I respectfully ask --

MR. EINGORN: One second, sir. Let the record reflect that the applicant has provided the Board more than one two, three, four -- five black and white photographs that look to be printed from the Courier Post online. They're dated 11/7/2013. We'll mark these photographs as Public Exhibit B.

MR. HINTON: Right now the -- let me tell you how that building is set up. The first floor is set up for an apartment. It has been used as a store. A second floor and third floor is one apartment. So although it's a three-story building,
it's a two-unit building. And $I$ just respectfully ask, nothing against this young man, that you do not approve this store or Hookah shop.

MR. EINGORN: So how long would you say that this building has been used a grocery store or a store of some sort in your experience?

MR. HINTON: Ever since I've been there, it has been used a store but it has been closed.

MR. EINGORN: When did you move in?
MR. HINTON: I moved in in 2009.
MR. EINGORN: I'm going to mark this Public Exhibit B and pass it down for the Board's consideration. Thank you for your time, sir. Is there anybody else in the public that who would like to be heard on the application of 601 N. 5th Street? Hearing none, we'll close the public portion.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: A couple of questions. What's the hours of operation for your store?

MR. ALOMARI: Eight to ten.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Monday through Sunday?
MR. ALOMARI: Yes. And then Friday,
Saturday, eight to eleven.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Eight to eleven?
MR. ALOMARI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: If I'm not mistaken, we have some type of Ordinance or something that they have to close at a certain time.

MR. EINGORN: I don't know the ordinance that require what the hours are.

MS. MERRICKS: There is an ordinance.
MR. EINGORN: The applicant will have to comply with whatever the ordinance says on store opening and closing.

MR. ALOMARI: I understand what he means.
I don't know how the previous store owners managed the business. I know he saw some garbage in the back. That's from the previous owners. I already personally cleaned everything out; threw all the garbage out because $I$ don't want to attract mice, rats, raccoons. That's from the previous owners. I want the same thing what he wants, something different for the community. And my management is different than from the previous owners. You can't compare two people.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So we're not going to see any neon lights, signs?

MR. ALOMARI: No. Like you said, I applied for a sign. And if we're able to get it on the sign, no problem. If it's not allowed, we can
remove it. It's okay. CHAIRMAN HANCE: Do you know how long that's been a store there?

MR. ALOMARI: What the landlord told me,
a long time. Maybe over 20 years maybe. It has always been a store. And the business, it depends on the management. If the management is doing good, everything is going to be good. If they have poor management, everything is going to go bad. And, of course, we have to go work with Metro Camden County Police. We have to. Cause if the area is dangerous, it's going to be dangerous for my life too because I'm married and I got kids. I want to be safe too. So we're going to have to work with the community and with the Camden Police if there's any crime, action or something happening. I know they have across the street the state police for the bridges, right across. That's a good thing.

MS. MERRICKS: How long have you leased the store?

MR. ALOMARI: Couple of months now. We can do nothing until zoning is approved.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: How can you
improve the trash collection?
MR. ALOMARI: To get a couple of buckets
with the cap on top with the lock which they sell at Home Depot, those are good. But when we leased, we saw a lot of trash out there from the previous owner. So we cleaned all that. They had broken trash cans. Everything is going to be changed as soon as the zoning approves. So we can start doing clean-ups like professional, 100 percent clean-ups and buying containers and changing locks, fixing everything and having an exterminator come every week to exterminate outside and inside the property and all over the property.

And you see a lot of trash because it has been closed for a couple of months; vacant. Of course, homeless people are going to stay over there; people are going to throw the trash over there; people going to throw the bottles. When we open, we're going to have a trash can outside instead of people throwing stuff on the floor, we have a bin over there they can throw inside.

MS. MERRICKS: So as your ownership within the last three months or your leasing, have you been cleaning up the back?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes, I already cleaned it. There's no more garbage bags. There were bags of Goya, canned goods and stuff like that but we already
got rid of it; threw them out. But I'm still going to do more cleaning as soon as it's approved and we have the okay. I'm going to bring more trash cans, more cleaning and stuff like that. How about we bring some stuff and the zoning is not approved and then I will lose the money. Health and safety is number one. I'm scared of racoons, scared of possum. My backyard in the summertime I see shunks, beavers and I'd be scared. I'm scared of them.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Any more
questions? Well, sir -- Positive, Negative?
MR. EINGORN: This is a Cert of
Nonconforming Use. So the applicant's burden isn't a use variance burden. It's just a burden to demonstrate that this was a use that was permitted prior to the change in the ordinance. The testimony you've heard and the evidence you've heard suggests, at least based upon Mr. Hinton's testimony, that this was some sort of store dating back at least to '09. It appears that it has been a store and operated as a store. It looks like it's set up as a store. Right? That's the burden. The burden is to show, this was a store before there was a change in the ordinance and it's allowed to continue in that use.

MS. MERRICKS: I've seen it as a store.

MR. EINGORN: Right. That's really the burden of proof here. This isn't a use variance application. It's a Cert of Nonconforming Use. Right?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. ALOMARI: And I know there's stores in the area that are far away from certain homes. And some people are scared to walk two, three blocks cause it gets dark at night in Camden. So it's convenient for people to go out through the door and go right away to the store instead of walking a long walk. And some stores the grocery stores over there is different. It's like Bordegas. This would basically would be like more -- you can have some Hispanic groceries and more varieties of groceries in there so people can have more options to shop.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: And this place is kind of too small too, right?

MR. ALOMARI: It might like long. It might look tight but it's kind of long.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Somebody want to make a motion on it?

REVEREND MARTINEZ: I make a motion --
MR. EINGORN: Hold on. Ms. Merricks?
MS. MERRICKS: I'm just like listening to
the resident. So we will take down the smoking things?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: We're going to give him some conditions.

MS. MERRICKS: Okay. Fine. Then go ahead then. That's what $I$ wanted to say.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: And I make a motion to pass with whatever decision we tell him to make here. First of all, this has got to change, all these signs and all this stuff here and the trash. I think it would be better by hiring a --

MR. EINGORN: Private hauler?
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Right.
MR. ALOMARI: It's not a problem with us. I don't mind it. It's even better for us instead of the City coming every other day. I'd rather have a company come every day and pick up the trash.

REVEREND MARTINEZ: And the other thing is, where my church is, I got two stores right -- one in front of the building and one on the side of the building. And now I've seen it be open like a month now. They got caught. Where you walk through to the sidewalk, they got about three cars parked right in the sidewalk where people cannot even walk through there no more. So, you know, I really appreciate if
you look out for your neighbors. If we honor you a permit. Our City needs a store.

MR. ALOMARI: You're right about that.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: We need a corner store, not a Bordega. With all the conditions that $I$ mentioned and I make a motion to pass.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I have one more condition.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Go ahead.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: That this is a grocery store.

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: So we have a motion to pass with conditions that, one, the applicant can come back for approval for new signage. Two, to hire a private trash and three, grocery store and not a smoke shop. Is that correct?

MR. ALOMARI: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
MS. ALSTON: Second.
MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
vote. Chairman Hance.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.

MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and none opposed, the application passes with conditions.

At this time, we have a request to take is a five-minute break.

(The proceedings are off the record at 8:22 p.m.)
(The proceedings are back on the record at 8:30 p.m.)

MR. EINGORN: The next matter is Triplex Auto Group, 901-909 S. 3rd Street. Mr. Izzo welcome back.

MR. IZZO: Charles Izzo attorney for the applicant, Property 901-909 S. 3rd. And our application here is to obtain an interpretation of the Board whether or not this requires a finding of
legal nonconforming use. And we have an expert witness in this case, Mr. Seidel. We'd ask him to come forward and give his testimony.

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

BRIAN SEIDEL, P.P., having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

MR. SEIDEL: My name is Brian Seidel. I'm a New Jersey Professional Planner and certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners as well.

MR. EINGORN: Great. The Board will accept Mr. Seidel as a professional planner.

MR. SEIDEL: Thank you.
MR. IZZO: In your role as a certified professional planner, did you have an opportunity to evaluate zoning applications and testify in support?

MR. SEIDEL: Yes.
MR. IZZO: And have you done that in the State of New Jersey?

MR. SEIDEL: I have on numerous occasions.

MR. IZZO: Camden County?
MR. SEIDEL: Yes.
MR. IZZO: What about the extent of your familiarity with the application that's before the Board tonight?

MR. SEIDEL: We reviewed the application; visited the property; reviewed the Master Plans; the Neighborhood Plan associated with the property.

MR. IZZO: And how do you characterize the proposal, the project that's before the Board? MR. SEIDEL: The application that's before the Board is basically for an assessment of an existing nonconforming use. The property contains a purpose-built automotive repair shop with several automotive bays. It has a hydraulic lift in there for the vehicles. It has not been utilized for more than a year. As a result, there's provisions in the Land Use regulations for existing nonconforming uses that they can continue in perpetuity. However, if they are discontinued in use for over a year, the existing nonconformity could go away.

We went back and looked at the planning documents and the historic records for the property. Going back into the most recent plans, I guess, or the longest plans from the Redevelopment Authority,
shows this in a report from 2002 for the industrial sites inventory as a developed property as a garage at that point.

MR. IZZO: So 2002 when obviously it's two years later you're reporting to the Board that you don't see any period where it was used for any other purpose accept the one we're talking about tonight?

MR. SEIDEL: That's correct. While it may have been out of active use, it is still developed and exists today as an automotive repair garage.

MR. IZZO: You made an observation of the surrounding geography of the 901 S. 3rd Street?

MR. SEIDEL: Correct. I have a small packet of information that I'd like to hand out to the Board just to give some character of the property if that's okay.

MR. EINGORN: That will be great. Let's give them out.

MR. SEIDEL: There's two packets. I'll explain them.

MR. EINGORN: So let the record reflect that we received what appears to be an aerial photograph. The aerial photograph will be

Exhibit A. And we received a packet consisting of three pages which we'll mark Exhibit B.

MR. SEIDEL: You said Exhibit A and Exhibit B?

MR. EINGORN: Yes, sir. Exhibit A will be the aerial and Exhibit "B" will be the packet. MR. IZZO: What is the zoning and what is the surrounding nature of the space? MR. SEIDEL: The zoning designation is R-2 Residential. Exhibit "A" with the aerial photograph that we're showing, basically the site is located at the southwest corner of Spruce and 3rd Street. We've identified that with a yellow outline labeled as subject property. It contains the property and the building that we're speaking of. Across the street is Church. It's also the Port Authority parking area.

To the west is the utility substation that's currently being expanded. And the lower righthand corner, we've just provided a street view of the existing building. This photograph is a little bit outdated. Within the last month or so it has been, I would say, reskinned, improved with a new stucco facade on the exterior of the building.

MR. IZZO: What is the significance of
the industrial sites that are around this property or what is the significance of that in terms in this application? I would say the significance here as the second exhibit that we've provided, Exhibit "B," what this is, is essentially a summary of the Neighborhood Action Plan for the central waterfront area which is active update of 2020 , so fairly recent. The second page of that document shows the land use from 2020. On that document it does show that the subject property is identified as an industrial land use and that it is also identified as vacant or semi-vacant.

MR. IZZO: Who is the author of this proposal?

MR. SEIDEL: It was prepared by Interface Studio, LLC.

MR. IZZO: For what agency?
MR. SEIDEL: For the Redevelopment
Authority --
MR. IZZO: Camden Redevelopment
Authority?
MR. SEIDEL: Correct.
MR. IZZO: In their planning map, they've got 901-909 S. 3rd Street in an Industrial Redevelopment Zone.

MR. SEIDEL: That's correct. This is an updated map. There was a map prior to this, essentially the same report from, I believe, 2014 that essentially shows the same information.

MR. IZZO: How does that impact the extent of residential use that's already in place on South 3rd Street?

MR. SEIDEL: I'll go to the next page of that document which identifies the industrial uses. And then more specifically looking at that intersection of Spruce and 3rd Street, again, it's identified as vacant land. It's also shown that there's a vacant building on there. It's across the street from South Jersey Port Corporation adjacent to the Camden, what's identified as the Camden Gas Plant. So it's a very industrial area, despite the fact that we're in a residential zoning district, we're adjacent to a lot of industrial uses.

MR. IZZO: About this project itself, what is the scope of it and what is the nature of the proposal that the owner wants to do here?

MR. SEIDEL: The scope is generally pretty simple. It's to put the automotive repair center back into active business.

MR. IZZO: And are you proposing to
expand the building or reduce the building?
MR. SEIDEL: No changes to the extent of the building. Just improvements to the building itself.

MR. IZZO: And what is the impact of the discontinuance of the previous auto repair business. How does that fit into this application?

MR. SEIDEL: As I mentioned, the provision of the Land Use Ordinance discuss existing nonconforming uses and indicate they can continue within or in perpetuity. The only deviation here is that the use has been discontinued. Now while the use has been discontinued and, again, it didn't change the parameters or the aspects of the building with the hydraulic lift or anything of that nature. So it is for that reason we're here before you to get clarification on that existing nonconforming aspect of the property.

MR. IZZO: If the Board is able to see that mirror of your argument there, how is this then going to fit into the Camden neighborhood community, the Industrial Redevelopment area of Camden, how is this going to work?

MR. SEIDEL: I believe that it will fit in very well. There is discussion in the

Neighborhood Plan to reuse, repurpose existing buildings, to bring action back into or activity back into these properties, and that's what this is going to do. Here you've got a vacant property. You're going to put this back into active use to become a commercial property where it was previously a commercial property. Very little impact on residential uses. Because as I've described, there's really very little residential around there. It's primarily commercial and industrial in nature. MR. IZZO: So people in these type of situations want to know about the parking, the traffic, the noise that may be associated with the operation of a business and the esthetics of the neighborhood, accessible to those things?

MR. SEIDEL: The criteria for an automotive repair garage and I'm careful to use that language because there is a discussion of an automotive center service center within the Code as well, that discusses automotive fuels, dispensing gasoline, things of that nature. And that's not what's proposed with this application. It would just be the automotive repair garage.

A criteria for that is to be able to provide, I believe, it's five parking stalls. Based
on the aerial map that we're showing, there are four or five vehicles on the site at that point kind of parked randomly. One of them is a large commercial vehicle that looks like it's a roll-off-dumpster-type of vehicle. So there's plenty of room. I would say there's adequate room for at least eight or nine vehicles on the property outside of the garage bays themselves.

MR. IZZO: What's the style of the building itself as it sits there today waiting to be cleaned up and rehabbed?

MR. SEIDEL: Masonry building. My understanding is, I'm told that it was originally built for a Sinclair Automotive repair business or service business. So it has some historial qualities to it.

MR. IZZO: It's got repair bays?
MR. SEIDEL: It does.
MR. IZZO: Driveways?
MR. SEIDEL: Yes.
MR. IZZO: An apron area for customer parking?

MR. SEIDEL: Correct.
MR. IZZO: What is the conclusion of your 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, while it is in a residential zoning district, it is not in a residential used area. It is primarily industrial and commercial based on the land use maps that we provided.

MR. SEIDEL: And you also assessed the Positive and Negative Criteria that are necessary for a variance to be granted and you're satisfied that the property is able to meet those criteria?

MR. SEIDEL: Yes. And the criteria that I just rattled off was basically the summary of the Positive and Negative Criteria.

MR. IZZO: I will submit the witness for questions.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Any questions?
REVEREND MARTINEZ: No.
MR. EINGORN: Anybody in the public? Seeing no one, let's close to the public since there's nobody here. I'm assuming you're part of the applicant?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: So we'll close the public portion.

MR. IZZO: He's the corporate representative of the corporate owner.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I have one question. MR. EINGORN: Okay. What's your question?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Are you the owner or is the owner here?

MR. IZZO: The gentleman has to be sworn in.

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

GREG WHITE, having first been duly sworn/affirmed, was examined and testified as follows:

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

MR. WHITE: 988 Trent Road, Camden, New Jersey 08104.

MR. IZZO: You're the property owner of 901-909 S. 3rd?

MR. WHITE: No. I'm actually the leasee.
MR. IZZO: Your company wants to lease?
MR. WHITE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: You're part of Triplex Auto Group?

MR. WHITE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Very good.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: So tell me about it?
You guys are going to repair or are you going to sell? I was there earlier today around the building. Is that your property going around the building also?

MR. WHITE: A small portion in the rear end belongs to us and then the rest belongs to the City of Camden.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I'm going to ask, so you want to upgrade yours then?

MR. WHITE: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: When I was there today, the building looks nice.

MR. WHITE: Thank you. I appreciate it. CHAIRMAN HANCE: It blossomed. I patrol in that area. So when $I$ saw it, I said, wait a minute. Okay. Somebody is here. They didn't come before me yet. So I got out and I checked it. There is some junk cars here; some bricks on the lefthand side.

MR. WHITE: Yes.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Then I went around the back. There's a fence there. And they got two cement blockers, I guess, that are going back and
forth through there.
MR. WHITE: Yes. So what happened, I guess last year some time, some parties came in and dumped a bunch of tires on the City property. So the City took the initiative and did the clean up a few days ago. And the City placed the Jersey blocks to prevent cars from coming in that way and dumping tires.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So you're a Triplex. Are you just going to fix the cars or are you going to sell some cars also?

MR. WHITE: No, no. We just intend to service our vehicles and also to service the public. But if the Board would permit for the customers that bring in a vehicle that might need a loaner, would the Board permit us to lease them a vehicle?

MR. EINGORN: You have you have to come back for that. That wasn't advertised to the public. You got to get everybody around to say, hey, we're going to have rental car service. Since that's not really before the Board, you would have to come back for that.

MR. WHITE: All right. Not a problem. CHAIRMAN HANCE: I will say this, it's the perfect area. That area had kind of died out a
long time ago. So a facelift that building is going get it, is needed. But I'll be watching you guys.

MR. WHITE: All right. I appreciate it.
Any further questions?
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Times of opening and closing?

MR. WHITE: I guess from eight to eight. CHAIRMAN HANCE: And that's just going to be every day or?

MR. WHITE: No. Just from Monday through Saturday. You answered all my questions.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Hey, Kyle, I have a question to you.

MR. EINGORN: Yes.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Because he's renting, can we make like a motion for this property to be used for that purpose just for him? Because, say, we grant it. So this is forever.

MR. EINGORN: Here is what's going on. They're coming before you to say it has already been forever. Right? And, therefore, you should allow us or you should recognize that this has always been an auto repair garage. Right? They're not saying, we want a use variance. They're saying, hey, we want you to acknowledge that this use predated the zoning
ordinance. I don't want to recast the testimony. But I think that kind of summarizes it. If you look at the property card, I mean, it seems to support the fact that this was a Sinclair auto garage whenever this is dated. I don't see a date on this.

MR. WHITE: It was like in the 70's.
MR. EINGORN: I mean, these cars look older than most of the people in the room. So really, they're not here saying, hey, give us a variance. They're saying, hey, let us continue this use because it predated the ordinance.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Thank you for clearing this up.

MR. EINGORN: Yes, sir.
MR. SEIDEL: And if $I$ may just to chime in on that topic. Looking back at the revisions to the Zoning Code, it looks like there was a revision around 2004-2005 that changed it to residential from what would have been previously an approved permitted use.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Okay.
MR. EINGORN: Anybody else?
So what you have is an application for a Certificate of Nonconforming Use related to an auto repair business at 901-909 S. 3rd Street. The Board
should do a discussion and make a motion.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: That's actually a big chunk back there. That was a sore eye. I'm quite sure you had homeless in there and everything else. But the building was super, super falling apart back there. Like I said, I went past there one day and I said: Wow, somebody is going to get hurt back there. This is what the City needs. That's like a deadend that street back there. And to bring it back to life, hopefully somebody else joins in and hit the next warehouse. I think it's a great idea. Like I said, I'll be going past there to see it through as you guys go back and make it come back to life. Just keep it clean.

MR. EINGORN: Do we have a motion?
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. I make a motion
that we pass.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Second.
MR. EINGORN: We'll take a roll-call
vote. Chairman Hance.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.

MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and none opposed, motion is granted. Congratulations.

MR. IZZO: Thank you.
MR. WHITE: Thank you.
MR. EINGORN: Last but not least,
Mr. Sheehan has waited very patiently to present four applications.

MR. SHEEHAN: Good evening. As
Mr. Eingorn said, my name is Kevin Sheehan. I have packets of four exhibits that I'll hand out.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Thank you.
MR. SHEEHAN: It should have nine in there.

MR. EINGORN: So let the record reflect that Mr. Sheehan has provided the Board with a packet of colored photographs and colorized maps and an aerial photograph.

MR. SHEEHAN: So this application -there's four applications on your agenda but they're
all identical. They're all asking the Board to interpret the Redevelopment Plan which is the Zoning Ordinance related to these properties to confirm that, as it states in the plan, that the existing use of these properties as a multi-family residential is permitted for up to four units.

The properties are 620 Benson Street, 622 Benson Street, 624 Benson Street and 632 Benson Street. The first exhibit on the first photo on the exhibit I gave you, is a photo of that 600 Block of Benson. It's located directly across Cooper Hospital, which is on the righthand side of Benson Street there. They are townhouse units. They apparently have been rented as residential units. Three of them are three units. One of them is four units and an office.

The applicant is the contract purchaser of the property. In order to sell property, now there's a new ordinance in the City. You need a Certificate of Continuing Occupancy from the construction office to confirm that it's safe. Good ordinance. In order to file that application, you need a zoning permit. In applying for the zoning permit, Dr. Williams and I looked at the Redevelopment Plan. And the property is located in
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 $R-3$ 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 red where these properties are located. That red area is the MS Zone, which is suppose to permit High Density residential. Immediately below that is the yellow which is where Medium Density Residential would be permitted. So the logic that I'm asking the Board to apply, is that if the drafters of the Redevelopment Plan specifically permitted High Density residential use similar to an $\mathrm{R}-3$ High Density Zoning to this but didn't identify what that zoning was, that I'm asking the Board to apply some logic that High Density would be more than the Medium Density that's in the $R-2$ which would permit multi-family apartments. And I'm asking you to interpret to allow up to the four units that are currently in those apartments, and ask Dr. Williams to sign the Zoning Permit so $I$ can get the $C C O$ in order to proceed.

As a practical matter, we're going to take the apartments out. It's a procedural step because we're going to take those apartments out of use when they become vacant. We won't rent them. And we'll turn them over to the Medical Support office-type use.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: So currently you
got people in all these apartments?
MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. In 620 Benson Street it's three units. 622 is three units. 624 is four units, although one of them is vacant. And the other one is three units. Apparently, they've been there for some time. I don't know exactly how long because they've turned over. Over the years our client is buying them. All $I$ know is that two of them have one unit vacant in each one. And the other ones are occupied. So if you can interpret the Ordinance to say High Density includes at least up to four multi-family units, that would, I think, allow Dr. Williams to sign a Zoning Permit.

MR. EINGORN: Do you understand what's being asked?

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes. I was actually there today to check it out. The homes or apartments, whatever the case may be, what is here is needed. Way past due especially in that area. I mean, people walk the area and see that there's a medical facility and medical cases that need to be addressed. Also housing needs to be addressed. Child care of course. The only thing I don't see is parking.

MR. SHEEHAN: It looks like there's some
parking on the street. But also if you look at the one --

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I parked right by a fire hydrant so trust me, it's crowded.

MR. SHEEHAN: I'm not encouraging folks to do that. But there is parking behind the second block.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yeah, it starts in the alleyway. I drove down the alleyway there. There's parking back there.

Cooper Hospital is a plus for the City. They gave us a lot, especially jobs that we needed for our people. I think the next step is suppose to taken now. That area out there needs to be uplifted. It's like a big part of our City. Like I said, it's way past due. I think this is definitely needed. MR. EINGORN: So the applicant is requesting an interpretation regarding the MS Medical Support Zone incorporating High Density residential and that a residential building with up to four units would satisfy the criteria of High Density.

Is there any questions related to that legal request? Anybody in the public? No? There's nobody here for the record. But for procedural sake, we'll close the public portion. The question is not
really positive or negative but the question is, legal interpretation.

The Board is acting in a quasi-judicial function just like a judge would sitting in the Superior Court of New Jersey. And the applicant is asking the Board to agree with the interpretation that up to four units would, since it meets the criteria of Medium Density would also meet the criteria of High Density. And then, is there a timing crunch for closing on this?

MR. SHEEHAN: There is. We're trying to close this in March. And if you do approve this, I would ask that you allow the Board Secretary to inform Dr. Williams that you have so approved it and authorize him to sign the Zoning Permits.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: So I'm going to ask, what's the difference between a Medium Density and a High Density?

MR. SHEEHAN: Typically, it would be in the Ordinance. But actually the density is not identified. It only has the type of buildings. So in the $R-2$ it permits single-family, townhouse, and duplex. But it also permits Garden Apartments and multi-family.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Because most of those
places have four apartments; am I correct?
MR. SHEEHAN: Most of them are three actually. One of them has four. The other ones are three apartments.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: And then the last one has a side door; a side apartment.

MR. SHEEHAN: That might be the one that has four. That might be 624 that has the fourth apartment. The other ones have three.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: Because I walked around the porch with a BBQ grill.

MR. SHEEHAN: Yeah.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: And somebody was growing plants up there.

MR. SHEEHAN: Yeah. I mean, normally an ordinance would when it says density, it would tell you how many units per acre. In this it doesn't say that. I guess it tries --

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Then for us to interpret.

MR. SHEEHAN: Yeah, exactly.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: I think they're serving
Camden. I think they are as I said, developing Camden again. This is the future because we need the best. I may not get it but my grandkids or
theirs. At least we got it in motion. VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.

MS. ALSTON: There's a lot going on on
Benson Street. You have the Cooper Hospital
Building, the security booth and now the parking is already an issue. So probably the location. You said you can't change that because you said they already have tenants.

MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. We're not adding any units. In fact, we'll be taking -- when people move out, we won't be reoccupying them. So we will definitely not be adding any additional residents to the building.

CHAIRMAN HANCE: I also see the signs out there saying, no big steps.

MR. EINGORN: At 624, are we keeping the office?

MR. SHEEHAN: Ultimately, it'll all be office but yes. An office is permitted in the Zone.

MR. EINGORN: Right.
MS. ALSTON: Did you say you're not going to be putting tenants in the units?

MR. SHEEHAN: No, we're not going to reoccupy them with tenants. We're not going to kick anybody out. But when those tenants decide to leave,
we're not going to reoccupy.
MS. ALSTON: And what are you going to do?

MR. SHEEHAN: Ultimately, we're going to turn it into professional offices for which we'll come back for site plan approval also.

MS. ALSTON: Housing is needed especially in that area. And Coriell is building right around the corner also. And they were approved just recently. So how long are the leases, the longest lease, I guess.

MR. SHEEHAN: They're all one-year
leases. but as I said, nobody is going to be kicked out. When they decide to move out then they'll move out. Just from a bigger picture, I know the City is -- the mayor having watched and speak, is trying to get apartments in the downtown area and there are projects fermenting. So I anticipate housing being a push by the City in the coming years and developers that I've spoken to are interested in doing so. I think you're going to have enough -- these are rental now. I think you're going to have enough rental housing in this part of the City.

MR. EINGORN: But for now what they're asking you is, they want to continue to use these as
residential for the foreseeable future.
MR. SHEEHAN: Yes.
MS. ALSTON: I didn't hear you.
MR. EINGORN: I said, what the applicant
is saying now, though, is, for the foreseeable future as these tenants are there, we want to continue to use this as residential. That's why they're here. Right? They're here to continue the residential use.

MR. SHEEHAN: We need the COO to allow those residents to remain there.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: I make a motion. MR. EINGORN: We have a motion to grant the interpretation?

VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Second.
MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
Chairman Hance.
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.

MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Having six in favor and none opposed, the motion passes.

MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. Then I'm suppose to wait for the Adoption of Resolutions.

MR. EINGORN: It'll be adopted next month. Don't go anywhere. We have Resolutions.

MR. SHEEHAN: I got to hear from one of the first ones.

MR. EINGORN: So those that were here last month are, Vice-Chairman Cooper, Reverend Martinez, Ms. Merricks and Mr. Brito Bueno. Those are the people can vote on the Resolutions.

The Resolutions are: Granting Minor Site Plan Approval regarding 1435 River Owner, LLC. This was constructing a building.

Granting Use Variance Approval and Preliminary and Final Site Plan Approval for Holcomb Bus Service. This was the bus parking lot.

Granting Bulk Variance Approval for Jonathan Gabay. That was a duplex.

And Granting a Cert of Nonconforming use
for Gideon Nwachukwu, 1180 Bergen Avenue.
Do we have a motion to adopt?
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Motion to
adopt.
MR. EINGORN: Do we have a second?
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Second.
MR. EINGORN: I'll take a roll-call vote.
Vice-Chairman Cooper.
VICE-CHAIRMAN COOPER: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Reverend Martinez.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Merricks.
MS. MERRICKS: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Ms. Alston.
MS. ALSTON: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Mr. Brito Bueno.
MR. BRITO BUENO: Yes.
MR. EINGORN: Motion passes. Motion to
adjourn?
CHAIRMAN HANCE: Motion to adjourn.
REVEREND MARTINEZ: Second.
MR. EINGORN: All in favor?
THE BOARD: Yays.

-     - 

(**Meeting concluded at 9:10 p.m.**)

CERTIFICATION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am a Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the witness was sworn to testify to the truth.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing is, to the best of my ability, a true and accurate transcript of the testimony taken stenographically by me at the time, place, and date hereinbefore set forth.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that $I$ am neither a relative, employee, attorney or counsel to any of the parties to the action, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel and that I am not financially interested in the action.


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